

Sermon Notes

Life Notes

“Pointing Others to Jesus”  
John 1:19-34

**Opener:**  
Did you ever want to be famous? Why or why not?

**Go Deeper:** *(Exploring the Bible)*

- It was predicted hundreds of years before Jesus’ birth that one would come before Him that would point the way to Jesus. How does this truth about John the Baptist make you feel about the prophets of the Old Testament? Do you know how many prophecies about Jesus’ birth and death and resurrection were fulfilled? (about 400!)
- How does John’s appearance play out in his role of pointing others to Jesus? Why did some think he was Elijah? (hint: Matthew 11:14, Luke 1:17)
- How do you think John the Baptist felt when his followers left him to follow Jesus? What scripture supports your answer?

**Live It:** *(Applying to Our Lives)*

- Think about your current situation. What in your life draws attention to or away from Jesus?
- We all have spiritual gifts. John’s gift was evangelism - literally pointing the way to Jesus! What is yours? How can you use this gift to give God the glory?
- We live in a world of self centeredness and self-promotion. What would you have to give up to point others to Jesus?

**Daily Bible Readings (December 28-January 3)**

Sun:	Malachi 3:1	Sending a Messenger
Mon:	Isaiah 40:1-5	A Voice in the Wilderness
Tues:	Luke 1:13-17	In the Spirit of Elijah
Wed:	Luke 1:76	Preparing the Way for Him
Thurs:	John 3:27- 30	He Must Increase, I Must Decrease
Fri:	John 1:6 -9	Testify Concerning the Light
Sat:	John 1:23	Make Straight the Way of the Lord

Upcoming Week

**Sunday, December 28**  
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 29**  
9-11:30am Food Pantry

**Tuesday, December 30**  
7pm AA Men’s Meeting, C5  
**11:30am S.A.F.E. Singles Event (off-site)**  
**New Year’s Eve Lunch Red, White & Brew**

**Wednesday, December 31**  
**FOOD PANTRY CLOSED**  
10am Men’s Bible Study, C1  
12:30pm Al-Anon, C4  
8pm AA Meeting, C5

**Thursday, January 1**  
**OFFICE CLOSED**

**Friday, January 2**  
**OFFICE CLOSED**

**Saturday, January 3**  
8am Men’s Bible Study, C5  
4pm Worship, WC

happy  
New Year

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

JOIN US

**PRAYER & PRAISE**

4:00 pm

Wednesday, January 7

A welcoming space to worship, pray, and experience God’s presence.

**Victory Lutheran Church**  
5946 E. University Drive, Mesa, AZ 85205  
hello@victorylutheran.com  
480-830-5024 | VictoryLutheran.com

Office Hours: Mon-Thurs, 8am-4pm  
Closed on Fridays

VictoryLutheran\_Guest  
Password: Victory\_46

Pointing  
OTHERS TO  
Jesus

JOHN 1:19-34

DECEMBER 27 & 28, 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

Connect with us!



GOD TIME: A New Year  
Pastor Renée Bennett

New year, new you? No matter how many new years you have seen, each year has its surprises and also its element of predictability, doesn't it? Once again the media has bombarded us with the "year in review". It seems their sole intent is to cause you to reflect on all the bad things that have happened this past year.

What does your personal newsreel look like? When you reflect on 2025 does your mind go toward what went wrong or to what went right? Paul in Colossians 3 reminds us to **set our minds on things above and not earthly things**. In Romans 12 Paul says to **be transformed by the renewing of your mind**, moving from worldly thinking to God's perspective by surrendering all thoughts to Him. By letting the Holy Spirit guide us we can become a new creation which leads us to having a more spirit-filled life and purpose.

In this new year, pray for the strength to direct your thoughts towards Him. Where is He directing you to serve your neighbor? Explore the possibilities by attending the 2-part Spiritual Gifts class!

What does it mean to have freedom as a Christian? How do I live by grace alone, by faith alone, in Christ alone, through scripture alone, to the glory of God alone? Come find out in our 4-part Adult Confirmation class!

This is a new year and we are grateful as your pastors to walk alongside you as you discover more about your areas of spiritual gifting and your freedom as Christians in His service. Happy 2026. To God be the glory!



GO TIME: Walking With Jesus and His People  
Nathan Hilton, Victory @ Leisure World Campus Pastor

I am first and foremost a deeply loved and claimed child of God. Everything else in my life flows from that grace and identity. I've been married to my incredible wife since 2007, and together we're raising three amazing teenagers who keep us laughing, praying, and learning every single day. Our home life has shaped my heart for real people, real struggles, and real hope in Christ.

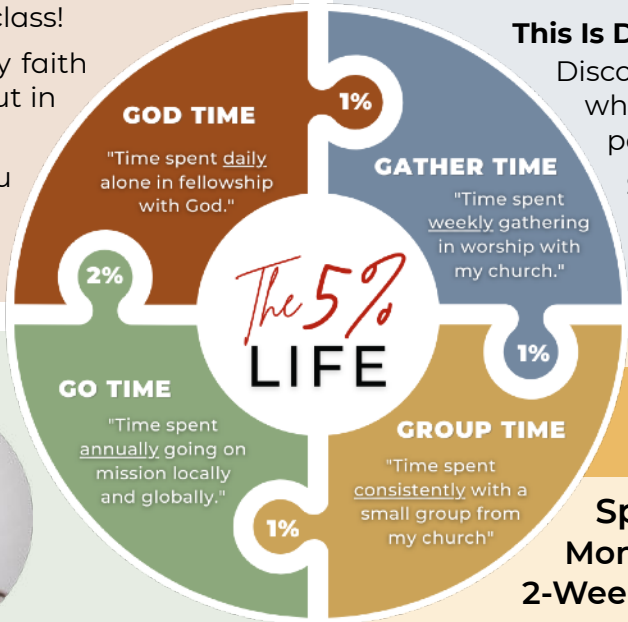
My journey with Jesus began years ago at Taylor Road Baptist Church, where my faith was nurtured, challenged, and rooted in Scripture and community. Over time God kept widening the path, inviting me deeper into ministry, theological formation, and leadership. That call eventually led me through formal ministry training with Kairos University and, most recently, to Victory Lutheran, where God has opened doors I never could have imagined.

Professionally, I also serve as a Registered Nurse. Caring for people in moments of vulnerability and need has become one of the clearest pictures to me of what the gospel looks like in everyday life, presence, compassion, patience, and trust in God's goodness.

Today I am humbled and grateful to serve at Victory @ Leisure World as campus Pastor. My heart is to point people to Jesus, to walk with them in both joy and hardship, to create spaces where faith is real and relationships are honest, and to continually remind us all that God is faithful, God is near, and God is at work.

I'm honored to be here, and I look forward to serving, learning, and growing with this congregation in Christ's grace.

Nathan Hilton  
nhilton@victorylutheran.com



GATHER TIME: Discovering Victory — Your Invitation to Go Deeper  
Three Sundays. One incredible opportunity to discover what God is doing at Victory.

Whether you've been part of Victory for decades or you're still exploring what it means to call this place home, Discovering Victory is designed for you. This isn't just a membership class—it's the beginning of an intentional discipleship journey, and everyone is invited.

Who Should Come?

If you've been attending Victory and wondering, "What's next for me here?"—this class is your answer. If you're considering membership but want to learn more first—perfect, come discover. If you've been a member for years but never took this class—we'd love to have you join us. And if you simply want to understand Victory's heart, mission, and vision more deeply—you belong here too.

Here's what's important: this class is not required for membership, and it's not restricted to those who are new. It's simply the first step in our discipleship pathway as we live out our mission: To be and make disciples of Jesus Christ.

This Is Discipleship

Discovering Victory isn't just about learning information—it's about transformation. It's where intentional faith formation begins. It's where you move from spectator to participant, from attendee to disciple-maker.

**SIGN UP** at the Welcome Center or scan the QR code above. Don't miss this opportunity to discover—or rediscover—what God is doing at Victory. Your next step in discipleship starts here.



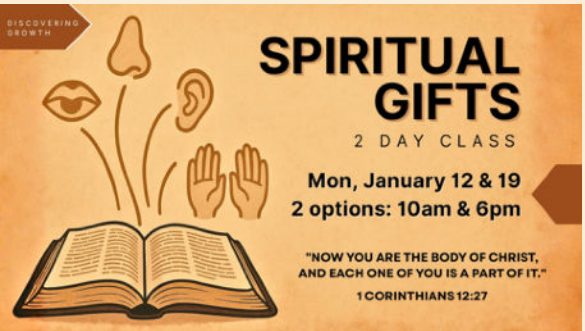
GROUP TIME: Start the year off with our 2 NEW Winter Studies!  
Note: Romans Study has been changed to the following . . .

Spiritual Gifts Class  
Monday, January 12 & 19  
2-Week Class @ 10am & 6pm

Spiritual Gifts are God's Provision for the Holy Spirit to minister to people through people. Paul reminds us in 1 Corinthians 12:4-6, "There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them. There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. There are different kinds of working, but in all of them and in everyone it is the same God at work."

We are all uniquely and wonderfully made. Come and discover how richly you have been gifted by God and how He is calling you in this season of your life to be His disciple.

**SIGN UP** at the Welcome Desk.



Adult Confirmation Class  
Mondays, Jan. 26-Feb. 16  
4-Week Class @ 10am & 6pm

Adult Confirmation is a fun, interactive 4-part series taught by Pastor Denton and Pastor Renée. We will explore what it means to be a Lutheran Christian by digging into scripture to better understand what discovery Martin Luther made that changed his life and how this Biblical theology applies to our lives today.

Whether it has been many years since you attended Confirmation and or maybe you never have, this promises to be a fun and interactive class providing you with some tools to better understand what makes us Lutheran Christians. Come join us to find out!

**SIGN UP** at the Welcome Desk.