



Dear Victory Family,

As we step into the heart of summer, I'm reminded how grateful I am to be walking this journey of faith with you. July brings with it both the warmth of Arizona sunshine and the warmth of community here at Victory—gathered around God's Word, rooted in prayer, and sent to make a difference.

We're kicking off the month with one of our newer traditions—our **Patriotic Picnic & Potluck on Sunday, July 6**. Bring your friends, wear your red, white, and blue, and come enjoy food, fun, and fellowship. It's a great way to celebrate our nation's freedoms while remembering the One who sets us truly free.

In worship, we continue **Season Five of The Chosen**, now moving deeper into the powerful events of **Holy Week** in Jerusalem. These episodes are stirring and sobering as we follow Jesus' final days, not just as a historical retelling but as a living invitation to deeper faith.

Our **Women's Ministry** continues its vibrant Bible Study this month, offering a welcoming space to dig into Scripture and grow together in Christ. And our **Prayer & Praise Worship Service** remains a lifeline—sacred space to come before the Lord in worship and intercession. We'll also be setting aside intentional time this month to lift up **Victory Forward** in prayer as we seek God's leading for our future mission in the East Valley.

And if you're new or newer to Victory, I'd love to invite you to **join me on Sunday, July 20**, for our next **Discovering Victory** session. It's a relaxed time to get to know each other better, hear more about Victory's mission and ministry, and explore how this church family might be a meaningful part of your walk with Jesus. (Bonus: lunch is on us!) Please sign up at the Welcome Desk.

Look throughout this newsletter for more details. Friends, it's a privilege to serve Jesus with you. Let's keep our eyes on Him, our hearts open, and our prayers lifted.

With joy and hope,

Pastor Todd Mathison



Todd Mathison, Lead Pastor
Denton Bennet, Associate Pastor
Susan Westland, Chaplain
Renée Bennett, Discipleship Pastor

5946 E. University Drive, Mesa, AZ 85205
480-830-5024 | Office Hours: M-Th, 8am-4pm
VictoryLutheran.com



VICTORY  FORWARD

PRAYER OVER VICTORY FORWARD

Monday, July 14 @ 9:00am

We are gathering on Monday for a time of Spirit-led, unified prayer.
Will you join us? Come early. Come expectant.



"Unless the Lord builds the house, the builders labor in vain." (Psalm 127:1)

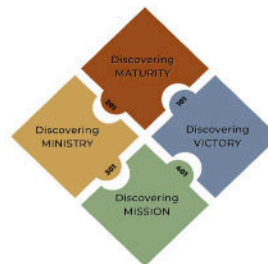
As Victory Lutheran Church steps into the bold vision of Victory Forward—launching new mission sites, multiplying disciples, and expanding God's kingdom impact across the East Valley—we must remember this foundational truth: nothing of lasting, spiritual fruit will happen apart from prayer.

Pray
For
Our
Nation

Blessed
IS THE NATION
WHOSE GOD IS THE
Lord

Psalm 33:12

You're Invited!



DISCOVERING VICTORY SESSION

SUNDAY, JULY 20
12:30-2:30PM

COMPLIMENTARY LUNCH

SIGN UP AT THE WELCOME DESK



SIGN UP

at the Welcome Desk or
Scan the QR code above
with your smartphone's
camera

Pull up a chair, grab some lunch, and spend a relaxed Sunday conversation with Pastor Todd and a small circle of folks who are also new to Victory. We'll share stories, talk about what makes Victory tick—our mission of being and making disciples and our vision of building people—and explore how the Victory Church family can breathe fresh life into your own walk with Jesus. Think of it as a warm, welcoming get together where questions are encouraged and next-step possibilities unfold naturally.

If you've ever wondered, "Of all the churches in the East Valley, why might Victory be the place for me?" this gathering is for you. Sign up at the Welcome Desk or online, and lunch is on us. Meets from 12:30-2:30pm. Come curious, leave encouraged, and discover how Victory can journey alongside you in faith.



PATRIOTIC PICNIC

SUN, JULY 6, 12:00PM

POTLUCK STYLE

Bring a favorite dish or dessert to share!

We will provide a selection of chilled beverages and live entertainment from Tremble Clefs of Arizona.

Come and enjoy their variety of choral music celebrating America, and help support this special community group through the freewill offering.



Patriotic Picnic & Potluck Sunday, July 6 @ 12:00pm

We are celebrating American Independence with an indoor picnic & potluck. Bring a favorite dish to share such as: hamburgers, hot dogs, grilled chicken, potato salad, coleslaw, and watermelon will undoubtedly be crowd-pleasers. Don't forget vegetarian and gluten-free dishes. Bring a dessert, if that's your thing!

We will provide a selection of chilled beverages and live entertainment from **Tremble Clefs**; you all bring the food. Let's all celebrate the gift of freedom God has granted us in the U-S-of-A!

Tremble Clefs

Providing Music Therapy for people with PD since 1994

Tremble Clefs grew from a Parkinson's support group in Scottsdale Arizona. Members began singing around the piano after their programs, and together they explored the idea of starting a singing group for people with Parkinson's and thus Tremble Clefs was formed. Now with four locations around the valley, they have celebrated their 30th anniversary and will continue to work to make their community a better place to live for those who are suffering from Parkinson's disease and their families. Please come and enjoy their variety of choral music celebrating America, and help support this special community group through the freewill offering.

trembleclefsarizona.org



SERMON SERIES: GOD'S WILL, GOD'S WAY

July 5-6, 2025

"Failing Forward" — Exodus 2:11-25

Moses' failure in Egypt didn't disqualify him—it prepared him. In the quiet obscurity of the desert, God reshaped a self-reliant prince into a humble servant, teaching him to rest, wait, and rely on divine timing. As Psalm 119:67,71 reminds us, sometimes failure is the only classroom where obedience and intimacy with God are truly learned.

July 12-13, 2025

"Take My Hand" — Exodus 2:21-22, 3:1

Moses' forty years in the desert weren't wasted—they were where God peeled away every title and comfort, and formed in him a heart ready to hear, trust, and obey. The wilderness became a sacred classroom where God taught Moses, and teaches us, to stop clinging to the past and start walking in childlike faith toward an unknown future. So when your dreams turn to dust and your courage fades, listen for God's voice saying, "*Take My hand and walk where I lead—keep your eyes on Me alone.*"

July 19-20, 2025

"Qualified by Failure" — Exodus 3:1-10

Moses thought his story was over—washed up in Midian with nothing to offer but regret and routine. But on an ordinary day in an ordinary place, God lit a bush and reignited a calling, proving that failure doesn't disqualify you—it qualifies you. The God who shows up in burning bushes still speaks through His Word and still calls broken people to do beautiful things.

July 26-27, 2025

"Who Me, Lord?" — Exodus 3:10-4:19

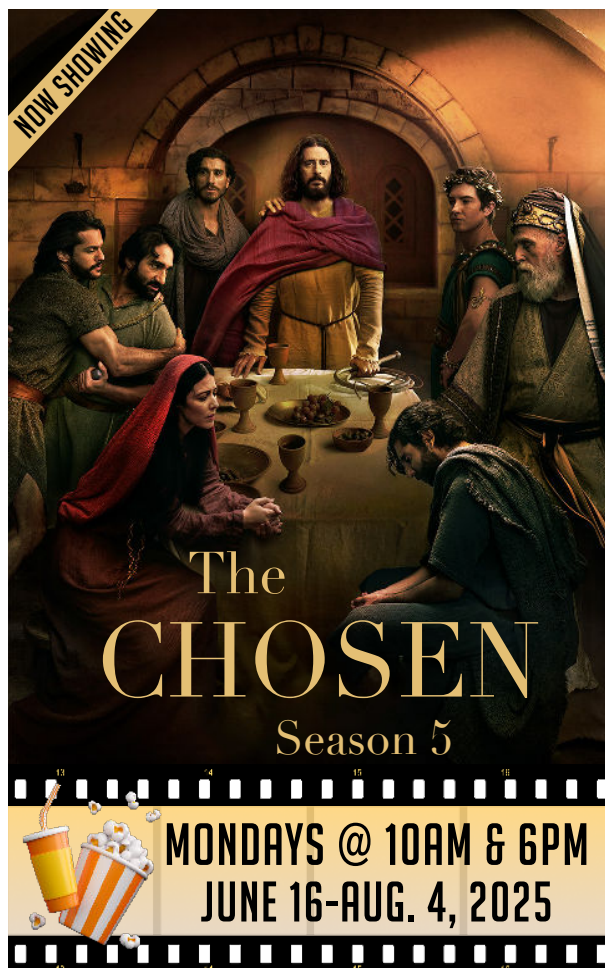
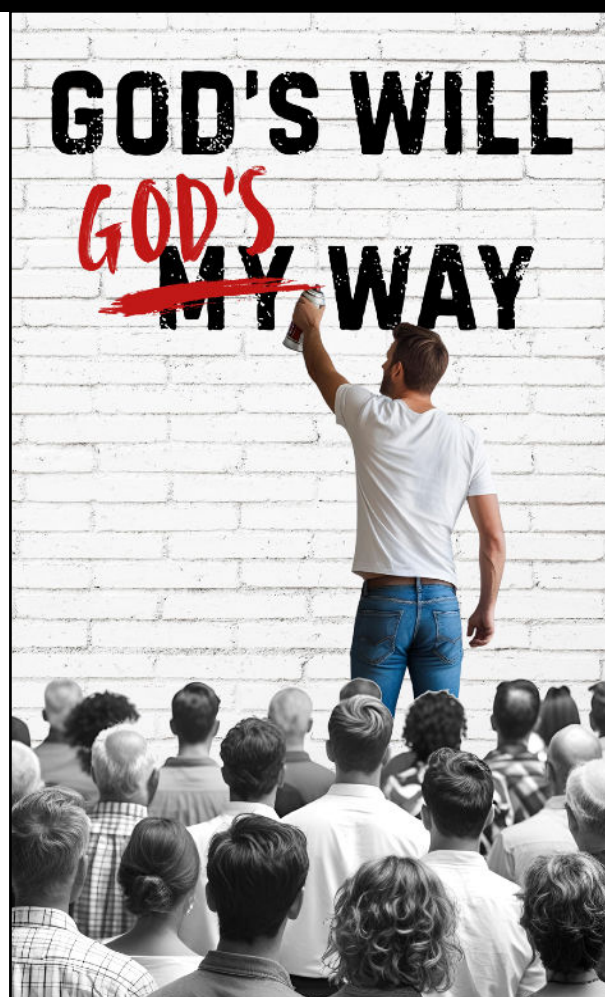
When God called Moses, Moses responded with a list of excuses—I'm not enough, I'm not ready, I can't speak, send someone else. But God wasn't asking Moses to be enough; He was asking Moses to trust that He was. Like Moses, we may feel weak, insecure, or unqualified—but when the great I Am sends you, He also goes with you, and that changes everything.

SUNDAY MORNING REFRESHMENTS SUMMER HOURS

Connecting with friends after church in the Fellowship Hall is a highlight for many every Sunday after our worship services.

Coffee and donuts will be served from 8:30-11:00am for the months of July and August.

Please stop in to grab a cup of coffee and make some new friends!



VICTORY FORWARD

A Time to Seek: Join Us in Prayer for What's Next

Dear Victory Family,

I am asking you to do something big. Not flashy or loud—but spiritually deep, humble, and vital: to pray. From July 21–23, a group of leaders from across our church will gather for a three-day prayer and vision retreat right here in Mesa. Our purpose? To seek God's wisdom and guidance as we ask this question together: **Lord, how are You calling Victory to extend Your Kingdom in the East Valley?**

We recognize that faithful vision requires faithful planning. That's why we're not doing this alone. We've invited a trust leader who has already planted vibrant churches right here in the East Valley—Pastor Brian LaMew—who has walked this road before, made mistakes, witnessed miracles, and grown communities of faith. We'll listen to one another, attentive to God's voice, and, Lord willing, discover Divine direction. And, most importantly, we will pray.

Proverbs gives us this powerful insight:

"Without counsel plans fail, but with many advisers they succeed." (Proverbs 15:22)

"Where there is no guidance, a people falls, but in an abundance of counselors there is safety."
(Proverbs 11:14)

God's design has always involved people—His people—coming together to discern, to wrestle, to plan, and to follow where He leads. That's what this retreat is all about. And we need your prayers.

Would you join us in asking God to meet us during these days? We long for clarity and courage so that—like the early church leaders in Acts 15—we might say with conviction, *"It seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us..."* (Acts 15:28).

Why does this matter? Because there are thousands of people across the East Valley—and beyond—who are longing for what you and I sometimes take for granted: peace with God, the joy of worship, a loving church family, a sense of purpose and belonging. Most don't even know what they're missing. But Jesus does. And He's calling us—Victory Lutheran Church—to go.

That's what **Victory Forward** is all about. Not programs. Not buildings. But **planting new ministry sites, raising up new leaders, and reaching new hearts**—all so more people can experience the grace and truth of Jesus Christ.

We are not charging ahead with our own ideas. We are pausing to pray. We are seeking the Lord. We are asking Him to move before we do. So, would you pray with us? Pray for your church. Pray for our leaders. Pray that we would listen carefully, follow faithfully, and step forward boldly.

We are not just dreaming. We are discerning. We are not just building. We are believing. We are not just talking about the future. We are asking God to lead us into it.

Because we don't go alone. We go with Jesus. We go for others. We go... **forward**.

With hope and love,

Pastor Todd Mathison





Learn More:


<https://victorylutheran.com/forward>

Or Scan the QR code above



SCAN ME

<div>  <div> JULY 2025 VICTORYLUTHERAN.COM </div> </div>			
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
<p>"Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit who gives life has set you free from the law of sin and death."</p> <p>Romans 8:1-2</p> 		<p>1</p> <p>6:30pm Women's Bible Study, LR 7pm AA Men's Meeting, FS</p>	<p>2</p> <p>9-11:30am Food Pantry 12:30pm Al-Anon, C4 1pm Men's Bible Study, LR 8pm AA Meeting, FS</p>
<p>6</p> <p>COMMUNION WEEKEND 8:30-11am Morning Fellowship, FH 8am Worship & Communion, WC 9:30am Worship, WC 11am ContemporaryWorship,WC 11am Children's Church, NR 12pm Patriotic Picnic & Potluck, FH</p> 	<p>7</p> <p>9-11:30am Food Pantry 10am The Chosen, FH 12:30pm GriefShare, C4 6pm The Chosen, FH</p> 	<p>8</p> <p>9:30am Women's Ministry Combined Bible Study, C4 6:30pm Women's Bible Study, LR 7pm AA Men's Meeting, FS</p>	<p>9</p> <p>9-11:30am Food Pantry 12:30pm Al-Anon, C4 1pm Men's Bible Study, LR 8pm AA Meeting, FS</p>
<p>13</p> <p>8:30-11am Morning Fellowship, FH 8am Worship & Communion, WC 9:30am Worship, WC 11am ContemporaryWorship,WC 11am Children's Church, NR</p>	<p>14</p> <p>9-11:30am Food Pantry 9am Prayer Over Victory Forward, B7 10am The Chosen, FH 12:30pm GriefShare, C4 6pm The Chosen, FH</p>	<p>15</p> <p>6:30pm Women's Bible Study, LR 7pm AA Men's Meeting, FS</p>	<p>16</p> <p>9-11:30am Food Pantry 12:30pm Al-Anon, C4 1pm Men's Bible Study, LR 8pm AA Meeting, FS</p>
<p>20</p> <p>8:30-11am Morning Fellowship, FH 8am Worship & Communion, WC 9:30am Worship, WC 11am ContemporaryWorship,WC 11am Children's Church, NR 12:30pm Discovering Victory, B7</p>	<p>21</p> <p>9-11:30am Food Pantry 10am The Chosen, FH 12:30pm GriefShare, C4 6pm The Chosen, FH</p>	<p>22</p> <p>6:30pm Women's Bible Study, LR 7pm AA Men's Meeting, FS</p>	<p>23</p> <p>9-11:30am Food Pantry 9am S.A.F.E. Singles Event Feed My Starving Children Bus leaves @ 8am 12:30pm Al-Anon, C4 1pm Men's Bible Study, LR 8pm AA Meeting, FS</p>
<p>27</p> <p>8:30-11am Morning Fellowship, FH 8am Worship & Communion, WC 9:30am Worship, WC 11am ContemporaryWorship,WC 11am Children's Church, NR</p>	<p>28</p> <p>9-11:30am Food Pantry 10am The Chosen, FH 12:30pm GriefShare, C4 6pm The Chosen, FH</p>	<p>29</p> <p>3pm Council Meeting, B7 6:30pm Women's Bible Study, LR 7pm AA Men's Meeting, FS</p>	<p>30</p> <p>9-11:30am Food Pantry 12:30pm Al-Anon, C4 1pm Men's Bible Study, LR 8pm AA Meeting, FS</p>

THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
3 OFFICE CLOSED	4 OFFICE CLOSED 	5 COMMUNION WEEKEND 8am Men's Bible Study, FS 4pm Worship, WC
10 10am Prayer Group, B7 11am Al-Anon Meeting, FS 2pm S.A.F.E. Singles Event Into the Woods (off-site) Bus leaves @ 12:45pm 4:30pm S.A.F.E. Singles Event Bingo at Sunland Village	11 OFFICE CLOSED	12 8am Men's Bible Study, FS 4pm Worship, WC
17 10am Prayer Group, B7 11am Al-Anon Meeting, FS 11:30am Stephen Ministry, C4 11:30am S.A.F.E. Singles Event Lunch at Knuckle Sandwiches (off-site)	18 OFFICE CLOSED	19 8am Men's Bible Study, FS 4pm Worship, WC
24 10am Prayer Group, B7 11am Al-Anon Meeting, FS	25 OFFICE CLOSED	26 8am Men's Bible Study, FS 4pm Worship, WC
31 10am Prayer Group, B7 11am Al-Anon Meeting, FS	1 - AUG OFFICE CLOSED	2 - AUG COMMUNION WEEKEND 8am Men's Bible Study, FS 4pm Worship, WC

UPCOMING EVENTS

AUGUST 2 & 3
Commissioning of
New Members

AUGUST 7
Prayer & Praise
Worship Service @ 10am

AUGUST 24
Summer Concert @ 3pm

AUGUST 30 & 31
Noisy Offering

 **SUBSCRIBE**

VICTORY'S WEEKLY E-NEWS

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amount to 888-897-5573
ex. GIVE50

BY PHONE
Scan the QR code below
with your smartphone's
camera



CH = Chapel
CY = Courtyard
FH = Fellowship Hall
FS = Fireside Room
LB = Lobby
LR = Luther Room
PC = Prayer Chapel
WC = Welcome Center
WSC = Worship Center
C4 = Community Room
(formerly Rm. 23)

SHAKE UP YOUR SMALL GROUP MEETINGS

Adopted from an article called "Shake It Up!" By Mark Ingmire

If your small-group meetings have become routine, it may be time to shake things up. The good news is that it doesn't take dramatic ideas to energize your group—simple changes can make a big difference.

CHANGE THE MEETING LOCATION

Meet in a different group member's home, a park, or even a restaurant. Some of the best group memories come from suspending study time and carpooling to a nearby ice cream shop to share stories and enjoy each other's company. Going to a new destination enables group members to gain fresh perspectives of one another.

Consider these alternate meeting locations:

- ❖ Coffee shop or ice cream parlor
- ❖ Public park, beach, or lakeshore
- ❖ Restaurant or mall food court
- ❖ Church auditorium or sanctuary
- ❖ Neighborhood clubhouse
- ❖ Another group member's home

**Remember to consider childcare needs when changing locations.*



INCORPORATE GROUP ACTIVITIES

Lesson Application as a Group Project: Instead of just asking "What am I going to do?" wrap up your lesson by asking "What are we as a group going to do?" Develop a group project like serving at a care home, hosting a neighborhood cookout, or helping a fellow group member. When you apply what you've learned together, you'll develop unity and group identity.

Media Discussion: Watch a movie and discuss it in light of Scripture. This might take longer than a typical meeting, so plan for a separate day or break it into two parts. You can also use short TV or movie clips to set up your lesson.

CHANGE THE AGENDA

When every meeting looks exactly the same, it's easy to get stuck in a rut. Mix things up with these ideas:

Celebrate the Lord's Supper: This works anytime but is especially meaningful during Easter and Christmas seasons. Small groups have been celebrating communion since the beginning of the church (Acts 2:46). Make it meaningful by teaching about the Lord's Supper using Scripture, incorporating music, or spending time in prayer.

Introduce Worship: Bring your iPod or worship CD and choose familiar songs. Make copies of lyrics for everyone. Consider songs from weekend services or Christian radio. God isn't concerned about how perfect your singing voice is—He cares about your heart.

Let Someone Else Lead: Ask a group member who participates well to facilitate a lesson. Choose someone who shares helpful, thoughtful comments without preaching from a soapbox. Keep the same agenda but allow them to design the lesson and lead discussion. You might discover a future leader through this process.

THE BOTTOM LINE

All small groups need a little shake-up once in a while. Simple adjustments can help group members grow spiritually and deepen their relationships with one another. Try shaking up your group this week—you will see increased participation, excitement, and energy.

In Christ's Service,

Visit our website to learn more
OR scan the QR code.

victorylutheran.com/smallgroups

- What do I need to be a Small Group Host?
- Small Group Study Resources
- Small Group Q&A



PENTECOST & ORGAN CONCERT PHOTO RECAP



2025 | JUNE 18
CENTRAL ARIZONA CHAPTER
AMERICAN GUILD OF ORGANISTS





D-BACKS + TAUREN WELLS
FAITH & FAMILY NIGHT
 Friday, August 8, 6:40pm

- All-You-Can-Eat Seats (Sections 221-223)
- Tickets \$60
- Limited seating on bus (28 seats).
- Pay at time of sign-up at the Welcome Desk.

Deadline to purchase tickets: July 13, 2025.

AUGUST 8
 DBACKS.COM/FAITH

Faith & Family Night

Diamondbacks vs. Colorado Rockies

Friday, August 8, 6:40pm

Deadline to purchase: July 13, 2025.
 Check or exact cash only.

Pay at time of sign-up
 at the Welcome Desk.

Join the D-backs and hundreds of churches across Arizona at Chase Field for Faith & Family Night! Special music performance by Christian pop artist, Tauren Wells, following the game. **All-You-Can-Eat-Seats** (Sections 221-223) includes unlimited hot dogs, popcorn, peanuts, chips and Pepsi products through 7th inning. **Tickets \$60**. Come out and support your D-backs as we take on the Rockies!

We have reserved a total of 50 tickets. Limited seating on bus (28 seats). Bus leaves Victory at 5:15pm or you may want to drive yourself or Park and Ride from the Valley Metro LightRail Station.

Please note: The Diamondbacks have a clear bag policy no larger than 12" x 6". Additionally, fans may also carry a small clutch purse no larger than 4.5" x 6.5". Seat cushions no larger than 18" are permitted.

Women's Ministry Combined Bible Study

Tuesday, July 8 @ 9:30am

During the summer we meet the 2nd Tuesday of the month at Victory as a combined group. Pastor or Bible Study leader chooses the study.

Grief Support Group

Mondays @ 12:30pm (thru July 28, 2025)

A program for help in your journey through grief after the death of a spouse, child, family member or friend. Our group is led by caring people who have experienced grief and desire to help you through the difficult days ahead. We know it hurts and we want to help. Each weekly session is designed to be "open," meaning a person can begin attending at any time. For more information contact: Suellen Palya at 480-325-3410 or suellenpalya@yahoo.com

Food Pantry

The Food Pantry provides food boxes on Monday and Wednesdays from 9:00-11:30am. Your unopened/non-perishable food donations are welcome. You may drop them off in the brown bin near the front entry doors during office hours or during weekend worship.



SUMMER STILLNESS
Sacred Sounds
 SUN, AUGUST 24 @ 3PM

Alisson Unglaub, violin
 & Kristin Holton Prouty, organ/piano

Step away from the heat and immerse yourself in an oasis of praise as you listen to the sacred stylings of some of your favorite hymns and praise songs!

VICTORYLUTHERAN.COM

Summer Stillness, Sacred Sounds

Sunday, August 24 @ 3pm

Alisson Unglaub, violin & Kristin Holton Prouty, organ/piano

Step away from the heat and immerse yourself in an oasis of praise as you listen to the sacred stylings of some of your favorite hymns and praise songs performed by our own Alisson and Kristin! They will be sharing a program of familiar tunes arranged in beautiful and unique ways. This will be an afternoon to reflect, refresh and rejoice in the Christian hope that we have! This is also a wonderful time to invite some friends to Victory during the summer when things are slower and they might appreciate relaxing in the cool AC will listening to beautiful music. Entrance free, offerings appreciated.

**JULY
2025**

S.A.F.E.

Singles Activity Fellowship Events

HERE ARE THE EVENTS YOU CAN SIGN UP FOR THIS MONTH
THE SIGN-UP TABLE HAS EVENT FLYERS WITH DETAILS

Into the Woods (Off Site)

Thursday July 10, 2:00 pm MATINEE (Bus leaves at 12:45 pm)

The Phoenix Theatre Company, 1825 N Central Ave, Phoenix

A Stephen Sondheim musical that beat out "Phantom of the Opera" for the Best Musical Tony Award. Our favorite fairytale characters venture into the woods meeting a mysterious witch, and wish for different endings to their "happily ever after" stories. Lesson learned: *"NO ONE IS ALONE, no matter what we are going through."* A perfect moral for our Singles Ministry! Tickets discounted from \$81 to \$52 + \$5 Bus. **Sign up and pay by Tuesday, July 1st.**



Bingo Night (Off Site – No Bus)

Thursday July 10 and Thursday August 12, Sunland Village, 4601 E Dolphin St, Mesa

Join us on the 2nd Thursday each month. Doors open at 4:30 pm for you to get a light meal, pick your lucky seat and purchase Bingo cards. Games start at 6:30 pm sharp! No admission after 6:30pm. Pick up the Bingo flyer for driving directions and map.



Knuckle Sandwiches Lunch (Off Site – No Bus)

Thursday, July 17, 11:30 am,

1140 N Higley Rd, #103, Mesa (SW corner Higley and Brown)

Obviously known for its sandwiches, they also offer soups, salads, wraps, paninis, pizza, desserts, and sides (no fries!). Gluten-free and allergy sensitive options (tell them). Order and pay at the counter when you enter. Manager suggests you have a second choice ready. \$4 to \$14. **Sign up by Monday, July 14th.**



Feed My Starving Children (Off Site)

Wednesday, July 23, Packing Session 9:00-11:00 am

(Bus leaves at 8:00 am)

1100 W Grove Parkway, Tempe

We make this mission trip to the Christian based, nonprofit organization on the 4th Wednesday of each month. You can stand and package the food, or sit and label it. Afterwards, we enjoy fellowship at a fast food restaurant. **Sign up and pay \$5 for the bus by Sunday, July 20th.**



NOTE: All tickets will be handed out on the bus or in the lobby of the event site.



VICTORY
LUTHERAN CHURCH

5946 E. University Drive
Mesa, AZ 85205



VICTORY
LUTHERAN CHURCH

WORSHIP WITH US

Saturday 4pm Traditional

Sunday 8am Traditional w/ communion

9:30am Traditional

11am Contemporary w/ Children's Church



WATCH US LIVE @ 9:30am & 11am

If you are unable to watch at that exact time, the service is available to watch on Facebook, YouTube and online at VictoryLutheran.com.



OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Thursday, 8am-4pm

Closed on Fridays

480-830-5024

Victory Lutheran.com

Be sure to follow, like and subscribe to our channel @VictoryLutheranMesa

