

**Dear Victory Family,**

February has a way of putting love front and center — hearts, flowers, chocolates, and plenty of advice from people you wouldn't take advice from on how to change a tire.

But if we're honest, the love we usually celebrate can feel a little fragile. It can be wonderful...and it can also come with fine print: "I'll stay close as long as you keep performing." "I'll forgive as long as you don't make me hurt again." "I'll love you when I feel like it."

Rather than ask, "How can we love better?", a more hopeful question is, "What does God's love actually look like?" Because if we don't receive His love first, we will keep trying to pour love out of an empty tank.

Here's the Bible verse that nails it down: **"This is love: not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins."** (1 John 4:10)

Did you read the order? Not that we loved God...but that He loved us. God's love isn't built on your performance, your progress, or your spiritual résumé. God's love has a face: Jesus. A cross. An empty tomb.

God's love looks like Jesus stepping into our mess, not to shame our efforts, but to rescue us. He carried what we couldn't carry. He paid what we couldn't pay. He took our judgment so we could have peace with God.

So this month, let's keep the main thing the main thing: you are loved — first, fully, and forever — in Jesus Christ. And that love doesn't quit. It will hold you today, tomorrow, and all the way home.

God's love be with you,



Pastor Todd Mathison

ASH WEDNESDAY

February 18, 2026

Worship @ 4pm & 6pm

**LENTEN WORSHIP**

February 25-March 25, 2026

Wednesdays @ 4pm

with Soup Supper following service

(See pages 6-7 for more details)

YOU ARE **LOVED**

MORE THAN YOU WILL EVER KNOW

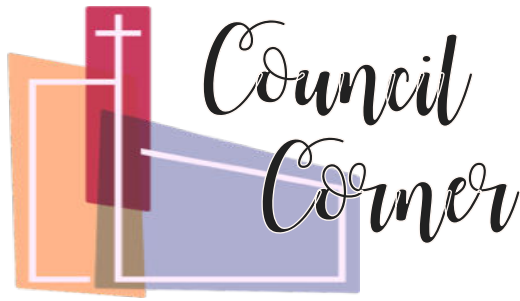
by someone who died to know you. (Romans 5:8)



Todd Mathison, Lead Pastor
Denton Bennet, Associate Pastor
Renée Bennett, Discipleship Pastor
Dirk Duhlstine, Chaplain

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Happy New Year Victory Lutheran,

As we enter this New Year at Victory Lutheran, my thoughts go to how, on a personal level God has truly blessed me, and more importantly, how He has blessed this church and all who welcome Him as our Savior. God truly blessed this congregation in 2025 and we can expect His loving hands to continue to comfort us in 2026.



Two years ago, my wife, Lupe and I joined Victory, encouraged by what we saw on our very first visit. A vibrant, loving and caring community that welcomed us with a smile and a warm handshake. That welcoming made our decision to join an easy one and continues to fill our hearts with the knowledge that Jesus is always with us at Victory as we continue our joyful journey. From Clergy-to-Staff, the amazing Music Ministry, to an emphasis on Discipleship and Volunteerism, to Victory Forward. Across the Victory family, the vibe within is one of caring and a desire for everyone to know more deeply the Love of Christ.

As the newly elected President of your church Council and from the entire Victory Council, I would like to thank each one of you for your generous contributions to Victory; of time, talents and treasures. With the world's uncertainty the Council acknowledge there are many demands and priorities that can take your focus in other directions. Throughout the 2025 season the Council had concerns our budget numbers may not be met, but through your faith and year-end generosity, I'm happy to report that in the end we were able to meet our financial budget. A sincere thank you to each one of you for your dedication to ensuring Victory continues as a healthy, forward thinking community.

The year 2026 promises new opportunities for all to participate in our walk with Jesus. I look forward to any challenge and working with our Victory family. Through your prayers and support we can only get stronger. Your Council is dedicated to valuing your gifts and talents with a cautious focus on Victory's daily and future interests. It is our pledge to maintain what God has provided, while looking forward to what He has planned for Victory Lutheran in the New Year. Thank you all.

Larry Hellem

Church Council President

BEYOND VALENTINE'S: THE GREATER LOVE

Did you know, the first Valentine was posted around 1806? Currently, almost one billion Valentine's Day cards are sent each year on or near February 14. It is second only to Christmas! That is a strong showing for the consumerist side of Valentine's. However, we don't want to idolize romantic love. This is a good time to appreciate the many forms of love in our lives and most importantly, the true Source of Love — God.

There are at least three different types of love that we find in the New Testament: eros, philos, and agape. Eros is romantic love. Philos is love between a brother, sister, or friend. Agape is divine love. It is unconditional and selfless. When we talk about love in the Christian faith, we are talking about agape love. It is a love that is patient, kind, and, most importantly, unconditional.

Paul writes: "Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs" (1 Corinthians 13:4-5). This is the love we are called to show—whether we're loving our families, our neighbors, our friends, or even strangers. It's not about grand gestures or perfect feelings; it's about small acts of kindness, forgiveness, and patience. It's about loving when it's difficult, and offering grace when it's needed most. In fact, one of the most profound ways we can show Christ's love is through service. Jesus said, "Love your neighbor as yourself" (Mark 12:31). May this Valentine's Day be a beautiful reminder to broaden our view of what love can be.

Love is patient and kind. Love is not jealous or boastful or proud or rude. It does not demand its own way. It is not irritable, and it keeps no record of being wronged.



1 Corinthians
13:4-5

FORWARD TOGETHER

VICTORY LUTHERAN CHURCH

Financial Update: We Finished in the Black!

Pastor Todd Mathison

I want to share some genuinely encouraging news: we finished fiscal year 2025 in the black. Income covered expenses!

For much of 2025 there was, at times, a slight pall hanging over us because giving was trending below what was needed. And it's worth remembering that the 2025 ministry plan actually anticipated a deficit. Your Church Council approached that reality with wisdom and steadiness, putting a responsible plan in place to fund the gap while Victory continues staffing up for growth and pursuing robust ministry.



And then the Lord provided — though, in truth, He has been with us and working all along.

As we close the 2025 year, we give thanks to God for His indescribable gift in Christ and for the generous hearts He continues to shape among us. Your giving flowed from gratitude, not obligation, and the year-end response was a genuine testimony to God's work in this congregation. Because so many stepped forward — many with generous stretch gifts — our shared mission is strengthened, the reach of the Gospel continues to expand, and Victory is well positioned to keep moving forward together. We do so not driven by fear, but grounded in faith and hope, stewarding God's gifts with care and responsibility while trusting Him to use this church to share the Good News of Jesus today and in the years ahead. To God alone be the glory.

This result also reflects faithful stewardship behind the scenes. Throughout the year, Victory's staff managed expenses with great care—making hard choices to not spend, to delay, to adjust, and to find simpler paths forward. That kind of diligent financial management isn't flashy, but it is deeply faithful, and it truly contributed to this outcome. In the same way, Council's steady oversight and courageous leadership helped keep Victory moving toward God's vision, even when the numbers felt uncertain.

And so, to borrow Jesus' words: Well done, good and faithful stewards!

Scripture puts words to what we're feeling today: "And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work" (2 Corinthians 9:8).

This is worth celebrating — because it means we can move forward with confidence, momentum, and gratitude for what God is doing among us. And we are not slowing down. By God's grace, we will keep reaching out, welcoming new people, and pressing forward in growth and mission — sharing Jesus in Mesa and beyond, investing in outreach, and continuing to expand the reach of the Gospel through Victory Forward and the ministries the Lord has entrusted to us.

So let me offer one simple encouragement as we step into this next season together: keep up the generous stewardship. Not out of pressure, and not out of fear — but as an ongoing act of worship, gratitude, and trust. God is using your faithfulness to bless people you may never meet on this side of heaven.

With gratitude,

Pastor Todd Mathison

Now that our year-end reconciliation is complete, here are the final numbers:

2025 Total Income

\$1,249,625

2025 Total Expenses

\$1,244,205

+\$5,420

"Being transformed by our joyful and loving church"

- Concert Series (p. 13)
- Lenten Series & Worship (p. 6-7)
- New Sermon Series (p. 5)



"Building relationships and serving with others in God's family"

- Dementia/Alzheimer Care Partner Seminar (p. 17)
- GriefShare (p. 18)
- Prayer & Praise Worship Service (p. 8)
- Quilters Group (p. 18)
- Singles Plus Couples Events (p. 19)
- Small Groups (p. 15)
- Victory Book Club (p. 18)



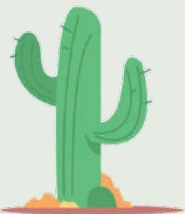
DISCOVERING
VICTORY

DISCOVERING
COMMUNITY

Discovering
LIFE

DISCOVERING
REACH

DISCOVERING
GROWTH



"Extending God's love and Good News locally and globally"

- Orchard: Africa Fundraiser (p. 14)
- Women's Ministry Luncheon (p. 16)
"Mosaic" 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization



"Deepening faith daily through God's Word and prayer"

- Adult Confirmation Class Class (p. 8)
- Estate & Planned Giving Seminar (p. 17)
- Winter Study photos (p. 9)
- Year-End Giving Campaign Update (p. 3)



SERMON SERIES: **DISCOVERING LIFE**

January 31 & February 1, 2026

"Step Alongside & Disciple" - Matthew 28:18-20

Jesus doesn't merely send us out with a task — He sends us out with His authority, His promise, and His steady presence, so that no disciple ever walks alone. Discipleship is how the mission actually moves forward: we strengthen one another, entrust faith to reliable people, and help others learn to follow Jesus in real, everyday life. God may lead you to step toward someone — mentoring a younger believer, discipling a child or grandchild, or leading a small group — so that what He is growing in you becomes a blessing that multiplies in others.

February 7 & 8, 2026

"Step Forward & Serve" - Mark 10:42-45

Jesus redefines greatness by turning the world upside down: In His kingdom, the way up is down — real influence looks like serving, and real leadership looks like laying down your life for others. From that posture of humble love, the church is sent outward — not with swagger or pressure, but with a promise of power and purpose as the Spirit makes ordinary people bold witnesses. This week is an invitation to step into mission through service: think global, serve local. Prayerfully consider joining with one of Victory's Mission initiatives or partnerships; take a tangible step toward mission as God uses your life to reach farther than you ever imagined.

February 14 & 15, 2026

"Step Together & Persevere" - Luke 9:28-36

At his transfiguration, Jesus gives His disciples a glimpse of glory — not so they can stay on the mountain, but so their hearts are anchored for the road ahead as He sets His face toward the cross. As we learn to follow Him through real life, scripture reminds us what this looks like day to day: lay aside what weighs you down, run with perseverance, and keep your eyes fixed on Jesus — the One who endured for you and now strengthens you to endure. This week is an invitation to take your 2026 next step and to do it together — inviting, connecting, discipling, and sending — because the Christian journey is lifelong, and God uses His people to help one another keep moving forward.

NEW SERMON SERIES: **STEPS TO THE CROSS**

Now we follow Jesus to the cross. Jesus' kingdom repeatedly clashes with the one of this world. God's kingdom is described as one much more powerful than the one of Pilate and the high priests. Still, Jesus remains obedient, trusting that all power comes from God and continuing his journey to the cross. As the crowd denies their faith and proclaims Caesar their only lord, Jesus is crucified with the mocking inscription of King of the Jews. Jesus dies, and is buried in the garden in a quiet ceremony, but the true power of God's kingdom is yet to be revealed.

February 21 & 22, 2026

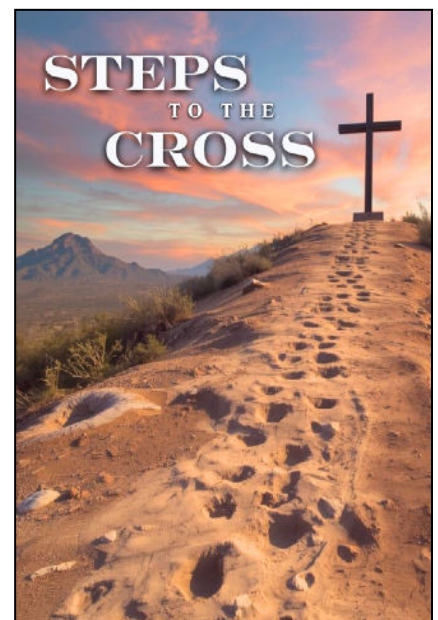
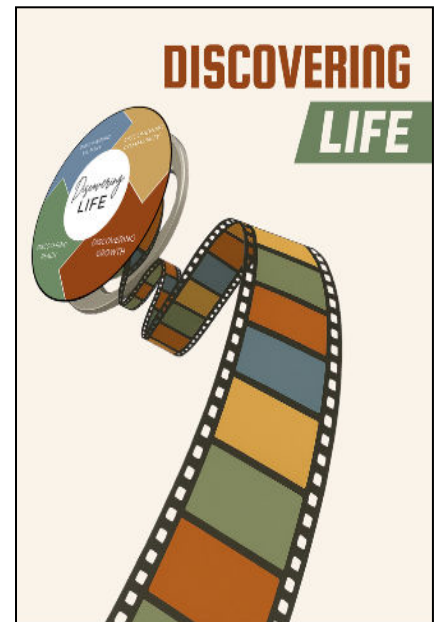
Jesus Raises Lazarus — John 11:17-44

As Lent begins, we follow Jesus into the collision between the kingdoms of this world and the Kingdom of God — and in Bethany we see that clash up close as Jesus delays, grief deepens, and death seems to win. Yet when Jesus stands at the tomb and calls Lazarus by name, the Creator who gives breath to every living thing speaks life into what is hopeless, revealing a power far greater than fear, authority, or the grave.

February 27 & March 1, 2026

Jesus Serves — John 11:17-44

Jesus and his disciples eat a meal together prior to Passover. Jesus washes their feet and instructs them to follow his example of love and service.



LENTEN SERMON SERIES: OUT OF THE DEPTHS

This Lenten season, join us as we journey to the cross through the Psalms. Every Wednesday, we will focus and reflect on a different Psalm, lamenting our own despair as we look to the cross for our salvation. Each day of Lent (Monday - Saturday, Sundays aren't counted) for the 40 days of Lent, a portion of a psalm is printed for you along with a devotional written by members of our staff and our congregation. While only a portion of the psalm is in this booklet, we encourage you to read the entire psalm as well as the devotional as part of your daily Lenten journey.

The spiritual discipline of reciting the psalms has its roots in ancient Israel. Hundreds of thousands of Jewish pilgrims would make their annual trek into Jerusalem for three major festivals: Passover, Pentecost, and the Feast of Tabernacles. These faithful people would sing the Psalms, specifically Psalms 120-134, as they climbed the hills into Jerusalem and ascended the 15 stairs leading into the Temple to worship God. You can think of these psalms as "road trip" songs. These psalms kept the travelers focused on the LORD instead of on their sore feet and hungry bellies.

The Psalms express the full range of human experience—joy, fear, anger, gratitude, doubt, hope, repentance, and praise. They are a prayer book God gives us when we don't have the words ourselves. The psalms speak when we can't.

We pray that as you take this journey through the Psalms with us, you experience the Psalms to celebrate your trust in God with a renewed focus on Him, even when you are walking through the valleys of life. We thank everyone who contributed to the devotional booklet and invite us all to journey together.

May God bless you on this Lenten journey.

*****Our Lenten Devotional will be available beginning February 14th to pick up in person or you may scan the QR code to access online.**

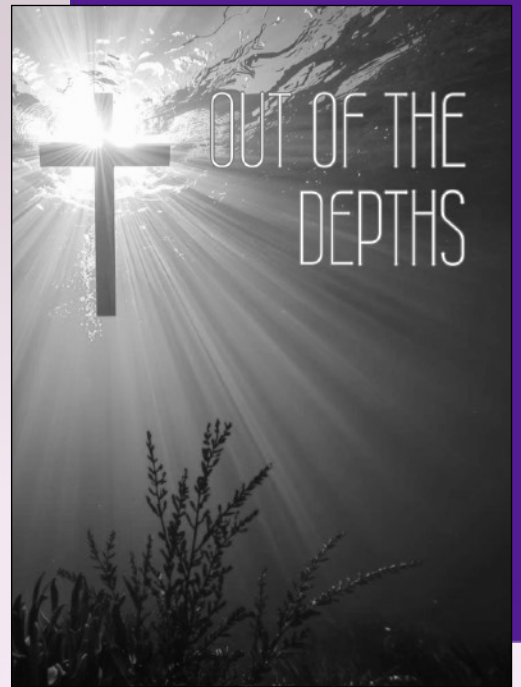


Wednesday, February 18 — Ash Wednesday **"The Shepherd Who Dies" - John 10:1-18, Psalm 23**

How many voices have promised to lead you to safety, only to disappear when the wolves showed up? We've all known hired hands who were there for the paycheck but gone at the first sign of danger, leaving us exposed and afraid in our darkest moments. Ash Wednesday reminds us we're dust, fragile and easily scattered—but it also introduces us to the one Shepherd who doesn't just risk his life for the sheep, he willingly lays it down. The cross is where we discover that Jesus doesn't lead from a safe distance; he enters our desperation, calls us by name, and proves his love by dying the death we deserve.

Wednesday, February 25 **"Out of the Depths" - Psalm 130**

When the waters close over your head and you can't tell which way is up anymore, where do you turn? The psalmist knows that darkness—the kind that makes you wonder if God can even hear your voice from where you've sunk. This Lent, we discover that the deepest pits are exactly where God's waiting arms reach furthest, and that our desperate cries aren't interruptions to His attention—they're invitations to His rescue.



LENTEN SERMON SERIES: OUT OF THE DEPTHS

Wednesday, March 4

"When Your Bones Ache" - Psalm 6

There's a weariness that goes deeper than tired—when grief soaks your pillow every night and even your bones feel the weight of sorrow. The psalmist doesn't sugarcoat it: sometimes following God means walking through valleys where tears are your only companion and questions outnumber answers. But even here, especially here, we learn that God doesn't love us less in our weakness; He loves us through it.

Wednesday, March 11

"The Wounds We Carry" - Psalm 38

What do you do when the weight of your own failures becomes too heavy to bear, when even your closest friends step back, and the silence of heaven feels deafening? This is the raw honesty of Lent—acknowledging that our sin has real consequences, our wounds run deep, and sometimes we stand utterly alone with our guilt. Yet the cross proves that God doesn't wait for us to clean ourselves up; He meets us in our mess with wounds that heal our own.

Wednesday, March 18

"Fading Away" - Psalm 102

When you feel like you're disappearing—your strength gone, your purpose unclear, your prayers bouncing off the ceiling—you're closer to the cross than you realize. The afflicted one who wrote this psalm felt forgotten, withering away while the world moved on without noticing. This is the cry of everyone who's ever felt invisible, and it's the very place where Jesus became most visible, bearing the weight of our fading into his own body on the cross.

Wednesday, March 25

"Satisfied In You" - Psalm 42

Why does your soul feel so dry when you're surrounded by people telling you God should be enough? The psalmist's honesty cuts through the pretense: sometimes our thirst for God feels more like drowning in His absence, and our memories of His presence only sharpen the pain of His seeming distance. Lent doesn't promise to quench this thirst immediately—it invites us to bring our desperate, honest longing to the only one who can satisfy it, even when the wait feels unbearable.

ASH WEDNESDAY

February 18, 2026

Worship @ 4pm & 6pm

LENTEN WORSHIP

February 25-March 25, 2026

Wednesdays @ 4pm

Soup Supper @ 5pm



SOUP SUPPERS

March 12-April 9

Wednesdays @ 5:00pm

During Lent we will be serving Soup Suppers following the 4:00pm worship service.

Gluten-free option available.

\$5 suggested donation.

DESSERTS

Please bring a pre-cut pie or dessert to help support Lenten Suppers. Listed by the first initial of your last name.

February 25	A-G	March 18	T-Z
March 4	H-M	March 25	TBD
March 11	N-S		

SOUP MENU

February 28: Chicken with wild rice & Tomato Basil (GF)

March 4 – Potato w/bacon & Split Pea (GF)

March 11 – Chili & Clam Chowder (GF)

March 18: Chicken Tortilla & Broccoli Cheese (GF)

March 25: Chicken with Wild Rice & French Onion (GF)

(GF) – gluten free



PRAYER & PRAISE WORSHIP SERVICE Wednesday, February 4 @ 4pm

"Yet those who wait for the Lord will gain new strength; they will mount up with wings like eagles, they will run and not become weary, they will walk and not grow tired." (Isaiah 40:31, NASB)

Join us in the Chapel on February 4th from 4-5pm for a special time of prayer and praise. As we step into a new year and prepare our hearts for the season of Lent, we invite you to pause, slow down, and create space for the Lord in your life.

Together we will rest, pray, and worship through hymns and modern songs. This time is always encouraging, refreshing, and deeply meaningful. We hope you'll join us for this sacred opportunity to wait upon the Lord and be renewed in God's presence.

This service is open to everyone—especially those who have never attended one before. You are welcome to pray silently, simply listen, or rest in God's presence.



ADULT CONFIRMATION CLASS Mondays @ 10am & 6pm thru February 16th

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!

If you missed session 1, we invite you to still attend!

THE CRITICAL DISTINCTION

Justification (being made right): Law does nothing; only faith in Christ.

Sanctification (growing in holiness): Law guides our path.

Luther's Tree: "A tree is known by its fruit, but the fruit doesn't make it a tree."

First the tree (justification), then the fruit (good works).

2026 Winter Study

We kicked off our Winter Study on January 12 with a two-part Spiritual Gifts Class led by Pastor Renée Bennett. Then, on January 26, we continued with a 4-week Adult Confirmation Class.

Even though the class has already started, you are still more than welcome to attend. This series offers rich learning and a solid foundation in the Lutheran faith. It's not the same material many of us learned as youth—this is deeper, more thoughtful, and incredibly well done.

The class is being taught by Pastor Denton and Pastor Renée, and it has been both engaging and meaningful. We truly want people to come, learn, and grow—no matter where you are starting from.






SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
1 COMMUNION WEEKEND 8:30-11am Morning Fellowship, FH 8am Worship & Communion, WC 9:30am Worship, WC 9:30am Children's Church, NR 11am ContemporaryWorship,WC 11am Children's Church, NR 12pm Starting Point, B7	2 9-11:30am Food Pantry 10am Adult Confirmation, FH 12:30pm GriefShare, C4 4pm Confirmation Class, C1 6pm Adult Confirmation, FH 	3 6:30pm "Seekers" Small Group, B7 7pm AA Men's Meeting, C5	4 9-11:30am Food Pantry 10am Men's Bible Study, C1 12:30pm Al-Anon, C4 1pm Bell Choir Rehearsal, CH 4pm Prayer & Praise Worship Service, CH 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal, WC 7:30pm Million Dollar Quartet (offsite), Bus leaves @ 6:15pm 8pm AA Meeting, C5
8 NEW MEMBER COMMISSIONING 8:30-11am Morning Fellowship, FH 8am Worship & Communion, WC 9:30am Worship, WC 9:30am Children's Church, NR 11am ContemporaryWorship,WC 11am Children's Church, NR 3pm Unglaub Duo Concert, WC 	9 9-11:30am Food Pantry 10am Adult Confirmation, FH 12:30pm GriefShare, C4 1:30pm Estate & Planned Giving Seminar, B7 4pm Confirmation Class, C1 6pm Adult Confirmation, FH	10 10am Esperanza Bible Study, C5 1pm Dementia/Alzheimer Care Partner Seminar, CH 1:30pm Mary Bible Study, meets in home 7pm AA Men's Meeting, C5	11 9-11:30am Food Pantry 10am Men's Bible Study, C1 11:30am Dinner at Wendy's (off-site) 12:30pm Al-Anon, C4 1pm Bell Choir Rehearsal, CH 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal, WC 8pm AA Meeting, C5
15 8:30-11am Morning Fellowship, FH 8am Worship & Communion, WC 9:30am Worship, WC 9:30am Children's Church, NR 11am ContemporaryWorship,WC 11am Children's Church, NR 12:15pm Small Group Leader Training, C4	16 9-11:30am Food Pantry 10am Adult Confirmation, FH 12:30pm GriefShare, C4 4pm Confirmation Class, C1 6pm Adult Confirmation, FH	17 8:30am-2:30pm Quilters, FH 3pm Council Meeting, B7 6:30pm "Seekers" Small Group, B7 7pm AA Men's Meeting, C5	18 ASH WEDNESDAY  8:30-11:30am Quilters, FH 9-11:30am Food Pantry 10am Men's Bible Study, C1 12:30pm Al-Anon, C4 4pm Lenten Worship, WC 6pm Lenten Worship, WC 8pm AA Meeting, C5
22 8:30-11am Morning Fellowship, FH 8am Worship & Communion, WC 9:30am Worship, WC 9:30am Children's Church, NR 11am ContemporaryWorship,WC 11am Children's Church, NR	23 9-11:30am Food Pantry 12:30pm GriefShare, C4 4pm Confirmation Class, C1	24 1:30-3:00pm Book Club, B7 7pm AA Men's Meeting, C5	25 9am Feed My Starving Children, Bus leaves @ 8am 9-11:30am Food Pantry 10am Men's Bible Study, C1 12:30pm Al-Anon, C4 1pm Bell Choir Rehearsal, WC 4pm Lenten Worship, WC 5pm Soup Supper, FH 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal, WC 8pm AA Meeting, C5
1 - March 8:30-11am Morning Fellowship, FH 8am Worship & Communion, WC 9:30am Worship, WC 9:30am Children's Church, NR 11am ContemporaryWorship,WC 11am Children's Church, NR 12pm Starting Point, B7	2 - March 9-11:30am Food Pantry 12:30pm GriefShare, C4 4pm Confirmation Class, C1	3 - March 6:30pm "Seekers" Small Group, B7 7pm AA Men's Meeting, C5	4 - March 9-11:30am Food Pantry 10am Men's Bible Study, C1 12:30pm Al-Anon, C4 1pm Bell Choir Rehearsal, WC 4pm Lenten Worship, WC 5pm Soup Supper, FH 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal, WC 8pm AA Meeting, C5



Office Hours: Mon-Thurs, 8am-4pm, 480-830-5024



THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	UPCOMING IN MARCH March 1 Starting Point, 12pm March 4, 11, 18, 25 Lenten Worship, 4pm Soup Supper, 5pm March 8 Carlos Feliciano Concert, 3pm March 9 Estate & Planned Giving Seminar, 1:30pm March 10 Dementia Care Partner Seminar, 1pm March 14 Spring Luncheon, 11am March 21 Orchard: Africa Fundraiser Dinner, 5:30pm March 24 Book Club, 1:30pm March 28/29 Noisy Offering
5 9:30am Women's Ministry Board Meeting, C1 10am Prayer Group, B7 11am Al-Anon Meeting, C5 11:30am Stephen Ministers, C4	6 OFFICE CLOSED	7 NEW MEMBER COMMISSIONING 8am Men's Bible Study, C5 11am Celebration of Life for Mary Goodwin, C4 4pm Worship, WC	
12 10am Prayer Group, B7 11am Al-Anon Meeting, C5	13 OFFICE CLOSED	14 8am Men's Bible Study, C5 4pm Worship, WC 	
19 10am Prayer Group, B7 11am Al-Anon Meeting, C5 11:30am Stephen Ministers, C4 3pm Foundation Meeting, B7	20 OFFICE CLOSED	21 8am Men's Bible Study, C5 4pm Worship, W	
26 10am Prayer Group, B7 11am Al-Anon Meeting, C5	27 OFFICE CLOSED	28 8am Men's Bible Study, C5 4pm Worship, WC	



**Have you moved
or changed your
phone number?**

Help us by making sure
we have your most
current information.
Address forms are
available at the
Welcome Center or you
may email Kathy at:

kmichel@
victorylutheran.com

**Starting
Point**

**FEB. 1 &
MARCH 1**



**STARTING POINT
FEBRUARY 1 & MARCH 1 @ 12:00PM**

We want to encourage anyone who wants to
learn more about Victory to start at the first step,
which we call Starting Point. By attending
Starting Point, you will be joining in conversation
with others like you who may be searching for a
new church home and who want to learn more
about Victory. Sign up at the Welcome Desk.

C1 = Luther Room
C4 = Community Room
CH = Chapel
CY = Courtyard
FH = Fellowship Hall
LB = Lobby
PC = Prayer Chapel
WC = Worship Center

Welcome Center Remodel

If you've visited Victory recently, you've experienced what we're known for: genuine warmth and joy! From the moment you arrive, our wonderful volunteer teams are ready with smiling faces at the main doors, helping hands at the welcome desk, and friendly greetings as you enter the worship center. We counted recently and discovered that by the time you reach your seat, you might have been welcomed by more than six people. That's the Victory way!

Here's the thing, though—while our people have been wonderfully warm and welcoming, our Welcome Center space hasn't quite lived up to its name. You know the area with that lovely "Welcome Center" sign? Over the years it's served different purposes, but recently it had become more of a catch-all for sign-up tables and storage than the inviting hub we envision. We knew it was time to create a space that truly reflects the love and joy you experience from our people!

Thanks to the generosity of a wonderful donor using their treasures, and the time and talent of dedicated volunteers (Roger Anhorn, Jeff Bennett, and Mike Ludlum), we're transforming this space into the welcoming place it was meant to be. We're excited not just about the finished project, but about the journey itself—it's another beautiful example of our church family serving together with love.

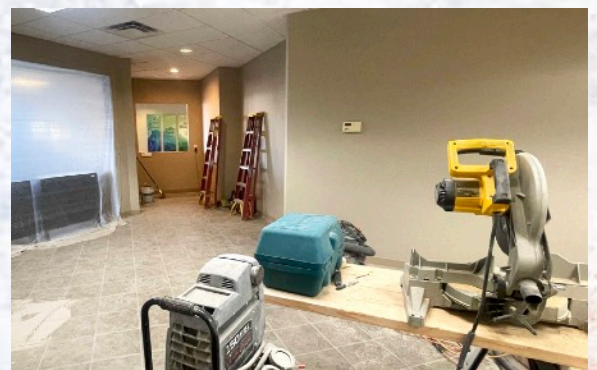
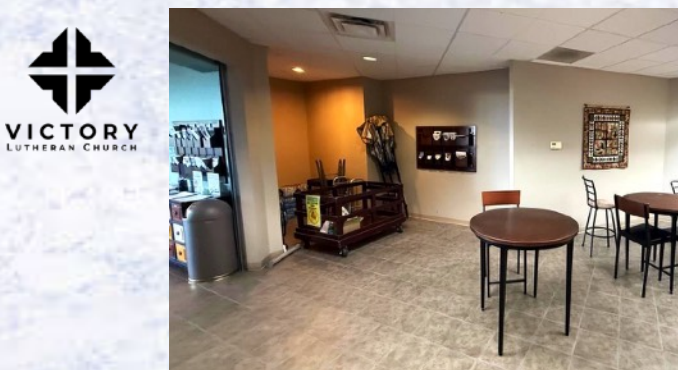
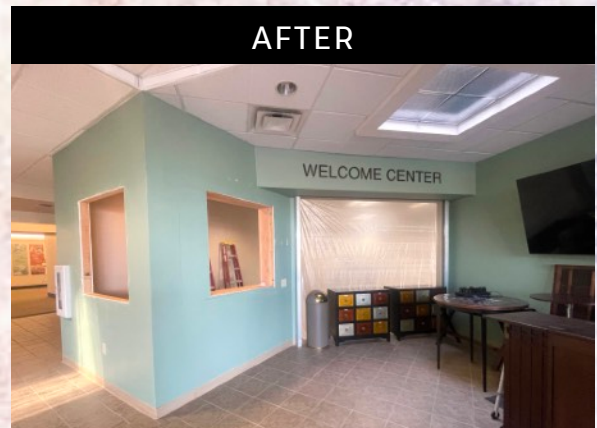
Watch for the transformation over the next few weeks as God works through willing hands and creative eyes to create something special!



BEFORE



AFTER





VICTORY

2025-2026

Concert Series

FREE Admission!



FEB
8

Echoes Across Continents

Alisson Unglaub, violin & Ailyn Unglaub, piano
Sunday, 3pm

You are warmly invited to an inspiring afternoon of chamber music as Concert Series continues with **Echoes Across Continents**, featuring the Unglaub Duo. This intimate concert brings together **Dr. Alisson Unglaub**, violin, and **Ailyn Unglaub Schmitz**, piano, in a program that celebrates how music transcends geography, culture, and time. Through masterworks of the violin and piano repertoire, the duo invites listeners on a journey across nations, eras, and emotions—united by a single shared sound.

The program highlights the radiant lyricism and sweeping passion of **César Franck's** Violin Sonata in A major, the bold imagination and rhythmic intensity of **Sergei Prokofiev's** Violin Sonata No. 2, and the expressive charm of Brazilian composer **Francisco Mignone** in his beloved Valsa de Esquina. Each work offers its own distinct world of color and character, woven together in a compelling musical narrative.

Join us for an afternoon where artistry meets storytelling, and where music bridges continents—connecting hearts, cultures, and generations through timeless sound.



MAR
8

Melodías de Puerto Rico

Carlos Feliciano, tenor Luis Rodríguez, piano
Sunday, 3pm



APR
3

Rutter Requiem

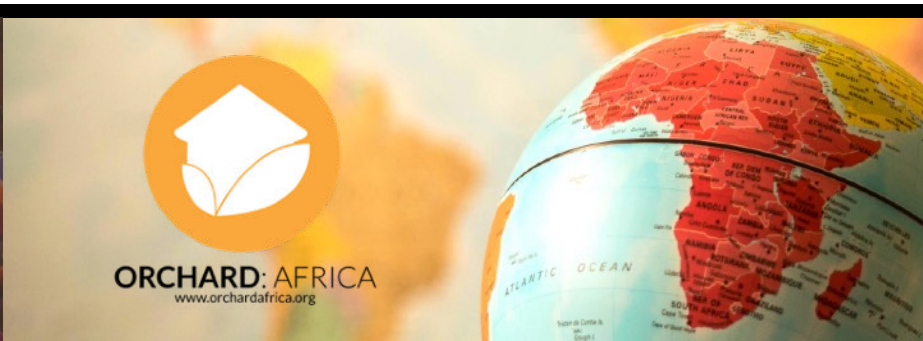
Choir and Orchestra
Good Friday 4 & 6pm



Scan the QR Code
to learn more!

SCAN ME





SAVE THE DATE! Orchard: Africa Fundraiser Dinner Saturday, March 21 @ 5:30pm

Save the date for our Orchard: Africa Fundraiser Dinner — and plan to be there. This evening will remind you why we do mission the way we do it: not as a "project," but as a partnership. For 12 years, Victory has walked alongside Orchard: Africa as they equip local churches to care for the vulnerable through practical, sustainable programs — rooted in the love and message of Jesus and strengthened through their network of Impact Centers, one of which Victory helped to build! Come celebrate what God has done, hear real stories from Victory people who have already been there, and find out how you can be involved — through giving, prayer, and (for some) the next mission team heading to South Africa this year, September 5-13, 2026!

We will be joined by **Brian LaMew from Orchard: Africa**, who will bring an encouraging, clear picture of what's happening on the ground right now — and what your generosity makes possible. Expect an atmosphere that's warm, hopeful, and personal: visual stories from past teams, tangible reminders of our shared history, and a straightforward opportunity to invest in mission that strengthens churches and impacts communities for the long haul. Watch for ticket details and come ready to bring a friend, come hungry, and come expectant — because this is about more than a dinner. It's about bearing fruit that lasts.



2024 Mission Team

"We develop and equip the local church to be the response to poverty and injustice. The church is our platform, programs are our tools and hope in Christ is our message." - Orchard: Africa



We will be hosting a Silent Auction throughout the evening on March 21st to support this life-changing work. If you have quality items you'd be willing to donate — things that would genuinely bless someone and help fund

the mission — we'd love to receive them. Think gift baskets, experiences, handmade items, gift cards, or services that have real value. Please contact the church office by March 15th if you have something meaningful to contribute.



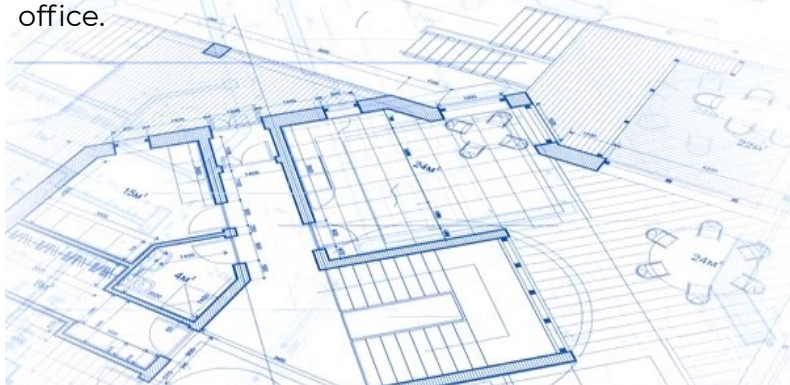
VICTORY SAFETY & SECURITY

Two words we often hear from newcomers are that Victory is 'joyful' and it is 'loving'. And they say this not even knowing that these are two words are in our vision statement! Our hope is that Victory will be a joyful and loving community.

People feel joyful and loved when they are cared for. One of the ways we want to care for people — YOU! — at Victory is to keep them safe while they worship during weekend services, study the Bible during the week, and have fun at one of our events. To that end, staff and volunteers have been working to create a plan for inclement weather events, medical emergencies, or even an intruder situation.

In their January meeting, the Church Council voted to approve a Safety & Security Policy for Victory. A Safety & Security team of volunteers is forming to build and execute a plan for each event. A Medical Emergency Response Team, that includes former medical professionals and other volunteers, has created a plan for action if a medical emergency arises. Needed equipment has been purchased and training is ongoing.

There are many troubling events happening in our country. We want you to know that your safety — individually and corporately — is very important to us and we are planning accordingly. If you have any questions or concerns about safety and security at Victory, please contact Diane Snyder in the main office.



SMALL GROUPS

Did you know that we all have spiritual gifts given to us by the Holy Spirit? Maybe you have been gifted with hospitality or service or teaching, or evangelism, or the desire to lead. I will ask you to pray about how God is calling you to use your spiritual gifts.

Is He calling you to lead a Small Group? We have wonderful Small Groups here at Victory and many of them are full, which means that there are close to 200 of you who are presently in a small group! But, the need is great for us to open more Small Groups. We are made for being in community with one another. God calls us to be in His Word and to walk side by side with other Christians. Is God nudging you to open your home (the gift of hospitality), to teach (the gift of teaching) to lead a Small Group (the gift of team leadership), or to invite others to your current Small Group (the gift of evangelism)? If you have questions about how to join or start a Small Group, please reach out to Pastor Renee Bennett, rbennett@victorylutheran.com.

Renée Bennett
Discipleship Pastor
480-830-5024 xt. 121
rbennett@victorylutheran.com



Women's Ministry



WINTER SCHEDULE

(October-April)

2nd Tuesday of the Month

Esperanza Bible Study

2nd Tuesday @ 10:00am, Room C5

Sandy Tran, Chair

763-291-5837

Mary Bible Study

2nd Tuesday @ 1:30pm

Meets in home (call for location)

Gayle Schmidt, Chair

612-867-2679

Current study is "Bad Girls of the Bible"
by Liz Curtis Higgs.

Books available for
purchase in the front office.



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ANNUAL SPRING LUNCHEON SATURDAY, MARCH 14 @ 11:00AM

Both men and women are warmly invited to our Annual Spring Luncheon. We've got a great program again this year!

Mosaic serves nearly 5,000 people in 12 states. Services are designed for people with disabilities, mental and behavioral health needs and autism, as well as aging adults. Services are tailored to meet individual needs and goals, allowing people to be as independent as possible. Come learn more about what *Mosaic* is doing!

We will include a silent auction. If you feel led to contribute, we welcome donations of new or homemade gifts.

Catered lunch will be served.

Tickets go on sale beginning February 21.

VICTORY QUILTERS FEBRUARY 17 & 18 @ 8:30AM

Why not stop by this month and see how we assemble these quilts? Consider joining us in this outreach ministry. We gather on the third Tuesday of the month from 8:30am-2:30pm with a break for a potluck lunch and Wednesday from 8:30-11:30am. Our next meeting is February 17 & 18. No experience necessary. You do not have to stay for the whole time. Come when you can, leave when you must.



BLESSING OF THE QUILTS

The weekend January 24-25, the quilts lovingly made by our Quilters Group were blessed. These quilts are needed and greatly appreciated. They are donated to our Food Pantry, Family Promise, Orchard: Africa, and others in need. Thank you for supporting this ministry and helping share warmth, comfort, and Christ's love with those who need it most.



**Unlocking
your Legacy**

By Mark Johnson
Development Consultant
Recognized for his expertise in
Estate planning and charitable gifting

Estate & Planned Giving Free Seminar

Date: February 9, 2026
Time: 1:30pm - 3pm
**Location: Victory Lutheran Church
Room B7**



ESTATE & PLANNED GIVING SEMINAR

Sponsored by VLC Foundation
February 9 @ 1:30pm

Don't miss this opportunity to shape your legacy and leave a lasting impact! Our presenter, Mark Johnson, is recognized for his expertise in estate planning and charitable gifting. He has presented numerous Estate Planning Workshops in churches around the country and has been a featured speaker at many conferences. Learn about the different aspects of Estate Planning and why you should plan. As you delve into the intricacies of estate planning, you'll find a multitude of compelling reasons to secure your legacy:

- Biblical Perspective on Estate Planning
- Avoid Probate
- Reduce Estate Taxes
- Leave Gifts for Your Favorite Charity
- Individual Consulting Opportunity
- And Much More!

Sign up at the Welcome Desk or register online for Victory Lutheran Church's Estate & Planned Giving Seminar!

DEMENTIA/ALZHEIMER CARE PARTNER SEMINAR

As you may know, the neurological condition known as Dementia that affects the brain, causing loss of memory, thinking, and reasoning has life altering effects of many individuals and families. This is a powerful three-part series on Dementia Education.

Session Two, February 10, deals with how we can learn to focus on what our loved ones can do and use that knowledge to make our caregiving journey easier and more fulfilling for us and our loved ones.

Session Three, March 10, teaches us to master three techniques that will make our days go by faster and will help keep our loved one happy and entertained.

Each session also includes a question-and-answer section at the end of each seminar. **Adult day care is available should anyone have the need for it.** Please sign up at the Welcome Desk so that we may plan appropriately for those who will attend.



Session 2: FEB 10
Session 3: MAR 10

Dementia | Alzheimer Care Partner Seminar

Educational Series with
Tools & Resources

**Meets
2nd Tuesdays of
the month @ 1pm**



Sign up at the Welcome Desk.

Questions? Contact Lynda Buechner at lyndabuechner@gmail.com

GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP MONDAYS, 12:30-2:30PM

Register online at:

<https://find.griefshare.org/groups/280206>

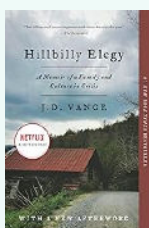
A program for help in your journey through grief after the death of a spouse, child, family member or friend. Our group is led by caring people who have experienced grief and desire to help you through the difficult days ahead. We know it hurts and we want to help. Each weekly session is designed to be "open," meaning a person can begin attending at any time.

If you would like more information you can find more info about GriefShare on their website at griefshare.org or you may contact: Suellen Palya at 480-325-3410 or suellenpalya@yahoo.com.



VICTORY BOOK CLUB

Love to read books? The Book Club meets monthly on the 4th Tuesday from 1:30-3:00pm. Please come prepared to discuss the monthly book selection.



"Hillbilly Elegy: A Memoir of a Family and Culture in Crisis" by J.D. Vance

A passionate and personal analysis of a culture in crisis—that of white working-class Americans—and the inside story of how upward mobility really feels.

Led by Dottie Cisek, February 24, 2026



"No Bigger Than a Minute: Love and Hope Against All Odds" by Sheri Rose Gentry and Nadia Geagea Pupa

A true story about faith in the most hopeless situation. In Haiti in 1988, the author Sheri Gentry, a young idealistic missionary, risked heartbreak and ridicule to adopt a three-pound newborn whose mother was dying.

Led by the Author's Mother, Karen Jeske, March 24, 2026



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

As Christians, we have the awesome opportunity to serve our holy God in so many ways! He gives each of us unique gifts and calls us to use them to bless others. 1 Peter 4:10 says, *"As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace."*

Serving others is not only beneficial for the soul but also brings joy and fulfillment. We'd love for you to discover this joy! No matter your age or skill set, God can use you in a meaningful way. Let us know how you would like to get involved. To learn more or to volunteer, just send us an email to hello@victorylutheran.com. Or, you may also fill out a pamphlet at the Welcome Desk or scan the QR code to fill out online.

Let's find the place where God is calling you to serve with gladness!



Scan Me



FEBRUARY

SINGLES – PLUS COUPLES FOR ALL EVENTS!

EVERYONE WELCOME! INVITE YOUR FRIENDS!

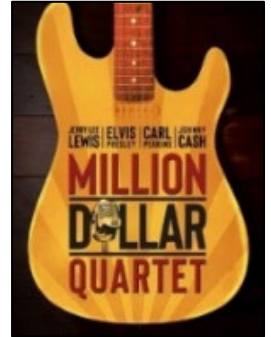
Events This Month:

Million Dollar Quartet (Off Site – Bus)

Wednesday, February 4, 7:30 pm (Bus leaves at 6:15 pm)

Phoenix Theatre Co, 1825 N Central Ave, Phoenix

One night, one legendary moment in music history – revisit the electrifying night in 1956 when Elvis Presley, Johnny Cash, Carl Perkins, and Jerry Lee Lewis unexpectedly converged at Sun Studio. This Tony Award-winning jukebox musical tribute showcases the spontaneous energy and raw talent of these icons who have left an indelible mark on the music world. (***Tickets for this event are no longer available.***)



Lunch at Pho Leo (Off Site – No Bus)

Wednesday, February 11, 11:30 am, 1734 E Main St #5, Mesa

Great Vietnamese classics – pho (soup), noodle salads, egg rolls, fried rice, noodle & vegetarian dishes. Prices range from \$6-\$20. Bring cash to avoid a hefty charge for using a credit card. **Sign up by Sunday, February 8th.**



Feed My Starving Children (Off Site – Bus)

Wednesday, February 25

Packing Session 9:00-11:00 am (Bus leaves at 8:00 am), 1100 W Grove Parkway, Tempe

FMSC provides free nutritious children's meals (containing vitamins, soy protein & dehydrated vegetables) to a network of humanitarian and religious mission partners in some 70 countries around the world. They in turn are responsible for shipping costs and the distribution of the meals to schools, churches, orphanages, community centers, medical clinics and feeding programs. Historically, more than 99% of FMSC meals have safely reached their intended destinations. You can be a part of this successful program. Join us on the 4th Wednesday of each month at the Tempe packing facility – you can stand and package food, or sit and label it.

The bus is FREE for this event! Sign up by Sunday, February 22nd.



Next Month:

Note: Deadlines to sign up for theater events are typically 2-5 weeks in advance in order to get group discounts and seating together.

All About Broadway (Off Site – Bus)

Saturday, March 7, 2:00 pm (Bus leaves at 12:45 pm)

Queen Creek Arts Center, 22149 E Ocotillo Rd, Queen Creek

Hear songs by Irving Berlin, George Gershwin, & Rodgers & Hammerstein, & current hits from Hamilton, Mamma Mia, Neil Diamond's Beautiful Noise, Phantom of the Opera, Wicked, Moulin Rouge, Smash & many more! All with a live 10-piece orchestra! **Sign up and pay \$32 (\$27/ticket and \$5/bus) by Tuesday, February 17th.**



NOTE: All tickets will be handed out on the bus or in the lobby of the event site.



VICTORY
LUTHERAN CHURCH

5946 E. University Drive
Mesa, AZ 85205



Ash Wednesday

February 18 @ 4 & 6pm

*with imposition of ashes

WORSHIP WITH US!

TRADITIONAL

Saturdays 4pm

Sundays 8am Communion Weekly

9:30am Worship

CONTEMPORARY

Sunday 11am

CHILDREN'S CHURCH

Sunday 9:30 & 11am

WATCH US LIVE!

Sundays 9:30 & 11am

DAILY HOPE

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