

Sermon Notes

Daily Bible Readings (November 30-December 6)

Sun:	Isaiah 9:1-7	The Promise of Light
Mon:	Psalm 33:16-22	Our Hope & Shield
Tues:	Romans 15:4-13	Overflow with Hope
Wed:	Hebrews 6:13-20	An Anchor for the Soul
Thurs:	1 Peter 1:3-9	Living Hope
Fri:	Lamentations 3:19-26	Great Is Your Faithfulness
Sat:	Luke 2:8-20	Hope Announced

Life Notes

Experience the Gifts of Christmas #1: "Hope" Luke 2:8-14 | Isaiah 9:1-2, 6-7

Opener:

Think about a time when you were waiting for something important—test results, a phone call, an answer to prayer. What was the difference between "hoping for the best" and actually having confidence it would work out?

Go Deeper: (Exploring the Bible)

1. Read Isaiah 9:1-7. What specific promises does God make about the coming child? What do the four throne names (v. 6) tell us about the kind of hope this child brings?
2. The people who received Isaiah's prophecy waited over 700 years to see it fulfilled. What does this timeline teach us about God's faithfulness and how God works?
3. Read Luke 2:8-14. Why is it significant that the angels announced Jesus' birth to shepherds rather than to religious leaders or royalty?
4. The angel says "Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you" (Luke 2:11). How does the word "today" and the phrase "to you" shape our understanding of hope?
5. Read Luke 2:15-20. The shepherds returned to their same fields and same responsibilities. What changed? What does this teach us about how hope works in ordinary life?

Live It: (Applying to Our Lives)

1. Where in your life right now are you operating in "wishful thinking" (uncertain, fragile hope) rather than biblical hope (anchored in God's promises)? What's the difference?
2. Which of the four throne names—Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace—speaks most to what you need right now? Why?
3. The sermon said "Hope comes to those who can't create it." In what area of your life do you most need to stop trying to manufacture hope and simply receive it as a gift?
4. Describe a time when your circumstances didn't change but you changed in how you experienced them. What made the difference?
5. As you return to your "same fields" this week, what's one specific way you can live like someone who has encountered real hope? What will be different about Monday because of what you heard Sunday?

Upcoming Week

Sunday, November 30

NOISY OFFERING

FIRST DAY OF ADVENT

"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

Monday, December 1

9-11:30am Food Pantry

12:30-2:30pm GriefShare, C4

4pm Confirmation Class, C1

Tuesday, December 2

5:30pm Christmas Lights Bus Tour, FH

6:30pm "Seekers" Small Group, B7

7pm AA Men's Meeting, C5

Wednesday, December 3

9-11:30am Food Pantry

10am Decorate the Church

10am Men's Bible Study, C1

12:30pm Al-Anon, C4

1pm Bell Choir Rehearsal, WC

4pm Prayer & Praise Worship Service, CH

6:30pm Choir Rehearsal, WC

8pm AA Meeting, C5

Thursday, December 4

9:30am Women's Ministry Board Mtg, C1

10am Prayer Group, B7

11am Al-Anon Meeting, C5

11:30am Stephen Ministry, C4

5:30pm Christmas Lights Bus Tour, FH

Friday, December 5

OFFICE CLOSED

Saturday, December 6

COMMUNION WEEKEND

8am Men's Bible Study, C5

9am-1pm KBM Outdoor Market, parking lot

4pm Worship, WC

"Meet A Pastor" (following service)

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

Victory Lutheran Church

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EXPERIENCE
THE
gifts
OF
CHRISTMAS

HOPE
Luke 2:8-14

November 29 & 30, 2025

THE
PULSE

Todd Mathison, Lead Pastor

Denton Bennet, Associate Pastor

Renée Bennett, Discipleship Pastor

Dirk Duhlstine, Chaplain

Kristin Holton Prouty, Director of Worship & Music



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GOD TIME: Experience the Gifts of Christmas

Pastor Denton Bennet

The holiday season overwhelms us with offers: buy this gift, attend that party, create the perfect celebration. But amid the noise, God offers us something far better—gifts that don't come wrapped in paper, but wrapped in a person: Jesus Christ.

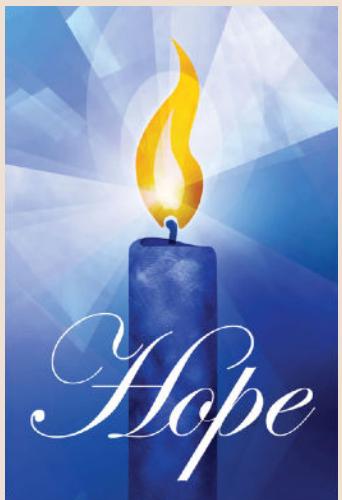
This Advent, we're slowing down to unwrap four eternal gifts that Jesus brought into our world: **Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love.** These aren't just nice sentiments or seasonal feelings. They are solid realities that change everything about how we face life—today and forever.

Hope that doesn't depend on circumstances going our way. **Peace** that guards our hearts when everything feels chaotic. **Joy** that runs deeper than happiness and carries us through hard times. **Love** so profound that God Himself stepped into our broken world to rescue us.

These gifts aren't earned or achieved—they're received. They come to us in the person of Jesus, the baby born in Bethlehem who grew to become our Savior. He came once as a child in a manger, He walks with us now by His Spirit, and He's coming again to make all things new. Paul's blessing captures it perfectly: **"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope."** (Romans 15:13)

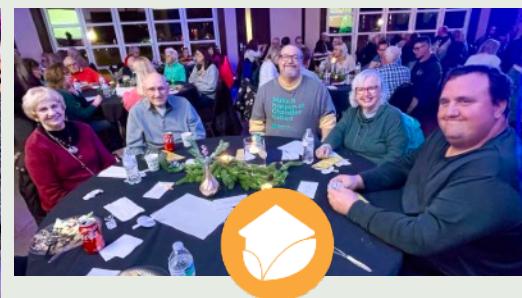
As we journey together through Advent, let's open our hearts to truly experience what God has given us in Christ. These gifts never fade, never disappoint, and can never be taken away. Come, receive what God is offering. Experience the real gifts of Christmas.

Lord Jesus, open our hearts this Advent to receive the gifts only You can give. Fill us with Your hope, peace, joy, and love. Amen.

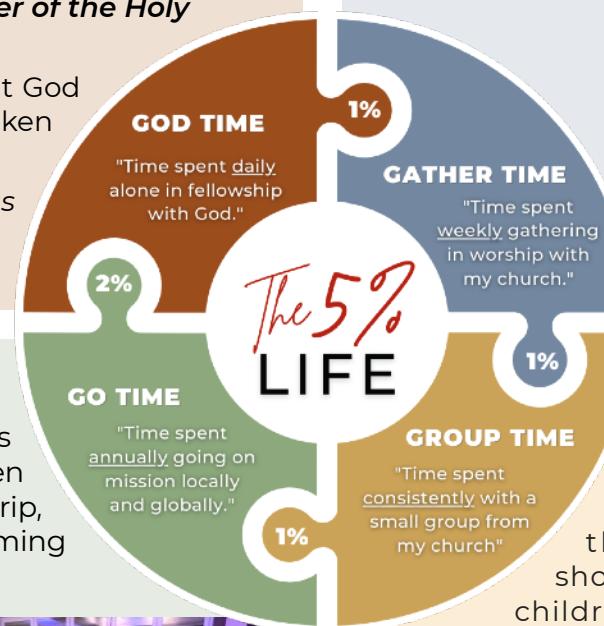


GO TIME: Orchard: Africa Zoolights

We were blessed to have 34 people from Victory attend the Orchard: Africa ZooLights Fundraiser Dinner at the Phoenix Zoo on November 21, 2025. Orchard: Africa has been Victory's Global Mission partner since 2011. We are looking forward to our 10th trip, scheduled for September 4-14, 2026. If you'd like to learn more about this upcoming mission opportunity, brochures are available at the Welcome Desk.



ORCHARD: AFRICA
www.orchardafrika.org



GATHER TIME: Prayer & Praise Worship Service

Wednesday, December 3 @ 4:00pm

Join us in the courtyard Chapel for this special Christmas-themed service. Christmas is a season full of both immense joy and quiet sadness. As we come together in this time of Prayer and Praise, we will seek the Father's heart especially for those who are experiencing grief, turmoil, and loneliness. We will also rejoice together in singing some favorite Christmas Carols and give God thanks for the many things that fill us with peace and hope during this special season.



Christmas Eve Services

1, 3, 5pm – Traditional Worship with Choir, Organ & Strings
7pm – Contemplative Christmas with Guitar
9pm – Candlelight Communion with Organ & Handbells

Thurs, December 25 at 10am
with Communion

Christmas Day

Invitation cards are available on the lobby table as you exit. Be sure to pick some up and invite a friend or neighbor. It's a simple yet meaningful way to reach out and welcome others to church.

GROUP TIME: Operation Christmas Child — Shoebox Packing Party

A heartfelt thank-you to everyone who helped make this year's Operation Christmas Child Packing Party a wonderful success! Our congregation packed 155 boxes, in addition to 385 boxes from the "Packing Party" on November 15th. Victory's grand total this year is an incredible 540 shoeboxes sent to children around the world! We are deeply grateful for the 50-60 volunteers who came to help pack, organize, carry, and celebrate the joy of giving. Your hands and hearts made a real difference. Thank you again for all your support this year!

Mike & Marcia Hurry
Volunteer Coordinators

