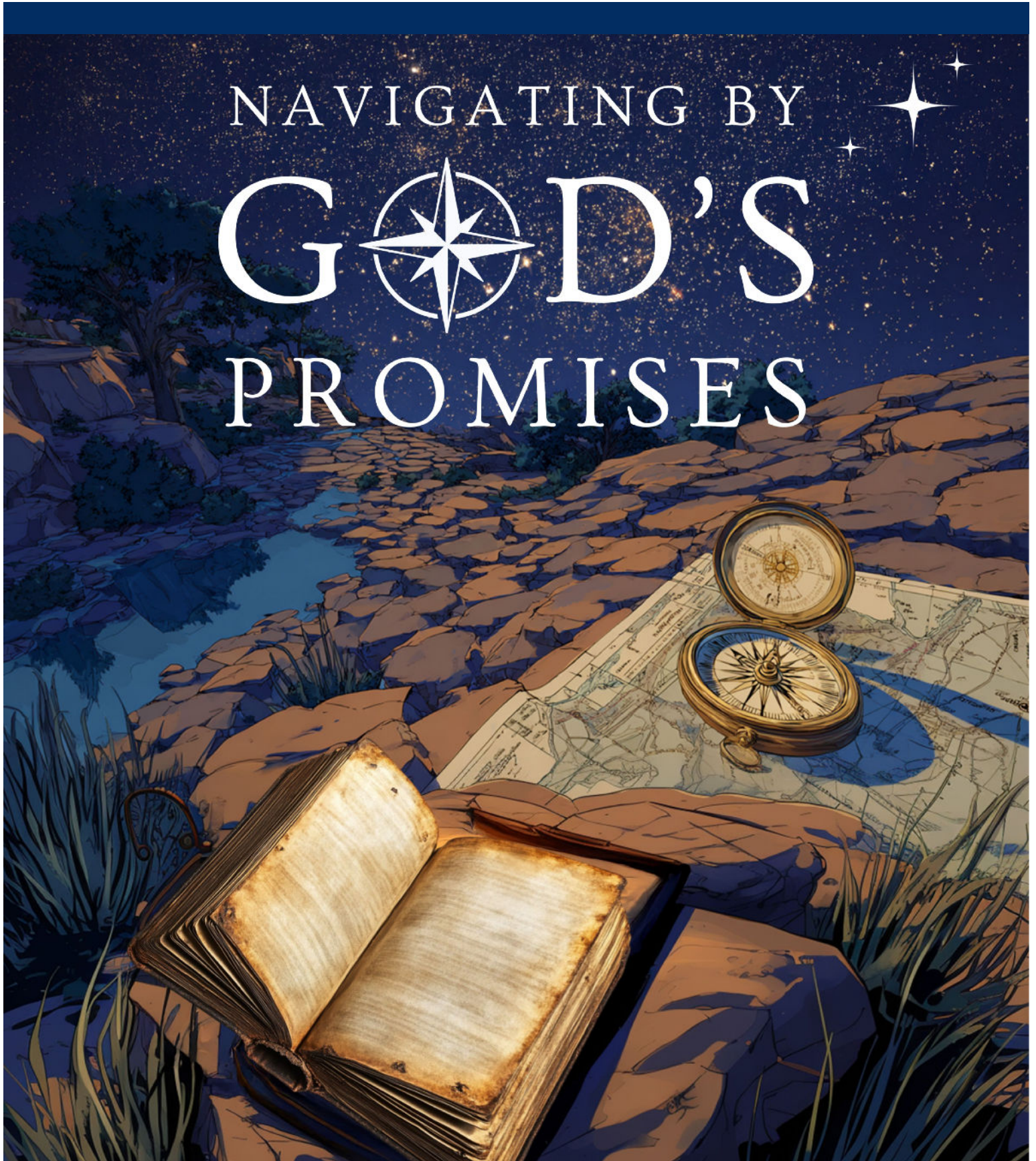


NAVIGATING BY GOD'S PROMISES

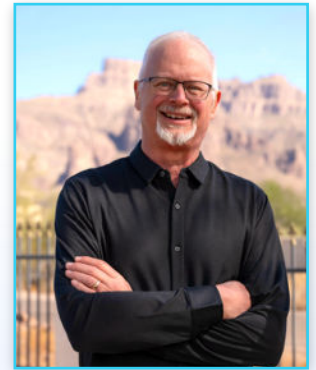


Todd Mathison, Lead Pastor
Denton Bennet, Associate Pastor
Susan Westland, Chaplain
Renée Bennett, Discipleship Pastor

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



SUMMER STILL MATTERS



Dear Victory Family,

We often think of summer as a slower season—but God hasn't slowed down one bit.

August brings both gratitude for what God has done and anticipation for what's ahead. This month wraps up Season Five of *The Chosen*, a series that has helped so many of us see Jesus more clearly and personally. If you haven't caught up yet, now's the time—every episode offers something rich to reflect on and talk about (stream on *The Chosen App* or on Amazon Prime).

Our Victory staff will step away together this month for our Annual Staff Retreat, a dedicated time not just to work in the ministry but to work on the ministry—prayerfully listening for where the Lord is leading us in the year ahead. Please pray for us. We long to lead with wisdom, humility, and faith as we set plans that align with God's heart for our church family and our community.

There's still plenty going on this month! The **Women's Bible Study** continues with rich conversation and community—if you haven't joined in, this is a great time to step in. Our **Singles Ministry** has several fun and meaningful events coming up as well—watch for those.

We also have a fantastic opportunity for connection and worship at the **Faith & Family Night with the Diamondbacks** on August 23. After the game, we'll stay for a live concert with Christian pop artist **Tauren Wells**—an amazing night for all ages!

And if you're looking for a sacred pause amid the summer heat, don't miss our **free summer concert**, Summer Stillness—Sacred Sounds, featuring our very own Dr. Alisson Unglaub on violin and Dr. Kristin Holton Prouty on piano and organ. This is a chance to step into the sanctuary, soak in the Spirit's presence, and worship through the beauty of sacred music. You'll hear some of your favorite hymns and praise songs like never before.

Finally, keep an eye out for the first steps of our **Victory Forward** initiative. The Vision Team has been prayerfully discerning how God is calling us to expand His Kingdom in the East Valley—and we're excited to begin sharing more in the weeks to come.

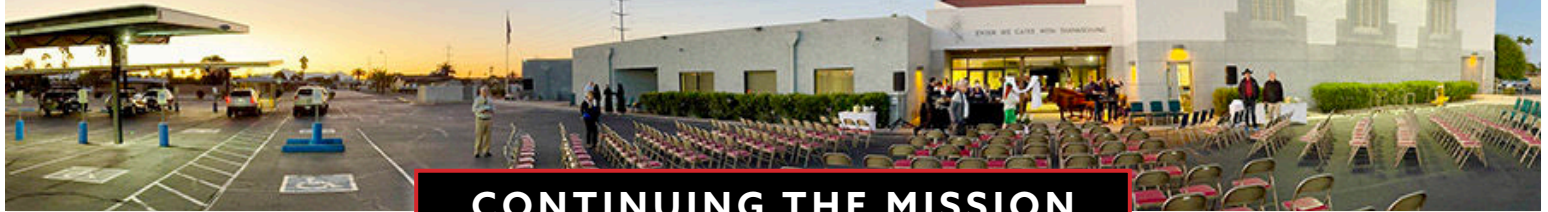
Grateful to be in this season with you,

Pastor Todd Mathison





VICTORY FORWARD



CONTINUING THE MISSION

Dear Victory Family,

Victory Lutheran Church was born out of a vision for outreach. In 1977, a small but passionate group of believers stepped forward to start a mission in East Mesa. What began with 85 worshipers in Farnsworth Hall has grown into a vibrant congregation that continues to share Christ's love with the world—one life, one neighborhood, one new beginning at a time.

Through the decades, Victory has expanded facilities, launched new ministries, invested in global missions, and even planted other congregations like Christ the Victor in Florence. Why? Because reaching people with the Gospel has always been at the heart of who we are.

That same spirit now fuels Victory Forward—our prayerful and purposeful initiative to extend God's Kingdom into the future. We're asking God to strengthen the ministry at our Mesa campus while also guiding us toward our next church site. Just as we did in decades past, we're seeking where the Spirit is leading today.

Victory Forward is not about buildings—it's about people. It's about being faithful witnesses to Jesus in our Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and to the ends of the earth (Acts 1:8). It's about empowering retirees, about helping children come to know Jesus, about caring for seniors with dignity and love, about reaching families who are hurting, and about standing ready to respond wherever God opens the next door.

Please join me in praying daily over Victory Forward. We don't want to get ahead of God, but we're ready to follow where He leads. This is our time—our chapter in Victory's unfolding story. And I believe the best is yet to come.

Gratefully in Christ,

Pastor Todd Mathison



From **July 21–23, 2025**, twelve leaders from our Church Council, staff, and congregation gathered for a Vision Retreat to listen—to one another, to God's Word, and to the Holy Spirit. We asked a bold question: How is God calling Victory to extend His kingdom? Together, we revisited our mission—to be and make Christ-centered disciples who lead others into God's mission frontiers.

The retreat was a beginning. With prayer and preparation behind us, we're now discerning first steps forward. I'm deeply grateful for our Vision Team's time, wisdom, and love for Christ's church. But this is a journey for all of us.

Let's move forward together—with servant hearts, open hands, and a willingness to follow wherever God leads. To God be the glory!

www.victorylutheran.com/forward

NEW SERMON SERIES:

NAVIGATING BY GOD'S PROMISES

Through confusion, confrontation, crisis, and dead ends, the Exodus story teaches us how to navigate by God's promises—not our circumstances. When life falls apart, when pride resists, when judgment looms, or when all escape seems lost, God's voice breaks through: "I am the Lord, and I will deliver you." God's promises are not just ancient words—they are the compass we trust today, pointing us toward redemption, rescue, and His unfailing presence.

August 9-10, 2025

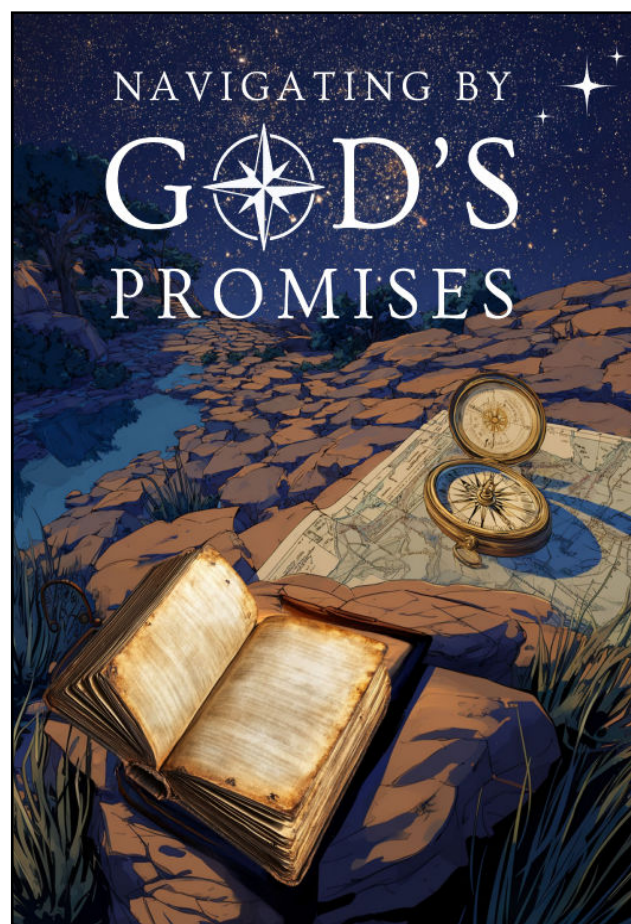
Trusting God When Life Falls Apart — Exodus 5:22-6:8

Moses did exactly what God commanded—and everything fell apart. In his disappointment, God didn't scold or withdraw; instead, He reminded Moses of who He is ("I am the Lord") and what He promised to do ("I will deliver, redeem, and restore"). When our faith feels battered and the battle only intensifies, God lifts our eyes above the chaos to see that His power never fails, His promises never waver, and those who hope in Him will renew their strength.

August 16-17, 2025

Plagues That Preach — Exodus 9:13-16

God didn't just send plagues to punish Pharaoh—He used them to proclaim His power and make His name known to all the earth. When mercy was extended, Pharaoh hardened his heart; when judgment fell, God's justice and sovereignty were unmistakably clear. Even today, in moments of crisis and confrontation, God is still calling us to surrender pride, recognize His supremacy, and trust His purposes even when we don't fully understand them.



August 23-24, 2025

His Blood, Our Rescue — Exodus 12:21-30

On the night of the first Passover, God's people rested in the safety of a lamb's blood, spread on their doorposts in faithful obedience—while death passed over them. In worship today, we gather at the Lord's Table under that same promise, sheltered by the blood of the Lamb, Jesus Christ. As judgment falls around us, we find peace not in ourselves, but in the body and blood of Christ, our perfect Passover sacrifice, given for us.

August 30-31, 2025

You're All I Need — Exodus Ex 14:1-6, 10-17

When the Israelites found themselves trapped between Pharaoh's army and the Red Sea, God was not surprised—He was staging a miracle. In their panic, He called them to stand still and trust while He did the fighting. Like them, when we face impossible places, we remember that the God who parts seas still goes with us—and nothing can separate us from His love.

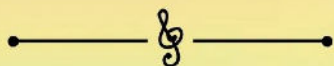




SUMMER STILLNESS

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!



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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.

*Oh come,
let us sing to the Lord;
let us make a joyful noise
to the rock of our salvation!*

Psalm 95:1

***Sing and make music to the Lord!* Ephesians 5:19**

One of the ways we worship God at Victory is through music. Whether that is reflecting during a prelude, joining together in hymns and songs, or perhaps being a part of an ensemble that prepares regularly to lead in worship, it is our hope that you are blessed by the music ministry here.

If you have a musical gift that you would like to share, or are interested in joining our handbell choir or adult choir, please contact our Director of Worship & Music, Kristin Holton Prouty: kprouty@victorylutheran.com. Our ensembles rehearse weekly beginning in October and share regularly in worship, as well as in special services and concerts throughout the season. Please be in touch about how you can join!



SUNDAY

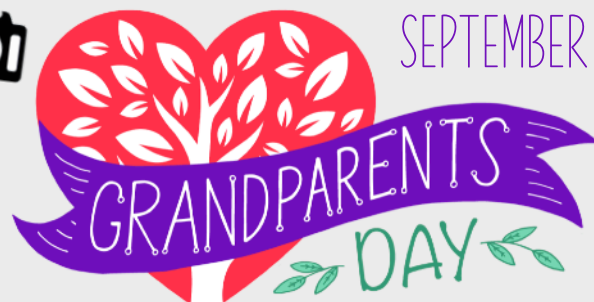
MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

GRANDPARENTS DAY

We know many of you like to brag on your grandchildren, so send us a photo of you with the grandkids/great-grandkids! A slideshow presentation will be shown the weekend of September 6 & 7. Email your photo to Eileen at ehernandez@victorylutheran.com Please include your FIRST & LAST NAME to display with the photo. **Deadline: September 1**



3 COMMUNION WEEKEND NEW MEMBER COMMISSIONING 8:30-11am Morning Fellowship, FH 8am Worship & Communion, WC 9:30am Worship, WC 11am ContemporaryWorship,WC	4 9-11:30am Food Pantry 10am The Chosen, FH 6pm The Chosen, FH	5 6:30pm Women's Bible Study, LR 7pm AA Men's Meeting, C5 7pm S.A.F.E. Singles Event Movie - Men in Black (off-site)	6 9-11:30am Food Pantry 10am Men's Bible Study, C1 12:30pm Al-Anon, C4 1pm S.A.F.E. Singles Event Movie - Men in Black (off-site) 8pm AA Meeting, C5
10 8:30-11am Morning Fellowship, FH 8am Worship & Communion, WC 9:30am Worship, WC 11am ContemporaryWorship,WC	11 9-11:30am Food Pantry	12 9:30am Women's Ministry Combined Bible Study, C4 6:30pm Women's Bible Study, LR 7pm AA Men's Meeting, C5	13 9-11:30am Food Pantry 10am Men's Bible Study, C1 12:30pm Al-Anon, C4 8pm AA Meeting, C5 4:30pm S.A.F.E. Singles Event Dinner at Uncle Bears (off-site)
17 8:30-11am Morning Fellowship, FH 8am Worship & Communion, WC 9:30am Worship, WC 11am ContemporaryWorship,WC	18 9-11:30am Food Pantry	19 3pm Council Meeting, B7 6:30pm Women's Bible Study, LR 7pm AA Men's Meeting, C5 7pm S.A.F.E. Singles Event Movie - Titanic (off-site)	20 9-11:30am Food Pantry 10am Men's Bible Study, C1 12:30pm Al-Anon, C4 1pm S.A.F.E. Singles Event Movie - Titanic (off-site) 8pm AA Meeting, FS
24 8:30-11am Morning Fellowship, FH 8am Worship & Communion, WC 9:30am Worship, WC 11am ContemporaryWorship,WC 3pm Summer Concert, WC	25 9-11:30am Food Pantry	26 6:30pm Women's Bible Study, LR 7pm AA Men's Meeting, C5	27 9-11:30am Food Pantry 9am S.A.F.E. Singles Event Feed My Starving Children Bus leaves @ 8am 10am Men's Bible Study, C1 12:30pm Al-Anon, C4 8pm AA Meeting, C5
31 8:30-11am Morning Fellowship, FH 8am Worship & Communion, WC 9:30am Worship, WC 11am ContemporaryWorship,WC	1 - September LABOR DAY FOOD PANTRY CLOSED OFFICE CLOSED		

THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 OFFICE CLOSED	2 COMMUNION WEEKEND NEW MEMBER COMMISSIONING 8am Men's Bible Study, C5 4pm Worship, WC
7 10am Prayer Group, B7 11am Al-Anon Meeting, C5 11:30am Stephen Ministry, C4	8 OFFICE CLOSED 6:40pm Diamondbacks Faith & Family Night Bus leaves at 5:15pm 	9 8am Men's Bible Study, C5 4pm Worship, WC
14 10am Prayer Group, B7 11am Al-Anon Meeting, C5	15 OFFICE CLOSED	16 8am Men's Bible Study, C5 4pm Worship, WC
21 10am Prayer Group, B7 11am Al-Anon Meeting, C5 11:30am Stephen Ministry, C4	22 OFFICE CLOSED	23 8am Men's Bible Study, C5 4pm Worship, WC
28 10am Prayer Group, B7 11am Al-Anon Meeting, C5	29 OFFICE CLOSED 4:30pm S.A.F.E. Singles Event Movie - Jaws (off-site) 7:30pm S.A.F.E. Singles Event Movie - Jaws (off-site)	30 8am Men's Bible Study, C5 4pm Worship, WC

WORSHIP WITH US

SATURDAY

4pm Traditional

SUNDAY

8am Traditional w/
communion

9:30am Traditional

11am Contemporary



WATCH US LIVE 9:30 & 11:00am

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



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



CH = Chapel
CY = Courtyard
FH = Fellowship Hall
LB = Lobby
PC = Prayer Chapel
WC = Welcome Center
WSC = Worship Center
C4 = Community Room

SMALL GROUPS

Learning from Acts 2: The Heart of Small Group Ministry

We often reference Acts 2:42-47 when discussing our vision for small groups, drawn to that beautiful picture of believers devoted to teaching, fellowship, breaking bread, and prayer. But what was that early community really like, and how can it shape our small group ministry today?

House Churches: The Original Small Groups

After Pentecost, the disciples formed house churches following Jesus' own strategy. Throughout Acts, every mention of local church gatherings refers to meetings in homes. These house-based communities were essential to Christianity's rapid growth during its first three centuries.

What made these gatherings special? The activities were diverse and spontaneous, always centered on the risen Jesus. They shared meals and celebrated the Lord's Supper together. As Paul wrote to the Colossians, they taught and encouraged one another, sang psalms and hymns, and rejoiced in God's goodness with grateful hearts. These weren't formal, solemn meetings but natural gatherings where members enjoyed each other's presence and drew near to Jesus.

The early house churches emphasized worship, spiritual gifts, teaching, prayer, fellowship, evangelism, communion, and baptism. They also served as communication centers for news and letters, and as social service hubs caring for widows and the poor.

Size and Structure

Church historians agree these house churches rarely exceeded 15-20 people due to space constraints in small apartments. Most people lived in one or two rooms above or behind shops, gathering in dining rooms or shared courtyards. When groups grew larger, they simply multiplied by starting another house church nearby.

The ancient *oikos* (household) structure included extended family, servants, and workers living together. This close-knit environment allowed neighbors to witness transformed lives up close—seeing husbands love wives, servants treated with

dignity, and love reigning supreme. This authentic Christian living drew others to Christ.

Organic Leadership Development

Leadership developed naturally within these house churches. The person who opened their home typically assumed leadership, using the existing household structure. Paul didn't emphasize formal titles because leaders emerged organically through spiritual gifts and service to the community.

Timeless Principles for Today

While our world differs greatly from the first century, several principles remain vital for our small group ministry:

Foundational, Not Optional: Small groups must be central to church life, not an add-on program. God chose to develop the first disciples through house-to-house ministry.

Life Over Curriculum: Early house churches focused on life transformation, not rigid curriculum. We need the Spirit's guidance through the Word of God to create environments where life-change is normal.

Changed Lives Win New People:

Growth came through transformed lives that attracted others. Our most effective evangelistic tool is demonstrating our own spiritual transformation to friends and neighbors.

Developing Leaders from Within: Leadership emerged naturally as believers exercised their spiritual gifts. We must encourage this same organic development.

Connected Ministry: House churches networked together, drawing on the larger body's resources. Our small groups need a connection with the preaching, equipping, and coaching ministries available through Victory.

God is calling us to journey back to these New Testament values and practices. While house-to-house ministry may look different today, these same principles will help us effectively "be a joyful and loving community that transforms and deploys Christ-centered disciples who lead others into God's mission frontiers, empowered by the Holy Spirit."

In Christ's Service,



For more information about attending a Small Group contact:

Denton Bennet at dbennet@victorylutheran.com or 480-830-5024





Patriotic Picnic & Potluck | Tremble Clefs Sunday, July 6, 2025

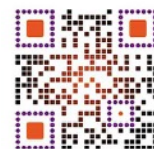


**TREMBLE
CLEFS**
Arizona





BLOOD DRIVE COMING SOON!



vitalant.

When you donate September 22-30, Vitalant will thank you with a special Halloween treat! Select from one of two glow-in-the-dark T-shirts via online order in the Rewards store and get it in time for Halloween. PLUS, you will be entered for a chance to win one of two \$10,000 gift cards! Donor Rewards program opt-in required to redeem T-shirt in the online store. While supplies last.



**ADVANCE
APPOINTMENTS**
are encouraged.

Victory Lutheran Church

BLOOD DRIVE

**Monday, September 22, 2025
9am-noon**

Vitalant Bloodmobile in Parking Lot
5946 E. University Drive, Mesa

Reserve your donation time, visit vitalant.org
Enter Blood Drive Code: **VLC**

For questions, please contact Vitalant at
877-258-4825.

WOMEN'S MINISTRY COMBINED BIBLE STUDY

Tuesday, August 12 @ 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 (Will not meet in August)

Resumes: September 8-December 8

Mondays @ 12:30-2:30pm

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.

JUST A REMINDER . . .

Pastors and staff of Victory Lutheran Church will NEVER text you or email you asking you to send money or gift cards. The scammers are sneakier than ever. When in doubt, please call the church office at 480-830-5024.



COULD YOU USE SOME DAILY HOPE?

Did you know how easy it is to subscribe to Daily Hope on your phone? Get your daily Bible verse at 8am, hear a short daily devotion at 10am and get a link to our 9:30am live-stream service on Sundays. Share with a friend or neighbor! Text the word **victory** to **888-897-5573**.

August
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

Uncle Bears Dinner (Off Site – No Bus)

Wednesday, August 13, 4:30 pm Reservation

1110 Greenfield #101A, Mesa (NW corner of Greenfield and Southern)

A casual dinner at this local, 25 year old establishment offers: Starters, Burgers, Sliders, Sandwiches, Salads, Soups, Wings, and Tex-Mex, from \$10 to \$20. HAPPY HOUR Specials from 2:00 to 6:00 pm. Plus Desserts and lots of beverage choices. **Sign up by Tuesday, August 5.**



No Bingo in August – Bingo Resumes in September (Off Site – No Bus)

Thursday September 11, Sunland Village, 4601 E Dolphin St, Mesa

Join us on the 2nd Thursday of September. 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.



Feed My Starving Children (Off Site)

Wednesday, August 27, 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, August 24th.**

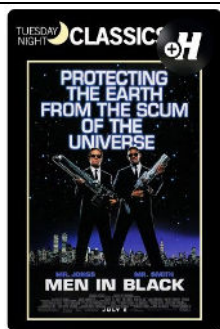


Old Classic Movie Time at Harkins Superstition Springs Theatre -- **READ CAREFULLY!**

6950 E Superstition Springs Blvd (S of US 60, E of Power Rd)

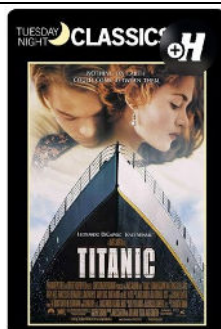
Invite a Guest!

There are 3 movies (you can sign up for as many as you want to see). Each movie has an afternoon and an evening showing. Ticket prices and sign-up deadlines vary depending on the show and time. See all the details on the movies flyer. There are 6 separate Sign-Up Sheets, one for each Movie showing's day and time. If you choose an Evening show, check off if you want to ride the Bus for \$1.00 (pay on the Bus). No Bus for the afternoon shows. We will **MEET INSIDE** the theatre at the ticket counter **20 MINUTES BEFORE SHOW TIME** to buy tickets/seats together.



**Men in Black
(1997)**

**Tuesday August 5th at 7:00 pm
or
Wednesday, August 6th at 1:00 pm**
Tickets: \$5.00



**Titanic
(1997)**

**Tuesday August 19th at 7:00 pm
or
Wednesday, August 20th at 1:00 pm**
Tickets: \$5.00



**Jaws
(1975)**

**Friday, August 29th at 4:30 pm
(in 3D – glasses provided)
or
Friday August 29th at 7:30 pm**
**Tickets: 4:30 Show (in 3D) \$11.00
7:30 Show \$8.00**

SUMMER STILLNESS

**SUNDAY
AUGUST 24
3:00PM**

Sacred Sounds

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



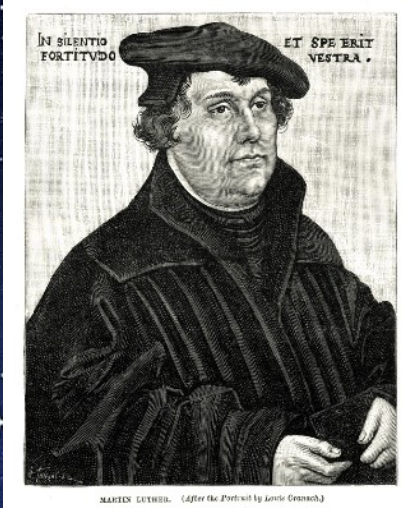
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GOD'S PROMISES

Martin Luther on the Promises of God

For Christ has promised, in many places, that those who pray should be heard; especially in Luke 11:5-13, where by many parables He invites us to pray. Of the Word He says: "Blessed are those who hear the Word of God and keep it" (Luke 11:28). And who can count all the times He promises aid and glory to those who are afflicted, suffer, and are cast down? Indeed, who can recount all the promises of God? Why, the whole Scripture is concerned with provoking us to faith; now driving us with commands and threats, now drawing us with promises and consolations. In fact, everything in Scripture is either a command or a promise. The commands humble the proud with their demands, the promises exalt the humble with their forgiveness.



 **VICTORY**
LUTHERAN CHURCH