

Sermon Notes

Christmas Men's & Women's LUNCHEON

TICKETS \$10

SHOP WITH A COP

SATURDAY DECEMBER 13, 11:00AM

SPONSORED BY WOMEN'S MINISTRY

TREMBLE Clefs

Guest speaker Amy Sailor from the Mesa Police Department will share about the heartwarming program Shop with a Cop, which brings joy and hope to children in need during the holiday season. We will also be blessed by the musical talents of The Tremble Clefs, whose songs will lift our hearts in praise!

Life Notes

Experience the Gifts of Christmas #2: "Peace" - John 14:15-27

Opener:

Do you prefer quiet mornings or quiet evenings—and why?

Go Deeper: (Exploring the Bible)

1. Read John 14:15–27. What does Jesus promise about the Holy Spirit's role in giving peace?
2. In Romans 5:1, what does "peace with God" mean in your own words?
3. How does Philippians 4:4–7 describe the practice that leads to peace?
4. Read John 16:33. What does it mean that Jesus has "overcome the world"?
5. How does James 1:17 shape your understanding of God's character and His gifts to you?

Live It: (Applying to Our Lives)

1. Where do you feel unrest or anxiety today? How might Jesus be inviting you to receive His peace?
2. What practical rhythms (prayer, Scripture, silence, worship) help guard your heart and mind?
3. Have you ever experienced peace that "passes understanding"? What was that like?
4. Who in your life needs the peace of Christ—and how could God use you to reflect His peace to them?
5. What area of your life do you need to entrust again to the Prince of Peace?

Daily Bible Readings (December 7-13)

Sun:	John 14:15-27	My Peace I Give You
Mon:	Isaiah 9:6-7	Prince of Peace
Tues:	Romans 5:1-5	Peace With God
Wed:	Philippians 4:4-9	Guard Your Heart
Thurs:	Colossians 1:19-20	Peace Through His Blood
Fri:	John 16:25-33	Take Heart
Sat:	Revelation 21:1-5	The Peace To Come

Upcoming Week

Sunday, December 7

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, December 8

9-11:30am Food Pantry
11am Memorial Service for Janice Forbord, WC
12:30-2:30pm GriefShare, C4
4pm Confirmation Class, C1
6pm Joining Jesus, FH

Tuesday, December 9

5:30pm Christmas Lights Bus Tour, FH
7pm AA Men's Meeting, C5

Wednesday, December 10

9-11:30am Food Pantry
10am Men's Bible Study, C1
12:30pm Al-Anon, C4
1pm Bell Choir Rehearsal, WC
4pm Advent Communion Service, WC
6:30pm Choir Rehearsal, WC
8pm AA Meeting, C5

Thursday, December 11

10am Prayer Group, B7
11am Al-Anon Meeting, C5
**3pm S.A.F.E. Singles Event (off-site)
Barleen's Dinner & Show, Bus leaves @ 5:15pm**

Friday, December 12

OFFICE CLOSED

Saturday, December 13

8am Men's Bible Study, C5
11am Annual Christmas Luncheon, FH
4pm Worship, WC
"Meet A Pastor" (following service)
**3pm S.A.F.E. Singles Event (off-site)
Orpheus Male Chorus, Bus leaves @ 2pm**

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



PEACE
John 14:15-27

December 6 & 7, 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: Waiting in Hope, Walking in Peace

"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in Him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit." – Romans 15:13

The waiting is the hardest part. We wait for test results. We wait for relationships to heal. We wait for clarity about the future. And in Advent, we join centuries of God's people who waited for the promised Messiah—some their entire lives without seeing Him. But here's what makes Christian waiting different: it's not empty hoping. It's anchored hope. The same God who kept His promise to send Jesus the first time promises to return and make all things new. Our hope isn't wishful thinking—it's trust in a faithful God who has already proven Himself.

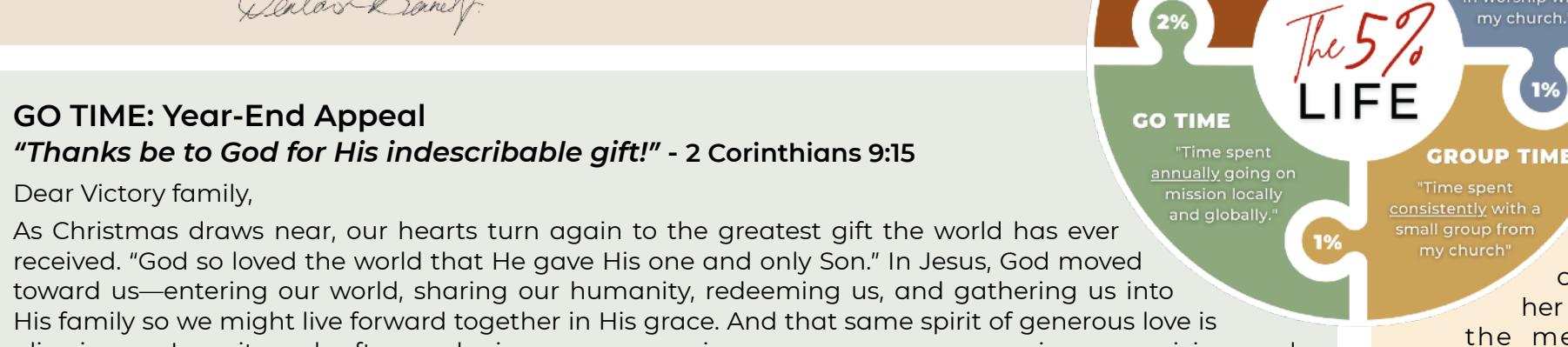
And this hope births something unexpected: peace. Not the world's peace that depends on perfect circumstances, but the peace that Paul describes—peace that "transcends all understanding" (Philippians 4:7). It's the kind of peace that can coexist with difficult circumstances because it's rooted in God's presence, not our situation.

On the first and second Sundays of Advent, as we light candles for Hope and Peace, we're reminded that both are gifts from God, not achievements we earn. We don't manufacture hope through positive thinking. We don't create peace through perfect control. We receive them as we trust the One who came, who is with us, and who will come again.

What are you waiting for right now? How might anchoring your hope in God's faithfulness change that waiting? Where do you need His peace today? God of Hope and Peace, in this season of waiting, help us trust Your promises. Fill us with Your presence, that we might overflow with hope and walk in Your peace, regardless of our circumstances. Through Christ our Lord, Amen.

In Christ's Service,

Pastor Tom Mathison



GO TIME: Year-End Appeal

"Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift!" - 2 Corinthians 9:15

Dear Victory family,

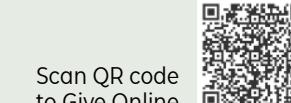
As Christmas draws near, our hearts turn again to the greatest gift the world has ever received. "God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son." In Jesus, God moved toward us—entering our world, sharing our humanity, redeeming us, and gathering us into His family so we might live forward together in His grace. And that same spirit of generous love is alive in you. I see it week after week—in your compassion, your prayers, your serving, your giving, and your heartfelt desire to help others come to know Jesus. It is one of the great joys of my life to serve a congregation that truly believes God has more for us... and more for the world through us.

As we approach the close of 2025, I want to invite you to prayerfully consider making a special year-end gift—an extra, generous, even stretch-gift—to Victory Lutheran. Strong year-end giving will help us finish the year well financially, but even more, it fuels our mission as we continue moving Forward Together—welcoming new people, strengthening discipleship, and extending Christ's love throughout the East Valley.

Please know that your leaders are stewarding every gift with care. This year our staff has kept expenses 6% below budget, and the 2026 spending plan will remain flat. These steps reflect our commitment to faithful, responsible, forward-thinking ministry.

You can give online, by mail, or during worship. Thank you for your partnership in the Gospel. May the Lord bless you richly as we celebrate the Savior who came for us.

In Christ's love,
Pastor Tom Mathison



GATHER TIME: Advent Communion Service

Wednesday, December 10, 4pm

In the midst of this busy, often stressful season, we invite you to pause and step out of the noise and lights of the world. Take time to reflect on the profound meaning of Jesus coming to earth as a child—the true Light of the World. Join us for a special communion service featuring the beloved Holden Evening Prayer. This is a beautiful opportunity to pray, sing, and center your heart on the gift of Christ, offered through the Christ Child.



Christmas Concert

Sunday, December 14, 3pm

A European Christmas with VLC Choir, Soloists & Handbells

Celebrate the season with the elegance and beauty of European Christmas traditions! Join the Victory music ministry for a festive concert featuring classic carols, timeless anthems, and sacred music inspired by the rich heritage of Europe. Experience the joy and wonder of Christmas through stunning choral harmonies and shimmering bell choir performances, together with strings and trumpet. A reception will follow. Entrance is free, and donations are appreciated. Invite a friend to come share the spirit of Christmas in a truly memorable way.



Volunteers needed for all Christmas Eve Services 1, 3, 5, 7, 9pm AND Christmas Day 10am (acolytes, greeters, ushers, Welcome Desk, candles, Communion). Sign up at the Welcome Desk.

GROUP TIME: Giving Thanks Together

Once again Victory enjoyed celebrating Thanksgiving Eve with a worship service followed by a dinner complete with turkey, stuffing, potatoes & gravy, vegetables and pie. It was wonderful to be together for a time of thanking our Lord for all of His blessings! And we also want to thank **Lynda Buechner** and her crew who served us so well! For six years Lynda has coordinated

the meal, including procuring the catering, selling the tickets, decorating the room, supervising the crew, including set-up and clean-up! They have a great team who work together to make it all happen. Thanks to all of you! This year they sold 168 tickets and served 225 (including helpers). All proceeds go to the Food Pantry.

