

## Sermon Notes

### Daily Bible Readings (February 8-14)

Sun: John 13:1-17 Jesus Washes the Disciples' Feet  
 Mon: Romans 12:1-8 Living Sacrifices with Gifts to Serve  
 Tues: Galatians 5:13-14 Called to Serve One Another in Love  
 Wed: 1 Peter 4:10-11 Faithful Stewards of God's Grace  
 Thurs: Matthew 25:31-46 Serving the Least of These  
 Fri: Colossians 3:23-24 Working for the Lord  
 Sat: 1 Corinthians 12:4-11 Gifts for the Common Good

## Life Notes

### Discovering Life #6: Step Forward & Serve Mark 10:35-45

#### Opener:

What's one thing you dreamed of being or doing when you were younger? Did that ambition change over time? If so, how?

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

1. **Read Mark 10:35-37.** What does their request reveal about how they understood greatness? How does the world still define "greatness" this way today?
2. **Read Mark 10:38-40.** The "cup" represents God's wrath against sin—something only Jesus could drink. Why is it significant that James and John confidently say "we can" when they have no idea what they're promising?
3. **Read Mark 10:41-44.** Why do you think the other ten disciples got angry at James and John? What does Jesus' response tell us about the difference between worldly leadership and kingdom leadership?
4. **Read Mark 10:45.** A ransom is a price paid to free slaves. What are some things we're enslaved to that Jesus' ransom sets us free from?
5. **Read Philippians 2:1-8.** Paul describes how Jesus "made himself nothing" and "humbled himself." How does this passage connect to what Jesus teaches in Mark 10 about servant leadership?

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

1. **Misdirected ambition** says "I'll serve so God will notice me, bless me, use me." and **Redeemed ambition** says "God has already noticed me, blessed me, and freed me—now I get to serve." Which statement better describes your current approach to serving? What would need to shift?
2. Jesus doesn't rebuke James and John's ambition—He redirects it. Where in your life do you have ambition or dreams that might need redirecting rather than rejecting? How might God want to use those desires for His kingdom?
3. When someone else gets recognition, opportunity, or blessing, how do you typically respond? What does your reaction reveal about where you're finding your security?
4. On a scale of 1-10, how much are you currently serving from freedom (gratitude for what Jesus has done) versus serving from slavery (trying to earn God's approval)? What are the warning signs in your own heart that you've shifted from freedom to slavery?
5. The sermon challenged us to "think global, serve local." What's one specific way you could support global mission (through giving, prayer, or partnership)? What's one way you could serve locally this week (at church, in your neighborhood, or workplace)?

## Upcoming Week

### Sunday, February 8

#### NEW MEMBER COMMISSIONING

8:30-11am Morning Fellowship, FH  
 8am Worship & Communion, WC  
 9:30am Worship & Children's Church, WC  
 11am Contemporary Worship & Children's Church, WC

#### 3pm The Unglaub Duo Concert, WC

### Monday, February 9

9-11:30am Food Pantry  
 10am Adult Confirmation, FH  
 12:30-2:30pm GriefShare, C4  
**1:30pm Estate & Planned Giving Seminar, B7**  
 10am Adult Confirmation, FH

### Tuesday, February 10

10am Esperanza Bible Study, C5  
**1pm Dementia Care Partner Seminar, CH**  
 1:30pm Mary Bible Study, meets in home  
 7pm AA Men's Meeting, C5

### Wednesday, February 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, WC  
 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal, WC  
 8pm AA Meeting, C5

### Thursday, February 12

10am Prayer Group, B7  
 11am Al-Anon Meeting, C5

### Friday, February 13

OFFICE CLOSED

### Saturday, February 14 - Valentine's Day

8am Men's Bible Study, C5  
 4pm Worship, WC

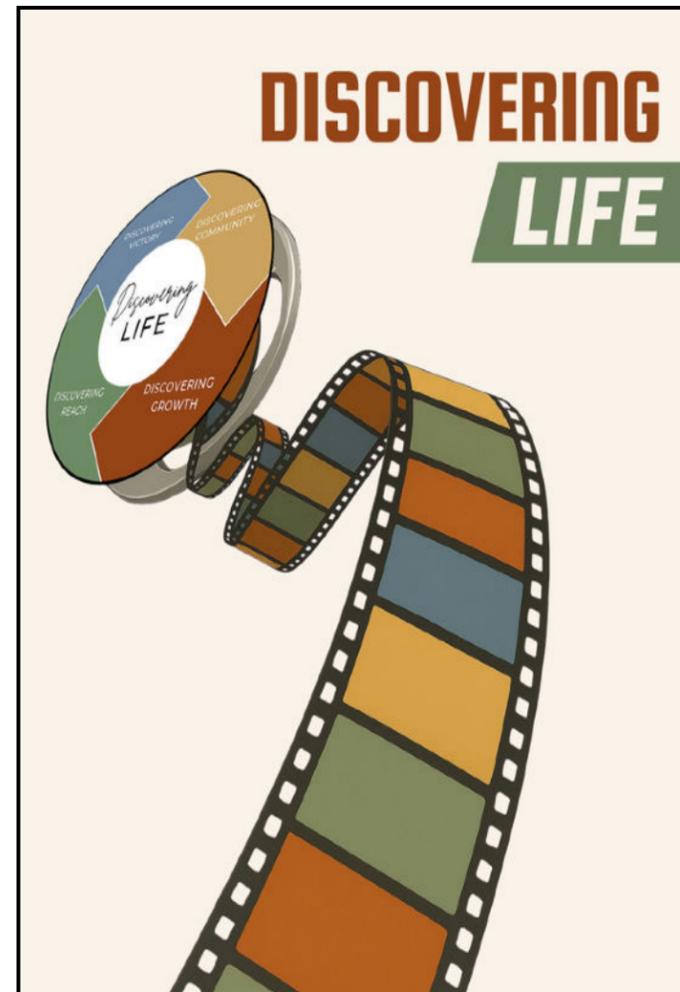
CH = Chapel  
 FH = Fellowship Hall  
 C5 = Fireside Room  
 NR = Nursery  
 WC = Worship Center  
 C4 = Community Room

#### Victory Lutheran Church

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 Office Hours: Mon-Thurs, 8am-4pm



VictoryLutheran\_Guest  
 Password: Victory\_46



FEBRUARY 7 & 8, 2026

## Step Forward & Serve Mark 10:35-45



Todd Mathison, Lead Pastor  
 Denton Bennet, Associate Pastor  
 Renée Bennett, Discipleship Pastor  
 Dirk Duhstine, Chaplain  
 Kristin Holton Prouty, Director of Worship & Music



Connect with us!



## GOD TIME: When God Makes a Way Out of No Way

My son and I were estranged for over 18 years. When he was 16, he went to live with my parents, and over time our relationship faded into silence. He is now 34 years old. Last summer, through my dad, I learned that my son and his wife were expecting their first child. The news was bittersweet. I was overjoyed for them, yet my heart ached, wondering if I would ever meet my grandchild or be part of my son's life again.

Then, on Christmas Eve, I received the most unexpected gift—a text from my son announcing the birth of baby Atlas on December 20, 2025. He even sent a few photos. I was ecstatic. After all those years, my son had reached out to me. It truly felt like a Christmas miracle. As I celebrated the birth of baby Jesus, I was also celebrating another baby—one God had known and planned long ago—entering my life. My heart overflowed with gratitude.

Wanting to bless them, I asked my son what they needed for the baby. Each suggestion was kindly declined; they already had everything. Finally, I said, "There's got to be *something* I can get you." He replied, "Well, if you really want to do something... why don't you come meet your grandson?" I was floored. I could hardly believe it. When I asked, "Really?" he said yes—and even invited me to stay with them for a few nights. Just a week and a half after hearing from my son, I found myself driving to Las Cruces, New Mexico, to meet my grandson, see my son, and meet my daughter-in-law for the very first time. The visit was amazing, beautiful, and deeply healing. God restored something in my heart that I thought might be lost forever.

God truly surprised me. He uses all things and all situations for His glory. I believe He used baby Atlas to soften hearts and bring restoration. What an incredible way to begin 2026. One of my favorite scriptures is Isaiah 43:19: "See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland." This promise reminds me that God is always working behind the scenes—making a way even in the most barren and hopeless places. ~ by Eileen Hernandez



## GATHER TIME: New Member Commissioning - February, 8, 2026

Welcome to Victory's newest members!

9:30am Service

Jim Kenyon  
Kay Mjolsness

Joan Most  
Tim Most

Jean Myers  
Joe Myers  
Bill Neail Sr.



### Discovering Victory: 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.

If you are interested in attending our next 3-session class "Discovering Victory" in April sign up at the Welcome Desk or contact: Kathy Michel at [kmichel@victorylutheran.com](mailto:kmichel@victorylutheran.com)

## GO TIME: What GriefShare Has Done For Me . . .

### Katherine Perazzo, GriefShare Facilitator

On October 12, 2022 I was heartbroken when my husband Michael died. I was a shattered woman. I did not know what to do or where to turn. I did know that I needed help. I turned to Victory Lutheran GriefShare that I found online. When I walked in alone crying I was greeted with open arms and support. In the past few years I have learned skills to help me grow an cope with my loss and I have found peace with God's help. I would encourage anyone who is hurting from loss to join us at GriefShare. I am now one of the facilitators and will meet you at the door with open arms and support.



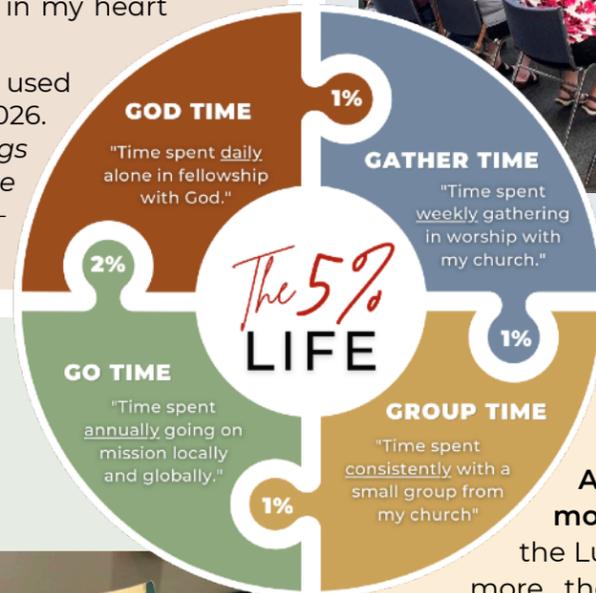
### GriefShare Group - Meets Mondays @ 12:30-2:30pm

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](http://griefshare.org) or you may contact: Suellen Palya at 480-325-3410 or [suellenpalya@yahoo.com](mailto:suellenpalya@yahoo.com).

You may register online at:

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



## GROUP TIME: 2026 Winter Study - Mondays @ 10am & 6pm

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 has been both engaging and meaningful. We truly want people to come, learn, and grow—no matter where you are starting from.

