

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)

Life Notes

Discovering God's Plan #1:
"The Gift of Letting Go"
Exodus 18:13-24

Opener:
When you have too much on your plate, what's the first thing you tend to do—ask for help, or just try harder?

Go Deeper: (Exploring the Bible)

- Read Exodus 18:13–18. What problem did Jethro notice in Moses' leadership, and why was it dangerous for both Moses and the people?
- In Exodus 18:19–20, Jethro reminded Moses of his true calling. What were the essentials Moses was to focus on?
- Jethro encouraged Moses to delegate (Exodus 18:21–23). What qualities did he say to look for in other leaders?
- Read Matthew 11:28–30. How does Jesus' invitation to rest connect with Moses' lesson in Exodus 18?
- Read Acts 6:1–7. How did the apostles follow the same principle of focusing on essentials and sharing responsibilities?

Live It: (Applying to Our Lives)

- Where in your life do you feel overburdened—home, work, church, or relationships?
- What keeps you from asking for help—pride, fear, or thinking "it's easier to do it myself"?
- Who might be a "Jethro" in your life—someone God has placed to speak wisdom, if you'll listen?
- What is one responsibility you could let go of this week so you can focus more on what God has truly called you to?
- How can you embrace Jesus' invitation to rest and rely on His strength instead of your own?

Daily Bible Readings (September 14-20)

Sun:	Exodus 5:1–23	When Obedience Backfires
Mon:	Exodus 6:1–8	God's "I Will" Promises
Tues:	Isaiah 40:27–31	Renewed Strength
Wed:	2 Corinthians 11:7–18	Boasting in Weakness
Thurs:	James 4:13–17	If the Lord Wills
Fri:	Luke 9:21–27	Take Up Your Cross
Sat:	Romans 8:31–39	Unshakable Love

Upcoming Week

Sunday, September 14
8:30-11am Morning Fellowship, FH
8am Worship & Communion, WC
9:30am Worship, WC
11am Contemporary Worship, WC

Monday, September 15
9-11:30am Food Pantry
12:30-2:30pm GriefShare, C4

Tuesday, September 16
3pm Council Meeting, B7
8:30am-2:30pm Quilters, FH
6:30pm Women's Bible Study, LR
7pm AA Men's Meeting, C5

Wednesday, September 17
8:30am-12:30pm Quilters, FH
9-11:30am Food Pantry
10am Men's Bible Study, C1
12:30pm Al-Anon, C4
8pm AA Meeting, C5

Thursday, September 18
10am Prayer Group, B7
11am Al-Anon Meeting, C5
11:30am Stephen Ministry, C4
11:30am S.A.F.E. Singles Event
Lunch at Manuel's (off-site)
Bus leaves @ 11am

Friday, September 19
OFFICE CLOSED

Saturday, September 20
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

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

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Password: Victory_46

Discovering God's Plan

September 13 & 14, 2025

"The Gift of Letting Go"
Exodus 18:13-24

THE PULSE

Todd Mathison, Lead Pastor
Denton Bennet, Associate Pastor
Renée Bennett, Discipleship Pastor

Connect with us!

QR code and social media icons (YouTube, Facebook, Instagram, Twitter)

GOD TIME: The Gift of God Time Together

Pastor Todd Mathison

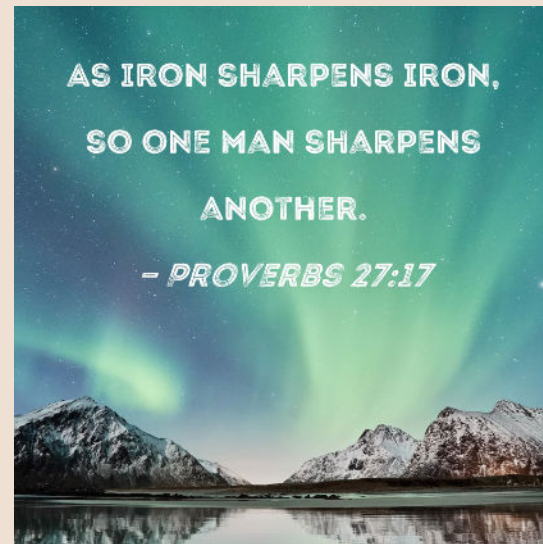
One of the most life-giving rhythms in my week is what I call "God Time" with my small group of brothers here at Victory. Every week, we circle up—not just to catch up, but to lean in and learn together. After all, the word *disciple* simply means "learner." And that's what we are: learners in Christ, sharpening one another through God's Word and honest conversation.

I treasure these men because they know me—and they have my back, just as I do for them. Proverbs 27:17 reminds us, "As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another." When we gather, it's not just Bible study, it's life-on-life encouragement. We talk about real things: the challenges of humility, the courage it takes to stand firm, the persistence to keep going when life gets hard, the patience God is still working on in us, and the generosity He calls us to practice.

Each story shared is a reminder that God is actively shaping us, slowly but surely, into the image of His Son. As Paul wrote, "We...are being transformed into His image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit" (2 Corinthians 3:18).

If you are not part of a Small Group at Victory, let me encourage you: make space for this kind of "God Time." Don't wait for a crisis to find community. We all need others to lean on, laugh with, and learn from as we follow Christ together.

To learn more, visit Victory's website at victorylutheran.com/smallgroups, email hello@victorylutheran.com, or speak to Pastor Renée Bennett directly.



GATHER TIME: Prayerfully Seeking Servant-Leaders

One of the most beautiful truths of the church is this: God calls ordinary people to do extraordinary things for His Kingdom. That includes you and me. Jesus once said, "Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field" (Matthew 9:38). At Victory, we are taking Him at His word. The Nominating Committee has begun prayerfully asking the Lord to raise up women and men of wisdom, faith, and service to help guide our mission and ministry in the season ahead.

We are seeking servant-leaders to serve on **Church Council, the Foundation Board, and the Nominating Committee**. These are not just "positions to fill." They are opportunities for God to use your gifts in ways that will bless His people, strengthen His church, and advance the Gospel.

If you sense that the Lord may be inviting you into one of these roles, listen, lean in, and pray about it. Sometimes God's call begins as a gentle whisper.

Those who step forward and are nominated will be presented to the congregation for a vote at our Church Annual Meeting on Sunday, November 16th. This is one of the ways we, together as a body of Christ, discern God's will and direction for Victory's future.

If you would like to know more, please contact the church office or email us at hello@victorylutheran.com. We can provide you with a ministry description, and for those interested in serving on the Church Council, please note that an application is required.

Together, let's pray with expectancy that the Lord of the harvest will raise up the right people, for the right time, to serve His church.



GO TIME: Blood Drive at Victory



BLOOD DRIVE
Sign up at vitalant.org

When you donate, 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.

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Victory Lutheran Church

BLOOD DRIVE
Monday, September 22, 2025
9am-noon

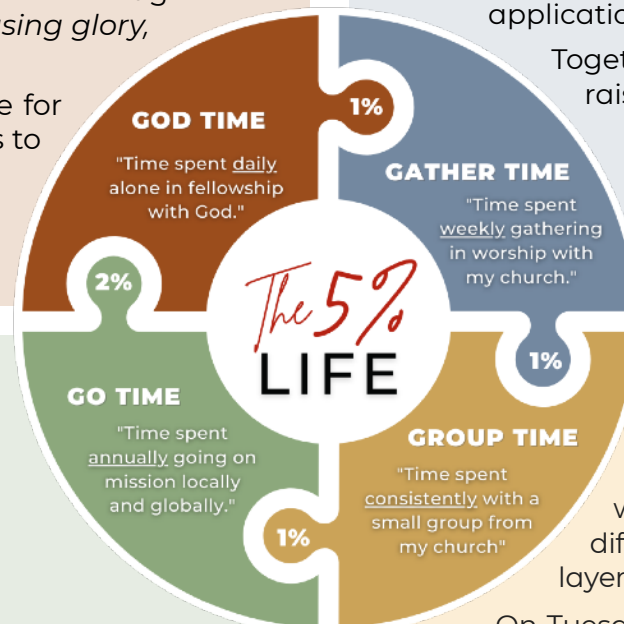
Vitalant Bloodmobile in Parking Lot
5946 E. University Drive, Mesa

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

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



**ADVANCE
APPOINTMENTS**
are encouraged.



GROUP TIME: Quilters are back! September 16 & 17 @ 8:30am

Time to start making quilts for another year! Hope you have been surviving our 'very warm' summer. NO EXPERIENCE IS NEEDED. We call our quilts 'comfort' quilts: each one is different but put together simply and with love. If you can tie a knot, cut fabric, assist with layering (top, bottom and filling), we can use your help.

On Tuesday, we meet from 8:30am-2:30pm, having a coffee break at 10am and a lunch break at noon. If you can bring something to share: coffee cake, salad (such as tuna, egg, chicken, potato, macaroni, etc.) cheese and crackers, or whatever, it would be welcomed. On Wednesday, we meet from 8:30am-11:30am with a coffee break. Hope you can join us!

Dottie Cisek 480-250-6668 | Betty Swanson 480-234-4466

