

Sermon Notes

We would love to hear your story!

If you have a story to share in The Pulse about healing, praise, gratitude, serving in a mission or ministry at Victory, share it at hello@victorylutheran.com. (300 word max)

Daily Bible Readings (June 8-14)

Sun:	Acts 2:1-4; Gal. 4:1-7	God Sends the Holy Spirit
Mon:	Acts 2:5-12	The Work of the Holy Spirit
Tues:	Galatians 5:16-26	Fruit of the Spirit
Wed:	Romans 15:14-21	Paul's Power thru the Holy Spirit
Thurs:	Acts 19:1-7	Paul in Ephesus
Fri:	John 20:19-23	Jesus and the Holy Spirit
Sat:	John 1:1-18, 29-34	The Word and the Spirit

*The readings selected come from the Narrative Lectionary calendar.

Life Notes

PENTECOST:
"Love Poured Out, Power Poured In"
Acts 2:1-4

Opener:

What's something that lights a fire in your heart—something that makes you come alive?

Go Deeper:

1. Read Acts 2:1-4. What stands out to you about how the Holy Spirit came at Pentecost?

2. Why do you think God chose wind and fire as symbols of the Spirit?

3. How would you describe the disciples before and after Pentecost?

4. Read Galatians 4:6-7. What difference does it make in your life to know you're not just forgiven, but adopted?

Live It:

1. Where in your life do you feel like your spiritual fire is burning bright?

2. Where do you feel like it's flickering or fading?

3. Read Luke 11:11-13. Jesus compares the Father to an earthly parent—how does that reshape how you think about prayer?

4. Read 1 Peter 1:3-5. What words in this passage describe our inheritance?

5. Have you ever had a time when Scripture or godly friends helped clarify what you thought God might be saying?

6. Who in your life might need to hear that they are not forgotten, that they are loved and chosen?

Upcoming Week

Sunday, June 8
PENTECOST SUNDAY
8:30-11am Morning Fellowship, FH
8am Worship & Communion, WC
9:30am Worship, WC
11am Contemporary Worship, WC
11am Children's Church, NR

Monday, June 9
9-11:30am Food Pantry
12:30pm GriefShare, C4

Tuesday, June 10
9:30am Women's Ministry Combined Bible Study, C4
6:30pm Women's Bible Study, LR
7pm AA Men's Meeting, FS

Wednesday, June 11
9-11:30am Food Pantry
12:30pm Al-Anon, C4
1pm Men's Bible Study, LR
8pm AA Meeting, FS

Thursday, June 12
10am Prayer Group, B7
11am Al-Anon Meeting, FS
4:30pm S.A.F.E Singles Event (off-site) Bingo at Sunland Village

Friday, June 13
OFFICE CLOSED

Saturday, June 14
8am Men's Bible Study, FS
10am Memorial Service for Shirley Smith, WC
4pm Worship, WC

CH = Chapel
FH = Fellowship Hall
FS = Fireside Room
LR = Luther Room
NR = Nursery
WC = Worship Center
C4 = Community Room

Victory Lutheran Church
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EYEWITNESS
NEWS

June 7-8, 2025

"Love Poured Out,
Power Poured In"
Acts 2:1-4

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

Connect with us!

GOD TIME: The Coming of the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:1-4)

Imagine the anticipation that filled that upper room. One hundred and twenty believers had gathered, hearts united in expectation, waiting for the promise Jesus had given them before His ascension. They didn't know exactly what to expect, but they knew something extraordinary was coming. Then it happened—suddenly, powerfully, unmistakably. The sound of rushing wind filled the room, not as a gentle breeze but as a mighty force that announced heaven's arrival on earth. Tongues of fire appeared, resting upon each person present, marking them as vessels chosen for God's extraordinary purpose.

This moment represents far more than a historical event; it reveals God's heart for unity and His desire to reach every nation, tribe, and tongue. The disciples, once limited by language and cultural barriers, were suddenly equipped to communicate the Gospel in ways that transcended human limitations. What seemed impossible became reality through the Holy Spirit's empowering presence. Notice their posture: they were together "with one accord." Unity preceded the miracle. Their hearts were aligned, their expectations focused, and their commitment unwavering. God honors such unity and readiness. The fire that rested upon them wasn't destructive but transformative—purifying their hearts and igniting their passion for sharing Christ's love. Similarly, the Holy Spirit desires to purify and empower us today, breaking down the barriers that prevent us from reaching others with God's truth.

Reflection: Are we positioned like those early disciples—united in purpose, expectant in faith, and ready for God's move? The same Holy Spirit who transformed frightened followers into bold witnesses dwells within every believer today. He still empowers, guides, and equips us for service. Let us seek fresh infilling of God's Spirit, allowing Him to remove any barriers in our hearts and give us boldness to share His love with those around us. The fire of Pentecost still burns today.

Prayer: Holy Spirit, fill us afresh with Your power and presence. Unite our hearts in purpose and ignite our passion for reaching others with Your love. To the glory of Jesus Christ, Amen.



GO TIME: Empowered by the Holy Spirit: The Heart of Victory Forward
Pastor Todd Mathison

You don't have to chase fire to be filled. The Spirit of God is already with and within you. Pentecost wasn't a one-time event for a few—it was the beginning of a movement. And that same Spirit who filled the early disciples with courage, clarity, and mission is still empowering Christ's Church today. That includes us—here, now, in the East Valley.

At Victory Lutheran Church, we've launched an initiative called *Victory Forward*. It's our faithful response to Jesus' call to make disciples, expand His Kingdom, and reach new people with the Good News. But let's be honest: we could have the best strategy, the most compelling vision, even generous financial support—and still fall short if we're not **empowered by the Holy Spirit**.

Psalm 127:1 reminds us, *"Unless the Lord builds the house, the builders labor in vain."* We don't want to run ahead of the Spirit, nor lag behind. Victory Forward is not about empire-building. It's about Spirit-led mission. That means listening before acting. Praying before planning. Trusting that God is already at work in the lives of people we've yet to meet.

In a region that's growing rapidly, filled with young families, retirees, and spiritual seekers, the East Valley is ripe for harvest. But the real work—the lasting, transformative work—will happen only by the Spirit's power.

So let's move forward with bold faith, not because of our strength, but because of His. Let's plant new ministries, launch new sites, and build new relationships not in our own wisdom, but by the Spirit who still fills what is empty, assures us we belong, and sends us forward with power and purpose. Victory Forward is not just a name—it's a Spirit-empowered calling.



Learn More:
<https://victorylutheran.com/forward>
< Or Scan the QR code

GATHER TIME: New Worship Center Cross

*Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim.
Till all the world adore His sacred name!*

For many years it has been the desire of Victory to have a permanent cross as a part of our Worship Center. An empty cross is a reminder of the hope that we have as Christians, symbolizing the resurrection of Jesus Christ and that through Him we also have the gift of eternal life. When the Worship Center was renovated, including a cross was discussed with the architect, but the funds were not currently available. Over the last several years through the generous donations of many members, as well as memorial gifts, we were able to compile the needed amount to continue with the project. We were so grateful that our original architect, Ray Eynon, was able to continue the vision and provide a design that matched our modern traditional aesthetic. Together with Ted Miller, owner of Redden Construction, who did the renovation, we were able to have our new cross in place for Holy Week 2025. This was an especially meaningful time to be able to have this symbol of our faith come to fruition.

Thank you to everyone who was a part of making this dream a reality! We know it will continue to serve the congregation of Victory Lutheran for years to come!



GROUP TIME: New Small Group: "Seekers" Launches This Pentecost
Denton Bennet, Associate Pastor

As we celebrate Pentecost and the gift of the Holy Spirit, several people are following the prodding of the Holy Spirit to launch a new small group called the Seekers. This intimate gathering is designed for those who feel called to dig deeper into God's Word and explore the richness of Scripture in a supportive, discussion-based environment.

The Seekers plan to meet bi-weekly, although the summer schedule may vary slightly, to study biblical texts through careful examination, thoughtful questioning, and shared reflection. Rather than following a traditional curriculum, the group will engage in inductive Bible study methods and spend time in deeper individual study ahead of the meeting.

The group aims to delve deeper into the original language and cultural issues, as well as differences in Bible translation and apologetical matters, while creating a space where people feel comfortable asking the hard questions and wrestling with challenging passages. The group will be led by Judy Bailey and Michael Menke, with Pastor Denton initially leading the study. The group welcomes participants of all biblical knowledge levels—from those just beginning their faith journey to longtime believers seeking renewed engagement with Scripture. Sometimes the most profound spiritual growth happens when we're willing to sit with uncertainty and seek understanding together. That is why this group has felt the pull of the Spirit to gather with this mindset.

First Meeting: Tuesday, June 10 @ 6:30pm, Room B7

What to bring: Your Bible and an open heart – Please pre-read Matthew 5 and come prepared to discuss the book's background, author, various translations, etc.

The Seekers represent our church's commitment to be and make disciples of Jesus Christ. As the early disciples gathered to break bread and study the apostles' teaching, this group continues that tradition of communal discovery. **Interested in joining?** Contact Judy Bailey at judithmbailey@hotmail.com or Pastor Denton at dbennet@victorylutheran.com.

