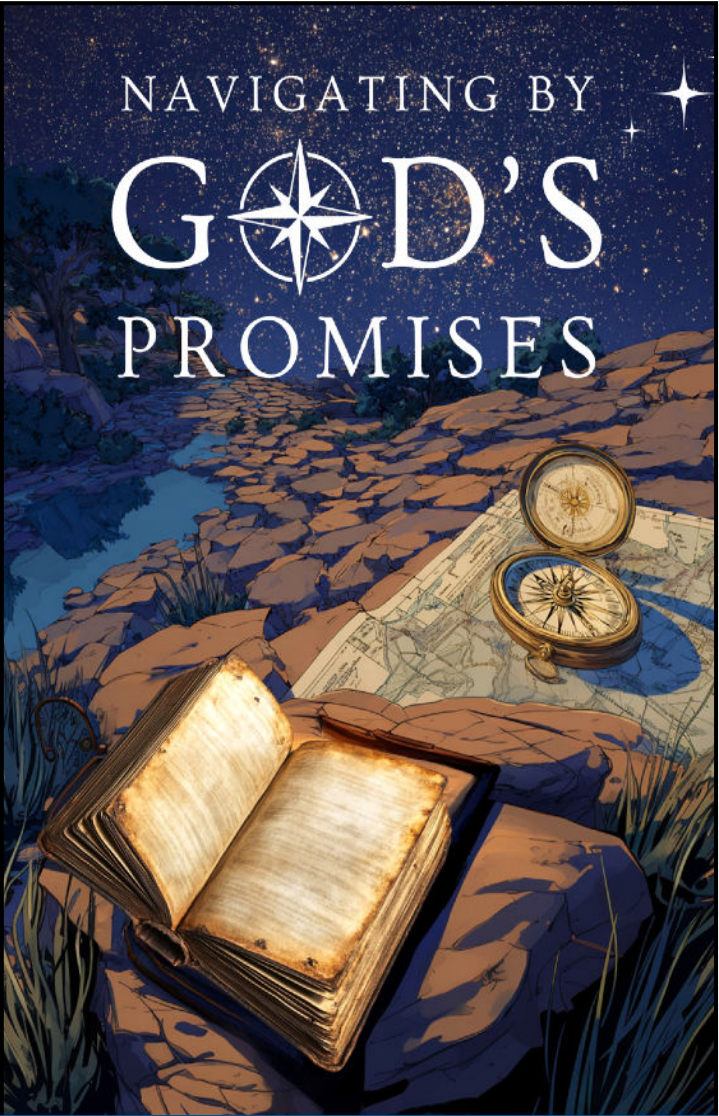


Sermon Notes

Life Notes

Upcoming Week



August 30 & 31, 2025

“YOU’RE ALL I NEED”
Exodus 14:1-6, 10-17



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



Connect with us!



Sunday, August 31
8:30-11am Morning Fellowship, FH
8am Worship & Communion, WC
9:30am Worship, WC
11am Contemporary Worship, WC

Monday, September 1 - LABOR DAY
FOOD PANTRY CLOSED
OFFICE CLOSED

Tuesday, September 2
SEPTEMBER FOOD DRIVE STARTS!
6:30pm Women’s Bible Study, C1
7pm AA Men’s Meeting, C5

Wednesday, September 3
9-11:30am Food Pantry
10am Men’s Bible Study, C1
12:30pm Al-Anon, C4
8pm AA Meeting, C5

Thursday, September 4
9:30am Women’s Ministry Board Meeting, C1
10am Prayer Group, B7
11am Al-Anon Meeting, C5
11:30am Stephen Ministry, C4

Friday, September 5
OFFICE CLOSED

Saturday, September 6
COMMUNION WEEEEKEND
8am Men’s Bible Study, C5
4pm Worship, WC

CH = Chapel
FH = Fellowship Hall
C5 = Fireside Room
NR = Nursery
WC = Worship Center
C4 = Community Room

F A R E W E L L
RECEPTION
PASTOR SUSAN
& RICH WESTLAND
SUN, AUGUST 31

Immediately following the 9:30am service
In the Fellowship Hall



Victory Lutheran Church
5946 E. University Drive, Mesa, AZ 85205
hello@victorylutheran.com
480-830-5024
Office Hours: Mon-Thurs, 8am-4pm
VictoryLutheran.com



VictoryLutheran_Guest
Password: Victory_46

Navigating by God’s Promises #4:
“You’re All I Need”
Exodus 14:1-6, 10-17

Opener:

What’s your natural response when the pressure’s on—fight or flight?

Go Deeper: *(Exploring the Bible)*

1. Read Exodus 14:10–14. Why do you think God wanted Israel to “stand still” instead of fight?
2. Compare Isaiah 43:1–3 with Romans 8:38–39. What do these passages teach us about God’s presence in our predicaments?
3. How does Psalm 27:13–14 describe waiting on God? What does this teach us about faith?
4. How does Jesus fulfill God’s promise to “fight for you” at the Red Sea? (See Colossians 2:15 and Hebrews 2:14–15).

Live It: *(Applying to Our Lives)*

1. When have you felt “trapped” in a Red Sea moment? How did God show His presence?
2. Where are you tempted to take matters into your own hands instead of waiting on God?
3. What “predicament” are you in today that you need to entrust to God?
4. How does knowing Christ’s victory over sin and death change the way you face fear, anxiety, or uncertainty?
5. This week, what would it look like for you to practice Exodus 14:14 — “The Lord will fight for you; you need only to be still”?

Daily Bible Readings (August 31 - September 6)

Sun: Exodus 14:1–14 The Lord Will Fight for You
Mon: Exodus 14:15–31 God Makes a Way
Tues: Isaiah 43:1–3 Fear Not, You Are Mine
Wed: Romans 8:31–39 Nothing Can Separate Us
Thurs: Psalm 27:13–14 Wait for the Lord
Fri: Psalm 105:37–43 God Remembers His Promise
Sat: Hebrews 11:27–29 By Faith They Passed Through

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)

GOD TIME: Holy Work, Everyday Hands

Have you ever noticed how a three-day weekend can feel like an unexpected gift from heaven? Labor Day gives us that pause—but it's more than just a holiday for barbecues and furniture sales.

Labor Day began in the late 1800s as a way to honor the contributions of American workers—the men and women whose labor built roads, tilled fields, stitched clothes, taught children, and kept the machinery of daily life moving. It's a reminder that work—though often hard and unglamorous—is a gift from God.

The Bible reminds us: "Work willingly at whatever you do, as though you were working for the Lord rather than for people" (Colossians 3:23, NLT). That verse turns the ordinary into holy. Whether you're hammering nails, cooking meals, changing diapers, teaching, or even retired but still volunteering and caring for others—it all matters because it's all offered to God.

Martin Luther wrote powerfully about this. He said that our daily callings—what he called "vocations"—are more than jobs; they're ways God hides Himself in ordinary tasks. Luther once said, "The maid who sweeps her kitchen is doing the will of God just as much as the monk who prays" [paraphrase from Exposition of Psalm 147]. In other words, your work is worship when it's done faithfully and with love.

So this Labor Day, as you enjoy a rest from work, give thanks for the work itself. Remember, in Christ Jesus, no task is too small to shine with eternal significance. God delights to work through your hands.



GATHER TIME: Farewell Reception — Sun, August 31 @ 10:30am Pastor Susan Westland



As we all know, saying goodbye is never easy. You see, it was just two short years ago that Rich and I arrived in Arizona to begin serving God's people here at Victory. The time has flown by but at every turn I have been humbled by all the "God Moments" I have witnessed that have inspired and encouraged my faith. Many of these moments came when I was visiting one of you and the Holy Spirit prompted me to ask, "Where was Jesus when that happened?" Most of the time, the person I asked paused and then with emotion in their voice, recalled how Jesus showed up in a powerful way. Other times, I was prompted to ask, "When was the first time you realized you believed in Jesus as your Lord and Savior?" The answers you gave amazed me as I heard things like, "It was when I was in confirmation and one day, I just knew Jesus was real." Or "One day He was just so real to me that I knew He was my Savior."

My most recent "God Moments" came on a motorcycle trip with Rich and some friends. I was on sabbatical, seeking rest and renewal as I tried to discern God's will for our future. One day, at the Montana super state rally of the Chrisitan Motorcyclists Association, a group of us rode over Beartooth Pass. As we climbed the 12,000ft summit and passed the glacier at the top, we turned a tight corner. There before us was a breath-taking sight of God's beautiful creation. Gasping I heard the Holy Spirit whisper, "I am your God who created all of this! See how big I am! Let me be this big in your life right now! I still know the plans I have for your life! Trust me!"

As I humbly contemplated this God Moment, I felt the Holy Spirit calling Rich and I to return home so we can be available to serve our family. My heart ached as I thought of all of you and how much I would miss you, but God assured me He has you in the palm of His hand and He knows the plans He has for you as well. So, as I say my final goodbye, I urge you to let God be BIG in your life. Remember, the hardship and pain we suffer in this world is real, but as Jesus told us in John 16:33, "Take heart, for I have overcome the world!"

GO TIME: FOOD DRIVE — Let's stock the shelves!

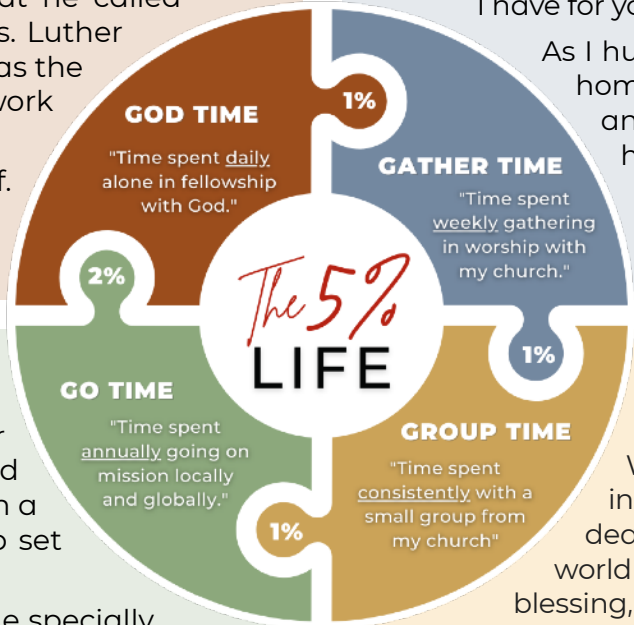
Victory Lutheran has partnered with Lutheran Social Services of the Southwest for many years. The Food Pantry, which serves people in need on Monday and Wednesday mornings, is one way we are the hands and feet of Jesus. This has been a year of transition for the staff and volunteers of LSS and the food pantry. To help set them up for success we are having a food drive in the month of September.

If you would like to participate, please bring the following and put your items on the specially marked table during the **month of September**. We look forward to seeing our provisions grow!

Thank you, in advance, for joining the cause!

ITEMS IN NEED:

RICE
PASTA
SPAGHETTI SAUCE
PEANUT BUTTER
BREAKFAST CEREAL



GROUP TIME: GriefShare — A Harbor in the Storm Mary Michela

When my husband, Chris, went home to be with the Lord in 2023 after a long battle with Parkinson's, the silence was deafening. We had been a team for over fifty years, and my world felt unsteady and quiet. Friends and family were a blessing, but I often felt lost in a fog, as no one could truly understand the unique ache of losing a spouse.



The following year, in 2024, I hesitantly walked into my first GriefShare meeting. I was nervous, not sure I could speak about Chris without breaking down. But what I found in that room was not pity; it was a quiet, Christ-centered understanding. As I listened to the video seminar and the stories of others around my table, I felt a weight lift. These people, once strangers, were now brothers and sisters in Christ who understood the journey.

GriefShare became my harbor. It was a safe place to cry, to laugh at a fond memory, and to grapple with hard questions. Most importantly, this ministry constantly pointed me back to the unshakable hope we have in Jesus. It didn't take away the pain, but it gave me the tools to navigate it, surrounded by a community that genuinely cared. It taught me that while grief is part of my story, it doesn't have to be the end of it. I found strength, friendship, and a renewed sense of God's loving presence in my life.

