

— *happy* —
MOTHER'S
— *day* —



NURTURED BY GRACE IN EVERY SEASON

Every year about this time, the rhythm of life at Victory begins to shift. Some of our friends head north. Some of us remain here and prepare for the summer heat. Schedules change. Worship feels a little different. The pace slows down a bit.

But one thing does not change: we are still the family of God, gathered around Jesus. And I find myself cherishing that more and more—the gift of worshipping together, voices lifted in praise, familiar smiles, conversations in the fellowship hall, and friendships that grow through coffee, Bible study, service, and prayer. These are not small things. They are gifts of grace.

God says in Isaiah 43:19, “See, I am doing a new thing! ... I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland.” What a fitting promise as we enter this desert season. God brings refreshment where life feels dry. He makes a way when the road feels uncertain. He keeps His people rooted, nourished, and alive in Christ.

So wherever this season finds you, stay close to Jesus. Stay connected to His Word. Stay connected to one another. The heat may rise and the pace may change, but Christ remains our living stream in the desert. And together, in Him, we keep growing.

With you in Christ,

Pastor Todd Mathison

Pastor Todd Mathison

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

SATURDAY

4pm Traditional

SUNDAY

8am Traditional with Communion

9:30am Traditional

MOTHER'S DAY

May 9-10, 2026

is a special weekend we like to recognize the women in our congregation for all they have done to share the love of God to others.

We INVITE ALL to wear a special hat or fancy outfit to mark the occasion!



Todd Mathison, Lead Pastor
Denton Bennet, Associate Pastor
Dirk Duhlstine, Chaplain

5946 E. University Drive, Mesa, AZ 85205
480-830-5024 | Office Hours: M-Th, 8am-4pm
hello@victorylutheran.com
VictoryLutheran.com



A WORD ABOUT OUR CONTEMPORARY SERVICE

Over the past two years, our contemporary worship service has been a place of real ministry: people welcomed, God's Word preached, Christ worshiped, friendships formed. Some found the service approachable and encouraging. Others appreciated the music, the later hour, and the warm, relaxed atmosphere. For all of this, we give thanks to God.

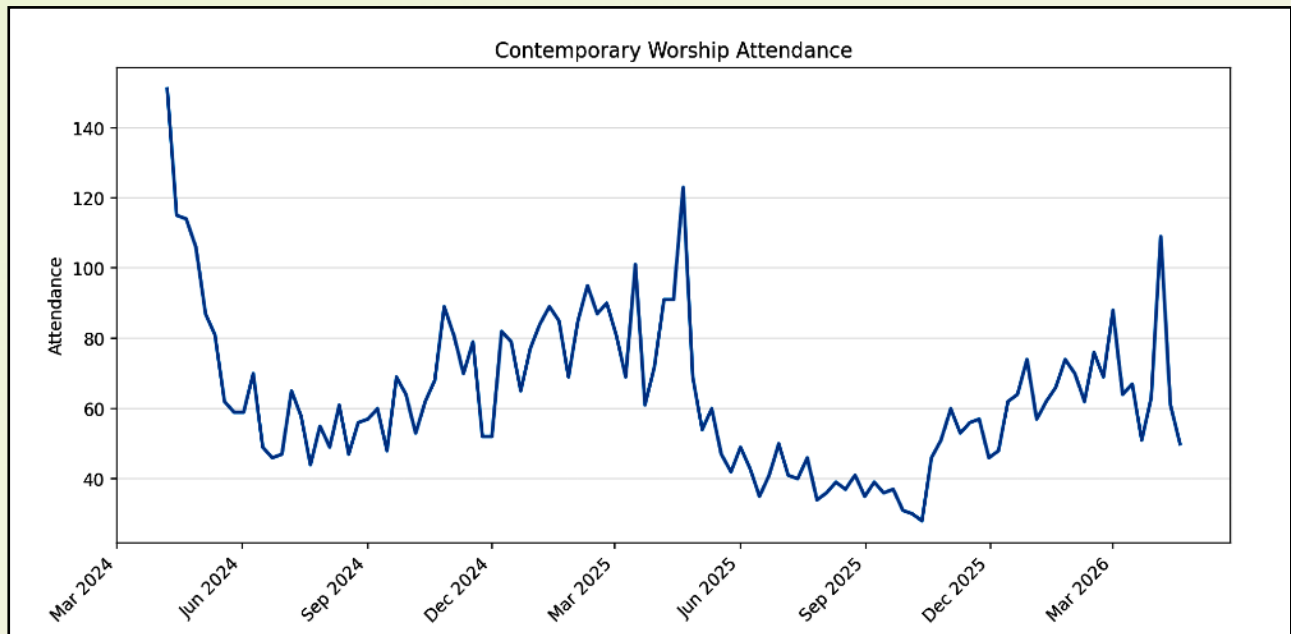
After prayerful review, the Church Council has decided to conclude the contemporary worship service effective June 1, 2026. We know this news may bring disappointment for some, and we want to share it with tenderness, honesty, and gratitude.

Why the service was started?

This service was not started carelessly or on impulse. For many years, Victory offered a seasonal alternative service from New Year's through Easter. Then, two years ago, after the 2023 survey showed enough interest in a contemporary worship service, we expanded that earlier seasonal effort into a full year-round service. Over these two years, the church committed real energy, leadership, volunteer effort, and financial support to help the service take root. This was never a half-hearted experiment. It was a genuine attempt to create another doorway into worship and life at Victory.

What we learned along the way . . .

Survey feedback included heartfelt appreciation. People spoke positively about the music, the friendliness of the people, the casual setting, and the encouragement they received there. At the same time, many comments also reflected awareness that attendance remained relatively small and that congregational participation felt limited. In other words, there was gratitude for what the service offered, but there was also an honest recognition that it was not gaining wider momentum.



The attendance pattern above reflects that same story. There were seasons of encouragement and strong Sundays, and we are thankful for every one of them. Yet over time the overall trend moved in the wrong direction.

A WORD OF THANKS

Heather Martinez & Children's Ministry

As May brings the end of the school year, we want to take a moment to celebrate and give thanks for the children's church ministry that has been part of our Sunday mornings this year. This ministry will conclude at the end of May as we head into summer.

A heartfelt thank you to Heather Martinez and her entire family for their faithful service and the care they have shown for our youngest members. We are grateful for her heart and her dedication throughout this season.

If you see Heather on a Sunday morning, please take a moment to thank her personally — she has given of herself this year, and it would mean a great deal to know that her service was seen and appreciated.



REMINDER . . .

Children's bags and activity boards are always available in the Welcome Center for kids to use during services. Feel free to pick one up to help keep little hands and minds engaged!

Victory's Global
Mission Partner
orchardafrika.org



ORCHARD: AFRICA
www.orchardafrika.org



What would it take for you to say "YES" to the trip of a lifetime?

For some, that means finally visiting a place you have always wanted to see. But sometimes the trip of a lifetime is not mainly about where you go. Sometimes it is about what God does in you while you are there. This **September 4-14, 2026**, Victory will send a mission team to **Cape Town, South Africa** with our long-time mission partner, Orchard: Africa (orchardafrika.org). Orchard's mission is to equip the church to care for the vulnerable, with the local church as the platform, practical programs as the tools, and the hope of Christ as the message. Their work centers on Food and Agriculture, Care, Education, and Ministry.

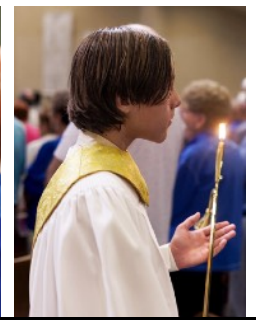
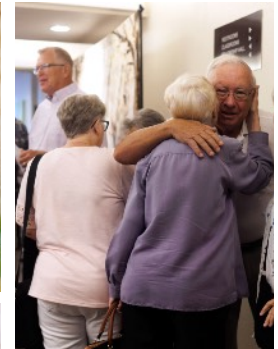
This is not a construction trip. It is especially well suited for adults and seniors who want to serve in meaningful, relational, hands-on ways. Our team will help with Vacation Bible School and also an economic development program that helps people — most who have very little hope — begin thinking about how they can take greater ownership of their well-being and discover possible income streams — truly life-changing! We will also visit a preschool, a feeding program, an agriculture program, worship with a partner congregation, and take in some of the beauty of the Cape Town area, including the beach, a penguin preserve on the ocean, and Table Mountain, one of the New7Wonders of Nature.

Anne and I would love to have you join us on what truly could be a life-changing trip — for you! The cost is about \$4,000, including flights, mission programming, and some meals. If the Lord may be stirring your heart, I would truly love to hear from you. Talk to me in person or email me: tmathison@victorylutheran.com. I hope to hear from you soon.

Pastor Todd Mathison

Easter Weekend • April 4-5, 2026

From the stunning beauty of Easter sunrise to the joy of gathered worship, Easter at Victory was a powerful reminder that the risen Jesus still meets His people. Peter and John saw the empty tomb, and Mary even saw Jesus Himself, yet true faith came when the living Lord made Himself known and called her by name. That is Easter for us too: not just evidence to consider, but Christ alive in His Word, opening our hearts and calling us out of sorrow and into resurrection hope.



NEVER BEYOND HIS REACH

May 2 & 3, 2026 — Seized By Grace

Acts 9:1-9, 15-19a

Saul seems like the last person Jesus would ever claim, but on the road to Damascus he learns that not even a violent past can place someone beyond the reach of the risen Lord. Jesus stops him, blinds him, humbles him, and then—through the hesitant obedience of Ananias—begins remaking the persecutor into a preacher of the Gospel. This is the hope of the text: the reach of Jesus is not limited by rebellion, blindness, or broken history, because He still lays hold of sinners and turns them into His servants..

May 9 & 10, 2026 — Never Forgotten - Acts 116:25-34

On Mother's Day, we thank God for the fierce, tender love of mothers—but even that love points beyond itself to something greater still. In the darkest night, when chains, fear, and hopelessness seem to have the final word, Jesus breaks in with saving mercy. No life is too far gone, no night too dark, and no heart beyond His reach. Even the strongest human love can only echo the greater love of God, who does not forget His children and never lets them go.

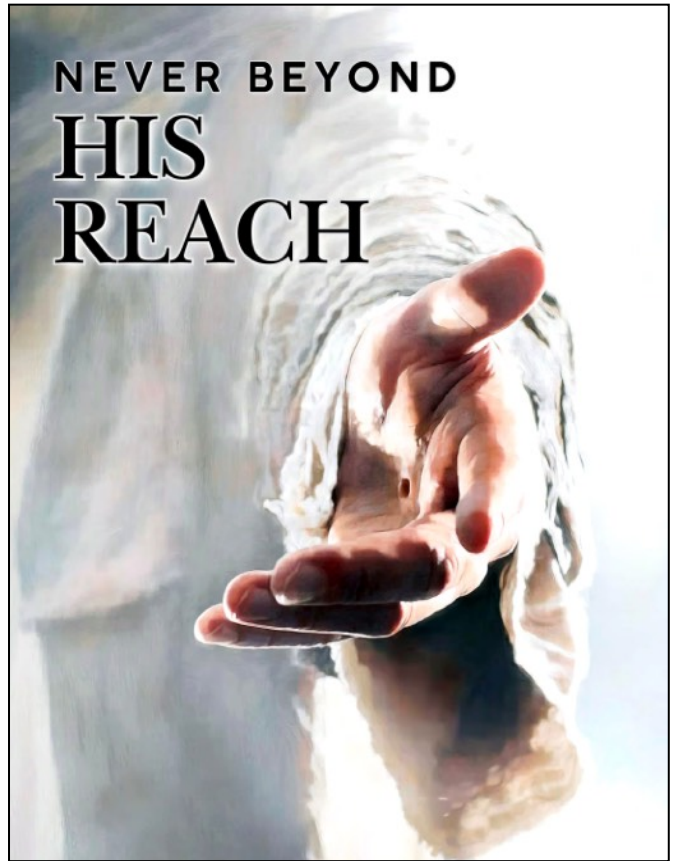
May 16 & 17, 2026 — The Ultimate Rescue

Revelation 21:1-7

All through life, Jesus keeps drawing near—through His Word, His wounds, His voice, His peace, and His mercy—and in the end, that saving nearness will reach its fullest expression. Revelation 21 gives the Church the final promise behind every prayer to “keep us in the true faith”: the day when our risen King will either call us home through death or return in glory, and bring us at last into the paradise He has prepared for us. The final step for the believer is not into darkness, but into the presence of the One who has held us all along.

May 23 & 24, 2026 — Pentecost: The Day Heaven Broke In - Acts 2:1-21

Pentecost is the day the risen and ascended Jesus keeps His promise and pours out the Holy Spirit on His Church—not as an idea or influence, but as the living gift of God who comes to call, gather, enlighten, and send. In Acts 2, fearful and uncertain people are met by the power and promise of God, as the Spirit delivers the saving work of Christ right into the hearts of His people. So Pentecost is both comfort and fire: God has not left us alone, but fills His Church still with His presence, His promise, and His power.



NEW SERMON SERIES: The Recipe of a Godly Life

Looking for the recipe for a full and meaningful life? God has not kept it secret. In His Word, He shows us the ingredients of a godly life: faith, goodness, knowledge, self-control, perseverance, godliness, mutual affection, and love. This is not about self-improvement or trying harder. It is about Jesus Christ, who by His grace saves us, shapes us, and grows these gifts in us. The recipe is clear, and the life He gives is full, fruitful, and deeply worth living.

May 30 & 31, 2026 — Goodness - 2 Peter 1:3-8

In the first message of The Recipe for a Godly Life, we begin with goodness. The Apostle Peter reminds us that God has already given us everything we need for life and godliness through Christ. Because of that, goodness is not something we manufacture to impress God. It is something He grows in us as faith takes root and matures. This is the beginning of a godly life: not earning, but growing.

Maundy Thursday: The Overheard Prayer

On the heaviest night of Holy Week, with betrayal already in motion and the cross already casting its shadow, we were reminded that Jesus didn't spend his final hours in self-preservation. He gathered the disciples together, and in an act of service He washed their feet, and then broke bread with them. Then, He prayed. For us.

John 17 is an unguarded moment — an intimate conversation between the Son and the Father — and we are invited to overhear it. And what we hear is almost too much to take in.

A reminder from Exodus 28 provided us with the first image. Twelve stones, with twelve names, were carried over the high priest's heart into the very presence of God. The Priest Aaron didn't merely represent the people — he carried them. That ancient picture was always pointing somewhere.

It was pointing to Jesus.

On the night before the cross, our great High Priest entered the presence of the Father carrying us — not on gemstone and gold, but on his heart. And looking past that upper room, past the first century, and through 2,000 years of apostles and martyrs and missionaries and faithful witnesses, He prays specifically for those who would one day believe through their word.

That is us. We were in that prayer before we ever knew his name.

Eternal life, Jesus says, is not a destination — it is knowing God. And that knowing begins now, in this broken and beautiful life, because the Son carried us to the Father and asked him to make it so.

Around the Lord's table, we received what that prayer made possible — his body, his blood, his presence.

And we left carrying a question:

You were prayed for. Now — whose name are you going to pray for?





stephen
MINISTRY®

NOT ALONE: CHRIST'S CARE THRU STEPHEN MINISTRY

A Burden Shared

Daily life can bring ongoing struggles that lead to a personal or spiritual crisis.

If you are walking through a difficult season, you don't have to carry the burden by yourself.

Overcoming the Barrier of Pride

Sometimes our own pride is what stops us from asking for help. It can feel difficult to admit when we are struggling, and we may believe we should be able to handle things on our own. Yet Scripture reminds us that we were created for relationship—not isolation.

When We Fear Being a Burden

At times, we don't ask for help because we don't want to be a burden or a bother to others. We may think, *"Everyone else is busy,"* or *"My problems aren't important enough."* But when we withhold our need, we may unintentionally rob others of the opportunity to fulfill part of their God-given calling.

God has asked His people to love one another, to bear one another's burdens, and to walk alongside those who are hurting. When we allow someone to care for us, we are not burdening them—we are inviting them to live out Christ's love. Reaching out is not a sign of weakness; it is an act of trust and obedience, stepping into the community God designed for us.

God never wants anyone to struggle alone. He created love and relationships so that we could encourage one another in the best of times—and especially in the most difficult seasons of life.

Common Struggles We Support

- Broken relationships and family conflicts
- The loss of a loved one
- A recent move or major life transition
- Chronic illness or a new medical diagnosis
- Other challenges that feel overwhelming

How Stephen Ministry Helps

- Christ-centered care: Ministers bring Christ's love directly into your life.
- Confidential care: Your conversations remain strictly private.
- One-to-one support: You are matched with a trained caregiver.
- Weekly meetings: Meet for about an hour each week.

The Role of Your Stephen Minister

- Listening with compassion to your thoughts and feelings.
- Encouraging you through difficult and uncertain days.
- Praying with you and for you.
- Offering faithful presence as they walk alongside you.

Take the First Step

If you—or someone you know—could benefit from the care of a Stephen Minister, please reach out to us today. You were never meant to walk this journey alone.

Reach out to a pastor today or to:

Chaplain Dirk Duhlstine
dduhlstine@victorylutheran.com
480-660-5231





PENTECOST WEEKEND May 23 & 24 — Wear Red!

Pentecost celebrates the gift of the Holy Spirit, poured out on the disciples in a rush of wind and flame (Acts 2), empowering them to share the good news of Jesus Christ with boldness and clarity. For Lutherans, Pentecost is a reminder that faith is not something we create on our own—it is the work of the Holy Spirit, who calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian Church. It marks the birth of the Church and God's ongoing presence among us through Word and Sacrament. As we celebrate Pentecost weekend on May 23 & 24, you're invited to wear red—a symbol of the Spirit's fire—to rejoice in the life and power God continues to pour into the world.



Women's Ministry Combined Bible Study Tuesday, May 12 @ 9:30am

During the summer months (May-September) Women's Ministry meets the 2nd Tuesday of the month at Victory as a combined group. Pastor or Bible Study leader chooses the study.



Quilters Group May 19 & 20 @ 8:30am

Quilters meet the 3rd Tuesday and Wednesday of the month, April thru June, in the Fellowship Hall. On Tuesday, we break for a potluck lunch at noon. Help needed with cutting squares, layering and tying knots. Bring your scissors. Come when you can — leave when you must.



Food Pantry

The Food Pantry provides food boxes on Monday and Wednesdays from 9:00-11:30am. **Leaving for the season?** Your unopened/non-perishable food and toiletry donations are welcome. Please drop them off in the brown bin near the front entry doors during office hours or during weekend worship.



Important Notice About Spam and Fraudulent Emails!

Dear Victory Family,

We want to make you aware of an important issue affecting churches across the country—including ours. Some members have recently received fraudulent emails pretending to be from our pastors or staff. These messages may look legitimate at first glance, but they are not from us.

What do these emails usually look like?

- They often come from an email address that is not our official church email
- They may ask for help with something "urgent"
- They sometimes request money, gift cards, or financial assistance

They may say the sender is "busy" or unable to talk and wants to communicate only by email

Here is the most important thing to remember:

Always check the sender's email address carefully. Even if the name says "Pastor Todd" or a staff member, the actual email address may be something unfamiliar (like a Gmail, Hotmail, or random address).

Victory Lutheran Church staff will NEVER:

- Ask for gift cards or personal financial help account via email or text
- Request urgent financial assistance without direct, personal communication
- Ask you to bypass normal church processes

What should you do if you receive a suspicious email?



- Do not reply
- Do not click on any links
- Do not send money or information
- When in doubt, call the church office to verify

If you ever feel unsure, please reach out—we are here to help. Thank you for staying vigilant and helping protect our church family.

In Christ,
Victory Lutheran Church Staff



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
 <p>She speaks with wisdom and faithful instruction is on her tongue. Proverbs 31:26</p>		 <h3>ANNOUNCEMENT</h3> <p>The monthly Council Meeting minutes and financial reports are now available for review. You can find them posted on the display board in the Welcome Center. Please take a moment to stay informed on the latest updates.</p>	
<p>3 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</p>	<p>4 9-11:30am Food Pantry 12:30pm GriefShare, C4 4pm Confirmation Class, C1</p> 	<p>5 OFFICE CLOSED STAFF RETREAT 6:30pm "Seekers" Small Group, B7 7pm AA Men's Meeting, C5</p>	<p>6 9-11:30am Food Pantry 10am Men's Bible Study, C1 12:30pm Al-Anon, C4 4pm Prayer & Praise Worship Service, CH</p> 
<p>10 MOTHER'S DAY 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</p> 	<p>11 9-11:30am Food Pantry 10am Tour of Sunshine Acres (offsite), Bus leaves @ 9:30am 12:30pm GriefShare, C4 4pm Confirmation Class, C1</p>	<p>12 9:30am Women's Ministry Combined Bible Study, C4 7pm AA Men's Meeting, C5</p>	<p>13 9-11:30am Food Pantry 10am Men's Bible Study, C1 12:30pm Al-Anon, C4</p>
<p>17 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</p>	<p>18 9-11:30am Food Pantry 12:30pm GriefShare, C4 4pm Confirmation Class, C1</p>	<p>19 8:30-2:30pm Quilters, FH 3pm Council Meeting, B7 6:30pm "Seekers" Small Group, B7 7pm AA Men's Meeting, C5</p> 	<p>20 8:30-11:30am Quilters, FH 9-11:30am Food Pantry 10am Men's Bible Study, C1 12:30pm Al-Anon, C4</p>
<p>24 PENTECOST - WEAR RED! 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</p>	<p>25 FOOD PANTRY CLOSED OFFICE CLOSED</p> 	<p>26 7pm AA Men's Meeting, C5</p>	<p>27 9am Feed My Starving Children, Bus leaves @ 8am 9-11:30am Food Pantry 10am Men's Bible Study, C1 12:30pm Al-Anon, C4</p>
<p>31 NOISY OFFERING!</p>			

THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 OFFICE CLOSED	2 8am Men's Bible Study, C5 4pm Worship, WC
7 10am National Day of Prayer, CH 11am Al-Anon Meeting, C5 11:30am Stephen Ministers, C4 	8 OFFICE CLOSED	9 MOTHER'S DAY WEEKEND 8am Men's Bible Study, C5 4pm Worship, WC
14 10am Prayer Group, B7 11am Al-Anon Meeting, C5 4:30pm Dinner @ The Vig in Dana Park (off-site)	15 OFFICE CLOSED	16 New Member Commissioning 8am Men's Bible Study, C5 4pm Worship, WC
21 10am Prayer Group, B7 11am Al-Anon Meeting, C5 11:30am Stephen Ministers, C4	22 OFFICE CLOSED	23 PENTECOST - WEAR RED! 8am Men's Bible Study, C5 4pm Worship, WC 
28 10am Prayer Group, B7 11am Al-Anon Meeting, C5	29 OFFICE CLOSED	30 NOISY OFFERING! 8am Men's Bible Study, C5 4pm Worship, WC



VICTORY'S WEEKLY BULLETIN

In case you missed any of the stories or would like to read again, you go to below to read or share!

victorylutheran.com/the-pulse/

If you have a story to share of healing, praise, gratitude, serving in a mission or ministry at Victory, please send to hello@victorylutheran.com. (250-300 word limit)

WAYS TO GIVE

- ONLINE
VictoryLutheran.com
- TEXT2GIVE
text "GIVE" and the amount to 888-897-5573
ex. GIVE50
- DROP OFF
M-Th, 8am-4pm
- BY MAIL
5946 E. University Dr.
Mesa, AZ 85205
- BY PHONE
Use the camera on your phone to scan the QR code below!



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



You Don't Have to Have All the Answers

A word for every small group leader who has ever panicked at a question they couldn't answer.

It happens in almost every group, eventually. Someone asks a question you weren't expecting. Maybe it's theological — something about suffering, or what happens to people who never hear the gospel. Maybe it's personal — a situation so complicated you don't know where to begin. Maybe it's a passage of Scripture that has honestly puzzled you too.

And in that moment, a familiar fear shows up: *What if they find out I don't know what I'm doing?*

Here's the truth that might just change how you lead: **you were never supposed to have all the answers.**

The Role You Actually Have

Somewhere along the way, many small group leaders picked up a quiet assumption — that their job is to be the most prepared person in the room. The one who has studied, knows the commentary, can handle whatever comes up. In other words, a teacher.

But that's not what a small group leader is.

A small group leader is a *guide*. A *facilitator*. Someone who creates the conditions for a group of people to encounter God's Word together, to ask honest questions, and to help one another grow. That's a very different job description — and a much more freeing one.

Jesus didn't sit his disciples down and lecture them through a workbook. He walked with them. He asked them questions. He let them wrestle. "Who do you say that I am?" wasn't a test with a hidden answer key. It was an invitation into discovery.

What to Say When You Don't Know

The most disarming thing a leader can do when a hard question lands is simply to say: *"That's a great question. I don't know — but let's figure it out together."*

Those nine words do more for your group than any polished answer could. They model intellectual honesty. They normalize not having everything figured out. They remind everyone in the room that faith is a journey, not a certification exam. And they communicate something powerful: *this is a safe place to bring your real questions.*

You can follow up with a commentator or pastor during the week. You can bring it back to the group the following meeting. You can sit with the question together and let it do its work. Some of the most formative moments in a small group's life come not from a question that got answered cleanly, but from one that opened something up.

The Leader People Actually Need

People don't join small groups because they're looking for a Bible trivia champion. They join because they're looking for community — for a place where they can be known, where they can ask the questions they're afraid to ask on Sunday morning, and where someone will walk alongside them in faith.

You are that person for your group. Not because you know more than they do, but because you showed up, opened the door to your home or another meeting place, asked the first question, and kept coming back.

That kind of faithfulness doesn't require a seminary degree. It requires exactly what you already have. So lead on — questions, uncertainty, and all. Your group needs a fellow traveler more than they need an expert. And the good news is, the One who actually has all the answers has promised to be right there with you.

"For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them." — Matthew 18:20 NIV

In Christ's Service,

To learn more about joining or hosting a group, contact Pastor Denton
hello@victorylutheran.com | 480-830-5024 | Visit: victorylutheran.com/smallgroups

JOIN US **PRAYER & PRAISE**

4pm - courtyard Chapel

Wednesday, May 6

A welcoming space to worship in song and experience God's presence.

VICTORY LUTHERAN

"Again, truly I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything they ask for, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. For where two or three gather in My name, there am I with them." - Matthew 18:19-20

When we gather in the name of the Lord, He is with us, He hears us, and he answers. This May, we have a unique opportunity to practice intentional, unified prayer. Whether you are carrying personal burdens, wanting to celebrate God's goodness, or feeling called to intercede for our nation, there is a place for you.

We invite you to participate in two impactful gatherings:

**Monthly Prayer & Praise Gathering
Wednesday, May 6 @ 4pm
in the courtyard Chapel**

Come as you are as we worship God with our hearts and have focused individual and corporate prayer. We will take time to praise God for His active presence in our lives and lift up the specific needs of our church families, ministries, and local community.

Everyone is welcome, please come expectantly, believing that God truly changes things when we pray.

**National Day of Prayer Gathering
Thursday, May 7 @ 10am
in the courtyard Chapel**



Join millions of believers across the country for the annual National Day of Prayer. This year's national theme is "Glorify God Among the Nations – Seeking Him in All Generations" based on 1 Chronicles 16:24. We will spend an hour specifically interceding for our government leaders, military, educators, families, and the overall healing of our land. We will also pray for personal needs and for Victory Lutheran.

"Declare his glory among the nations, His marvelous deeds among all peoples." - 1 Chronicles 16:24

If you have a prayer request, contact Chaplain Dirk Duhlstine
dduhlstine@victorylutheran.com or 480-660-5231



Good Friday Tenebrae Reflection

Our Lenten journey culminated on Good Friday as we gathered at the foot of the cross, invited through music and reflection to dwell in the weight of Jesus' final earthly moments. People from across the community came together for a Tenebrae service, where the combined choirs of Victory Lutheran Church and Paradise Valley United Methodist Church, joined by orchestra, led us through a powerful service of darkness and light. Interwoven throughout was John Rutter's Requiem, drawing on texts from the Requiem Mass, the Book of Common Prayer, and the Psalms—words both somber and deeply hopeful. Through rich harmonies, thoughtful text, shared silence, and the gradual extinguishing of candles, the story of the cross was felt as much as heard, reflecting the closing moments of Jesus' life while quietly pointing toward the promise of light yet to come.



With Grateful Thanks for the Gift of Music

As we reflect on the season just past, we offer heartfelt thanks to the many musicians who make worship possible at Victory. Through choir anthems, handbell ringing, instrumental offerings, and solo voices, you have given your time, talent, and spirit so that our congregation might pray, praise, and encounter God more deeply. Your faithfulness behind the scenes and your joy in sharing music enrich every service and help proclaim the gospel in ways words alone cannot.

Scripture reminds us: *"Make a joyful noise to the Lord... come into His presence with singing"* (Psalm 100). Thank you for answering that call week after week. Your music is a true gift to our worshipping community, and we are deeply grateful for each of you.



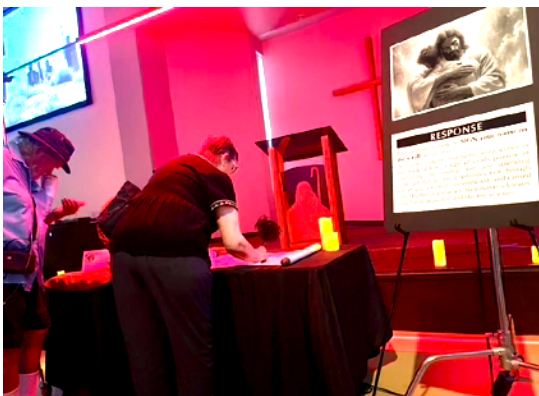
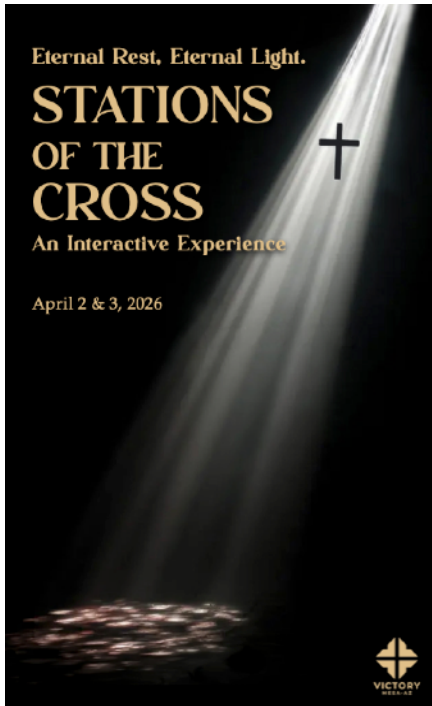
Eternal Rest. Eternal Light.

Through these seven stations, each anchored in the Psalms, we walk alongside Jesus in His suffering, recognizing that the voice of the psalmist is not distant from this moment—it is fulfilled in it. From the soul that finds rest in God, to the depths that cry out for mercy, to the assurance of redemption and new life, we see how Christ enters fully into the human story and carries it to completion through His sacrifice. In His surrender, we are invited into God's eternal rest; in His suffering, we begin to see the dawn of His eternal light breaking through even the deepest darkness.

A special thank you to Ted Groat who created a beautiful video presentation to accompany our church's meditation on the Stations of the Cross. It is 13 minutes long, so you can take some time for your own meditation. The music is glorious and worth watching!



Scan Me



Staff Outing — Feed My Starving Children (FMSC)

For our staff outing on April 28th, we spent time serving at Feed My Starving Children in Tempe. This nonprofit organization is dedicated to providing nutritious, hand-packed meals to children in need around the world, relying on volunteers to help make a global impact. During our time there, we packed a total of 223 boxes—equivalent to 48,168 meals—helping bring hope and nourishment to communities facing food insecurity.

If you're interested in taking part in this mission outreach, you are invited to **SIGN UP** in the Welcome Center. **Victory Connections** invites you to join them on the **4th Wednesday of each month** from **9:00–11:00am** at Feed My Starving Children. Bus transportation is provided, departing at 8:00am. Whether you prefer to stand and pack meals or sit and help label, there's a role for everyone to make a meaningful impact.



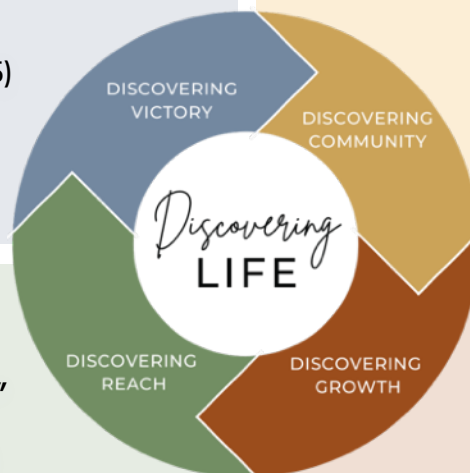
"Being transformed by our joyful and loving church"

- Sermon Series (p. 6)
- Holy Week Photos (p. 5, 7, 14, 15)



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

- Small Groups (p. 12)
- GriefShare Group (p. 16)
- Quilters Group (p. 9)



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

- Orchard: Africa Mission Trip (p. 4)
- Stephen Ministry (p. 8)
- Feed My Starving Children (p. 16)

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

- Prayer & Praise (p. 13)
- National Day of Prayer (p. 13)

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

Register online at:

<https://find.griefshare.org/groups/290648>

A program for help in your journey through grief after the death of a spouse, child, family member or friend. GriefShare is a special 13-week seminar and support group designed to help you rebuild your life after losing a loved one. 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 480-325-3410 |
suellenpalya@yahoo.com



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

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

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 above to fill out online.



Scan Me

NOISY OFFERING — MAY 30 & 31

Get ready to make some joyful noise! A Noisy Offering is a fun and meaningful way to give—everyone is invited to bring loose change (coins that clink and clang!) and even dollar bills to support a good cause. Even the smallest gifts can add up to make a big difference. All proceeds will benefit the LSS-SW Food Pantry right here on site—so let's give generously and make some noise!

VICTORY'S VISION STATEMENT



What is Victory Lutheran Church all about? It's wonderfully simple—we're all about Jesus! Step into our commons and you'll notice a new "Vision Panel." It's more than artwork on the wall; it's a window into the soul of our congregation, a reminder of why we gather, grow, and go.

A Joyful & Loving Community

You'll see those words first, and you can feel them the moment you walk through our doors. Each weekend—and online all week long—we carve out Gather Time (just 1 % of the week) to worship, pray, and encourage one another. The smiles, the music, the Scripture, the coffee and conversations in the courtyard—all of it points to the joy and love God keeps pouring into us.

Transformed & Deployed Disciples

The panel also celebrates Group Time—those living-room Bible studies, coffeeshop prayer huddles, and Wednesday-night gatherings where masks come off and faith goes deeper. When we invest 1 % of each month (1-2 hours per week) in authentic community, Christ forms His character in us and prepares us to bless our neighbors.

Sent to God's Mission Frontiers

Look a little farther and you'll notice photos from food banks to mission partners down the street and around the world. That's our Go Time—a mere 2 % of the year—where we step into God's bigger story, serve in Jesus' name, and watch Him change lives (ours included!).

Empowered by the Holy Spirit

Finally, the panel centers on God Time—investing at least 15 quiet minutes a day with an open Bible and an open heart. Those unhurried moments invite the Spirit to shape the other 23 hours and 45 minutes. Psalm 127:1 reminds us that unless the Lord builds, we labor in vain, so we begin with Him and let everything else flow from there.

The Vision Panel isn't asking for more of your schedule; it's inviting you into more of Jesus' life. Embrace "The 5 % Life," and watch God touch the other 95 %—your work, your family, your dreams, your everyday conversations.

Take a moment to linger by the panel. Let its stories spark fresh joy, fresh commitment, and fresh courage. Then join me—let's keep abiding in Christ, connecting in community, and sharing His love across the street and around the world. The adventure is just beginning!

Upcoming this Summer — Save the Date!

Summer Movie, June 8 @ 10:00am

Enjoy a free movie and popcorn—the movie has not yet been determined, but it will be an inspiring Christian film. Save the date and invite neighbor to come along!

Father's Day — June 20 & 21

Patriotic Picnic (Potluck), July 5 @ 12:00pm

We provide a selection of chilled beverages and live entertainment; you bring the food! Let's all celebrate the gift of freedom God has granted us in the USA.



Diamondbacks: Faith & Family Night, August 21 @ 6:40pm

Join the D-backs vs. Cincinnati Reds and hundreds of churches across Arizona at Chase Field for Faith & Family Night! Special music performance by Matthew West following the game. Including "All-You-Can-Eat-Seats" until the 7th inning. Sign-ups will begin in June.



VICTORY CONNECTIONS

Connecting People. Enjoying Life. Growing Faith.

MAY

EVERYONE WELCOME! INVITE YOUR FRIENDS!

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

Events This Month:

Tour of Sunshine Acres Children's Home (Off Site – FREE Bus)

Monday, May 11, 10:00 – 11:30 am (Bus leaves at 9:30 am), 3405 N Higley Rd, Mesa

Sunshine Acres provides stable Christian family-style homes for children whose families are unable to care for them due to hardship. The campus is organized like a small neighborhood of houses, each with live-in “parents” and about 10 children, offering the children long-term support, education, and a consistent, nurturing environment. The campus includes a chapel, a learning center (with a computer lab and library), livestock areas, a greenhouse, and an administration building, with an adjacent Thrift Store and Boutique. **Sign up by Sunday, May 10th.**



Dinner at The Vig in Dana Park (Off Site – No Bus)

Thursday, May 14, 4:30 pm, 1744 S Val Vista, Ste 5-101, Mesa

New in Mesa, with a "neighborhood" feel, offering starters, full dinners, soup, salads, sandwiches, and desserts, plus libations, with seating inside or out. **Sign up by Sunday, May 10th.**



Feed My Starving Children (Off Site – FREE Bus)

Wednesday, May 27, Packing Session 9:00-11:00 am (Bus leaves at 8:00 am)

1100 W Grove Parkway, Tempe

FMSC provides free children's meals distributed to schools, churches, orphanages and community centers around the world. 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.

Sign up by Sunday, May 24th.



Next Month:

The Wizard of Oz (Off Site – Bus Optional)

Friday, June 5, 7:30 pm (Bus leaves at 6:30 pm)

Hale Centre Theatre, 50 W Page Ave, Gilbert

Join Dorothy, Toto, and their friends Scarecrow, Tinman, and Cowardly Lion as they journey down the Yellow Brick Road to the magical Land of Oz! This cherished musical brings the classic story to life with all the iconic music you know and love from the legendary MGM film.

Tickets are \$45, and the bus is \$7. Sign up by Sunday, May 17th.

Pay \$52 if you are taking the bus, or \$45 if you're not taking the bus.



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



WORSHIP WITH US!
Saturdays 4pm
Sundays 8am with Communion
9:30am



WATCH US LIVE @ 9:30am

If you are unable to watch at that exact time, the service is available to watch on Facebook, YouTube and online at VictoryLutheran.com.

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