

Sermon Notes

Daily Bible Readings (November 2-8)

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| Sun: | Joshua 1:1-9 | Putting God First |
| Mon: | Deut. 31:1-8 | God's Promise to Moses & Joshua |
| Tues: | Hebrews 11:1-16 | The Faith of the Saints |
| Wed: | Hebrews 11:32-12:2 | The Great Cloud of Witnesses |
| Thurs: | Matthew 6:25-34 | Seek First the Kingdom |
| Fri: | Philippians 4:10-20 | God Supplies Every Need |
| Sat: | Psalms 23 | The Lord is My Shepherd |

Life Notes

Forward Together #2:
"Putting God First" - Joshua 1:1-9

Opener:

Think of someone you knew who consistently put God first in their life. What did that look like practically? What impact did it have on you?

Go Deeper: (Exploring the Bible)

- Read Joshua 1:1-9.** Count the times God mentions His presence or makes a promise. Why do you think God repeats Himself, and what does this reveal about what we need to hear?
- Compare Joshua 1:5 with Hebrews 13:5-6.** How does the writer of Hebrews connect God's promise to Joshua with our lives today? What does this tell us about the continuity of God's faithfulness across generations?
- Read Hebrews 11:13-16 and 39-40.** What made these imperfect people "saints" in God's eyes? How does this challenge or comfort your understanding of what it means to be faithful?
- Look at Joshua 1:7-8 alongside Psalm 1:1-3.** What role does God's Word play in Joshua's success? How does meditating on Scripture "day and night" connect to putting God first?
- Read 2 Corinthians 5:14-15.** How does Paul describe the motivation for putting God first? How is this different from obligation or guilt-driven obedience?

Live It: (Applying to Our Lives)

- God Time (1% of your day): What would need to change for you to give God the "first fruits" of your day this week?
- Gather Time (1% of your week): What obstacles keep you from consistent gathering, and how might God be calling you to overcome them?
- Group Time (1% of your month): Are you currently in a small group, Bible study, or ministry team? If not, what's holding you back? If so, how has it helped you?
- Go Time (2% of your year): What step could you take this year—as a pray-er, sender, or goer—to share in God's mission?
- Treasure: If someone looked at your bank statement and calendar, would they be able to tell that God is first in your life? What would it look like for you to take a courageous step of faith with your treasure this month?

Upcoming Week

Sunday, November 2
All Saints' Weekend
Communion Weekend
"Meet A Pastor" (following each service)
8:30-11am Morning Fellowship, FH
8am Worship & Communion, WC
9:30am Worship & Children's Church, WC
11am Contemporary Worship & Children's Church, WC
12pm Starting Point, B7

Monday, November 3
9-11:30am Food Pantry
10am Joining Jesus Study, FH
12:30-2:30pm GriefShare, C4
4pm Confirmation Class, C1
6pm Joining Jesus Study, FH

Tuesday, November 4 - OFFICE CLOSED
6:30pm "Seekers" Small Group, B7
7pm AA Men's Meeting, C5

Wednesday, November 5
9-11:30am Food Pantry
10am Men's Bible Study, C1
12:30pm Al-Anon, C4
1:00pm Bell Choir Rehearsal, WC
6:30pm Choir Rehearsal, WC
8pm AA Meeting, C5

Thursday, November 6
9:30am Women's Ministry Board Meeting, C1
10am Prayer Group, B7
11am Al-Anon Meeting, C5
11:30am Stephen Ministry, C4

Friday, November 7
OFFICE CLOSED

Saturday, November 8
8am Men's Bible Study, C5
4pm Worship, WC
"Meet A Pastor" (following service)
5pm Annual Meeting Q&A, B7

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

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VictoryLutheran_Guest
Password: Victory_46

FORWARD TOGETHER

November 1 & 2, 2025

"Putting God First"
Joshua 1:1-9

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: All Saints' Day — Celebrating the Sainthood of All Believers

As Lutherans, we view All Saints' Day as a celebration of the "sainthood of all believers"—meaning that all followers of Christ are considered saints, not just the canonized ones. It is a day to remember and give thanks for all the faithful who have passed and to celebrate the hope of the resurrection and eternal life.

The meaning of saint was transformed during the persecutions of the early Christians by the Roman Empire. Martyrs became the prototypical saint. Praying to saints began because it was believed martyrs were received directly into heaven and their intercession with God was especially effective.

During the 12th and 13th centuries, the honoring of saints came under the control of the papacy and they established a process of canonization, which became the way the Catholic church determines if a person is a saint. To this day, the recognized saints dominate the Catholic church calendar with at least one saint acknowledged each day with special focus on their deeds, sufferings, and miracles.

The Reformation did not deny the significance of the saints as historical witnesses to the power and grace of God, but it did eliminate their veneration (praying to them) and removed their images from churches and homes.

Martin Luther said that all Christians are saints, redefining a "saint" as a forgiven sinner, not someone who is perfect or earns their holiness through works. Luther believed we are all "simul justus et peccator", which is Latin for "simultaneously just and sinner".



GO TIME: Operation Christmas Child - "Shoebox" Ministry

This wonderful ministry where we here at Victory Lutheran Church pack shoeboxes for children in need around the world. Pencils, markers, toys toothbrushes and other school supplies are always greatly appreciated. Be sure to pack and return your boxes by November 15th.

Pizza & Packing Party! - November 15 @ 5pm

We are asking each person to bring 10-20 items to help fill the boxes together. Items needed: Toys, toothbrushes, school supplies, soap, t-shirts, etc. and monetary donations to cover shipping welcome too. Sorry no food or liquid items allowed. If you can't bring items join us anyway to pack boxes, pray over them for God's little ones and enjoy some pizza. Remember every shoebox is delivered in Jesus Name. Let's take the message of the Gospel to the ends of the earth! **SIGN UP** at the Welcome Desk. Marcia Hurry, Volunteer Coordinator mhurry.up@hotmail.com

PIZZA & PACKING PARTY!

ALL ARE INVITED!

SAT, NOV 15, 5:00PM

We will pack & pray over the boxes.

Bring 10-20 items to help fill the boxes, as you are able.

Sign up at the Welcome Center

Noisy Offering - November 29 & 30

Get ready to make some noise! We will be collecting a Noisy Offering to support Operation Christmas Child. Bring your spare change—and bills too!—and drop them into the buckets as we give joyfully. Start saving your coins now—a little change can make a big difference!

GATHER TIME: All Saints' Day

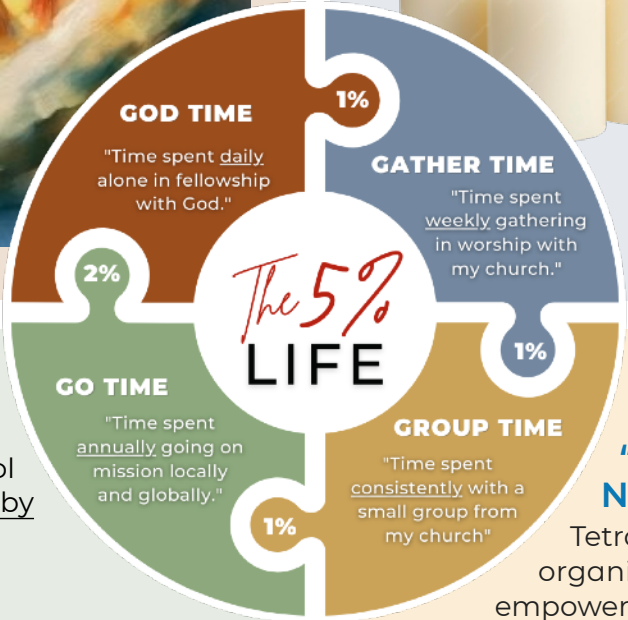
In remembrance of our loved ones, we honor those who have "Gone Home to the Lord" within the past year. We remember and give thanks for the saints who are now in God's eternal, loving care. We praise God for their significance in our life — their influence, example and faith.



IN REMEMBRANCE OF OUR LOVED ONES...

| | | |
|-----------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Challis Aper | Connie Gauthier | Phil Nawrocki |
| Ruby Bailey | Louis Hanson | Shirley Neail |
| Vern Barlow | Kent Hochgraber | Ingeborg Pierce |
| Dolores Bowyer | Janis Johnson | Richard Rehn |
| Jacob Bricker | Dennis Koedyker | Ginger Sandfort |
| Bill Byers | Kristie Kranz | Shirley Smith |
| Cheri Guy Clark | Michael Casper Lewis | Neal Snider |
| Ethel DeMerse | Sandy Melville | Delores Rose Strains |
| James Dibley | Richard Michaelis | Odella Tibbetts |
| Helmut Duschek | Judea Myers | Betty Vos |
| Beverley Freese | John Naegle | Janice Wipf |

Almighty God, whose people are knit together in one Holy Church, the body of Christ our Lord: Grant us grace to follow your blessed saints in lives of faith and commitment, and to know the inexpressible joys you have prepared for those who love you; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.



GROUP TIME:
Tetra String Quartet
"What a Wonderful World"
November 9, 3pm

Tetra String Quartet is an Arizona nonprofit organization that serves the community and empowers the next generation through performing and teaching chamber music. Tetra was formed in 2010, and they are proud to be both educators and performers. They have received awards, and traveled the world performing, but their mission is local in Arizona, sharing music with members of the community who often do not have access to quality classical experiences. Entrance is free, but donations are warmly accepted. Come enjoy the beautiful music and support this fine ensemble! Bring a friend and stay for the reception.



For more information about our upcoming concerts, scan the QR code or visit VictoryLutheran.com/concert-series

Concert posters are available at the Welcome Desk.



Let all the world in ev'ry corner sing
- George Herbert

2025-2026 Victory Concert Series

Sundays at 3pm - Reception
FREE - donations appreciated

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| October 26 | Bach & His Influences - Kristin Holton Prouty |
| November 9 | What a Wonderful World - Tetra String Quartet |
| December 14 | A European Christmas - Choir & Bells |
| January 18 | The Music of Dave Brubeck - U32 Jazz |
| February 8 | Echoes Across Continents - The Unglaub Duo |
| March 8 | Melodías de Puerto Rico - Carlos Feliciano |
| April 3 (4 & 6pm*) | Good Friday Requiem - Combined Choirs |

VICTORY LUTHERAN CHURCH
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Kristin Holton Prouty, Director of Worship & Music