

Sermon Notes

Life Notes

Upcoming Week

# GOD'S WILL

# GOD'S MY WAY



July 5 & 6, 2025

## "Failing Forward"

Exodus 2:11-25



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



Connect with us!



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"Failing Forward"  
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Opener:

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4. What current situation requires you to trust God's providence without seeing the bigger picture? How can we pray for you?

Sunday, July 6 - COMMUNION

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

12pm Patriotic Picnic & Potluck, FH  
& Tremble Clefs of Arizona



Monday, July 7

9-11:30am Food Pantry  
10am The Chosen, FH  
12:30pm GriefShare, C4  
6pm The Chosen, B7



Tuesday, July 8

9:30am Women's Ministry Combined  
Bible Study, C4  
6:30pm Women's Bible Study, C1  
7pm AA Men's Meeting, C5

Wednesday, July 9

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Thursday, July 10

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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

Friday, July 11

OFFICE CLOSED

Saturday, July 12

8am Men's Bible Study, C5  
4pm Worship, WC

CH = Chapel  
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Victory Lutheran Church

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GOD TIME: Faith, Freedom and the Fourth of July

Each year when my family celebrates the 4th of July, I am reminded of how powerful our God is. Who would have ever imagined that a small group of men, striving to discern God's will for a budding nation, could create such a powerful document as the Declaration of Independence. Independence Day was a pivotal day in the history of these United States. On **July 4, 1776** the Continental Congress signed the Declaration of Independence, which is a foundational document of the United States, declaring the 13 American colonies' separation from Great Britain. ~ Rich Westland ★ ★ ★



**Preamble of the Declaration of Independence:** The unanimous Declaration of the thirteen United States of America. When in the Course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another, and to assume among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation. We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.

**The Declaration of Independence concluded with the statement:** "... with a firm reliance on the protection of divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes and our sacred Honor."

The Declaration of Independence emphasizes the importance of God by establishing a foundation for natural rights based on divine creation and invoking God's guidance and judgment. It asserts that all individuals are endowed with unalienable rights by their Creator, which are not granted by the government and thus cannot be taken away. It's a statement of revolutionary intent, asserting that all people are created equal and possess inherent rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

GATHER TIME: The Right to Assemble

*"Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching."* (Hebrews 10:25)

This week, as fireworks light up the Arizona sky and flags wave proudly in the breeze, we pause to thank God—not just for our nation's freedom, but specifically for one freedom we often take for granted: the right to gather.

At Victory Lutheran Church, we experience this right every weekend. We come together without fear— young and old, snowbirds and locals, longtime members and first-time guests. We assemble to worship, to pray, to grieve, to celebrate, and to proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ. What a gift.

In many places around the world, the freedom to gather in Jesus' name is threatened or forbidden. But here, in this land we love, we are blessed with the liberty to assemble publicly, to lift our voices in praise, to come to the Lord's Table, and to live out our faith in community.

This Fourth of July, as we give thanks for our country, let's also give thanks for our church—and for the One who calls us together. May we never grow complacent. May we treasure this freedom, exercise it with joy, and use it to encourage one another... all the more as we see the Day approaching.

Happy Independence Day from your church family at Victory!



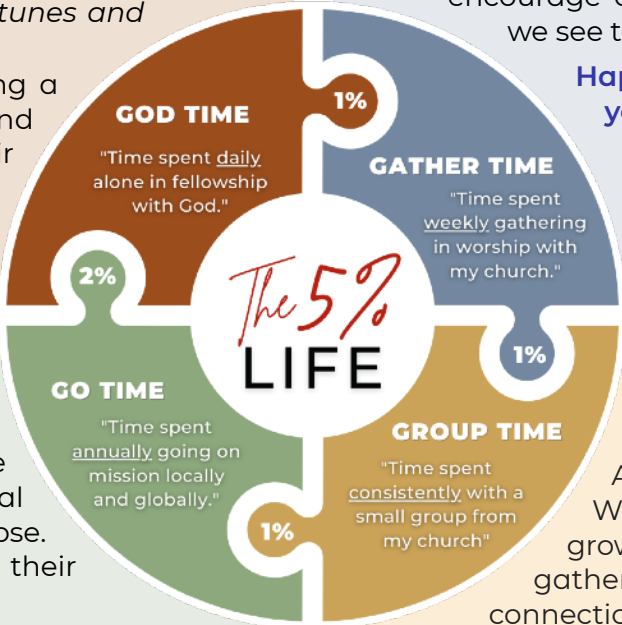
GO TIME: Thank You From Hope Women's Center

Hope Women's Center in Mesa, AZ, is a Christ-centered ministry that provides vulnerable women with a safe and supportive space to experience healing, gain life skills, and encounter the love of Jesus. Through mentoring, classes, and essential resources, Hope helps women facing crisis and trauma find hope, dignity, and purpose. Victory is honored to be a mission partner with Hope Women's Center, sharing in their commitment to compassion and transformation through Christ.

This year, the Victory Foundation awarded a grant for \$2,500 to support their impactful ministry, affirming our shared desire to serve and uplift those in need in Jesus' name. To find out more, go online to [hopewomenscenter.org](http://hopewomenscenter.org).



Dear Victory Lutheran Church,  
Thank you so much for your very generous donation to Hope Women's Center! Your contribution will directly benefit vulnerable women and teen girls who participate in our education and mentoring programs and who need material assistance. Thank you for partnering with us to serve our community!  
Linda Ruiz - Center Manager  
Apache Junction  
Hope Women's Center



GROUP TIME: Summer Fellowship — Growing Together in Faith Women's Ministry Combined Bible Study, Tuesday, July 8 @ 9:30am

As the summer heat continues to increase and many of our schedules shift, the Victory Women's Ministry is embracing this season with intentional community and spiritual growth. While many of the regular individual groups take a pause, the women of Victory gather once monthly as one unified body, creating beautiful opportunities for deeper connections across our entire ministry.

The summer months often bring scattered schedules—vacations, cooler activities outside the valley, and changing routines. Yet this season offers a unique gift: the chance to slow down and prioritize what truly matters. While it is true that the summer attendance naturally dips, this still provides an opportunity for those who are here to gather, demonstrating a remarkable commitment to seeking God together and proving that faithful fellowship isn't about numbers, but about hearts genuinely pursuing Christ.

Each month, the large group is blessed by different presenters who bring fresh perspectives and insights to our study. These varied voices enrich our understanding and remind us that God speaks through diverse experiences and gifts within our community. Whether you're a regular attendee or joining for the first time this summer, you'll find a welcoming space to explore God's Word and share life together.

Fellowship during busy seasons isn't always convenient, but it's always worthwhile. We can still prioritize gathering with other believers and create a space for encouragement, accountability, and spiritual growth that sustains us through life's demands. Even when familiar faces are missing, God continues His work in and through those who choose to show up.

Join the Women's Ministry group study on July 8th, and flourish together in faith, discovering that spiritual growth often happens not despite the busy seasons, but because we intentionally seek God within them.

