

Sermon Notes

Life Notes

Upcoming Week

PENTECOST WEEKEND



MAY 23 & 24, 2026

The Day Heaven Broke In John 16:7-15



Todd Mathison, Lead Pastor
Denton Bennet, Associate Pastor
Dirk Duhlstine, Chaplain
Kristin Holton Prouty, Director of Worship & Music



Connect with us!



Pentecost: The Day Heaven Broke In John 16:7-15; Acts 2:1-21

Opener:

Have you ever heard someone say, "You'll thank me for this later"? What was the situation, and did they turn out to be right?

Go Deeper: *(Exploring the Bible)*

1. In John 16:7, Jesus says, "It is for your good that I am going away." Why would that have been hard for the disciples to understand?
2. What does Jesus promise will happen when He sends the Advocate, the Holy Spirit?
3. Read John 16:13. What does it mean that the Holy Spirit is "the Spirit of truth" who guides us into truth?
4. In Acts 2, what changes when the Holy Spirit is poured out on the whole Church?

Live It: *(Applying to Our Lives)*

1. Where do you need the comfort of knowing Jesus has not abandoned you, but is present with you by the Holy Spirit?
2. What helps you stay rooted in Scripture so you can better recognize God's voice and leading?
3. Have you ever felt prompted to call, encourage, pray for, forgive, or notice someone? What happened?
4. How can we discern whether a prompting is from the Holy Spirit and not simply our own thought, fear, pride, or emotion?

Daily Bible Readings (May 24-30)

Sun:	John 16:7-15	The Helper Comes
Mon:	Acts 2:1-21	Spirit Poured Out
Tues:	Joel 2:28-32	All Flesh
Wed:	Exodus 31:1-6	Spirit-Given Skill
Thurs:	Judges 6:11-16	Called in Weakness
Fri:	Romans 8:9-17	Spirit Within
Sat:	Galatians 5:16-25	Spirit-Led Life

Sunday, May 24

PENTECOST SUNDAY

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

Monday, May 25 - MEMORIAL DAY

FOOD PANTRY CLOSED
OFFICE CLOSED



Tuesday, May 26

7pm AA Men's Meeting, C5

Wednesday, May 27

9am Feed My Starving Children (off-site)
Bus leaves @ 8am
9-11:30am Food Pantry
10am Men's Bible Study, LR
12:30pm Al-Anon, C4

Thursday, May 28

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

Friday, May 29

OFFICE CLOSED

Saturday, May 30

NOISY OFFERING!

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

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

LET'S MAKE A JOYFUL NOISE!

NOISY OFFERING

MAY 30 & 31

MISSION/MINISTRY FOCUS:

FOOD PANTRY



Victory Lutheran Church

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Password: Victory_46

Victory's Weekly Bulletin

In case you missed any of the stories or would like to read again, you can find at:

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)

GOD TIME: Pentecost

Todd Mathison, Lead Pastor

"It is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Advocate will not come to you; but if I go, I will send Him to you."
— John 16:7

Have you ever heard someone say, "You'll thank me for this later"? Usually, that means you are not going to thank them right now. Something hard is coming. Something you would not have chosen. Something that may only make sense later.

That is what Jesus tells His disciples. "It is for your good that I am going away." And that had to sound wrong. How could it be good for Jesus to leave? They had walked with Him, listened to Him, watched Him heal the sick, forgive sinners, and calm storms. How could His leaving possibly be better?

But Jesus was not abandoning them. He was going to the cross for them. Through death for them. Out of the grave for them. Back to the Father for them. And from there, He would send the Holy Spirit. That is Pentecost. The promise kept.

The Holy Spirit is not a mood, a feeling, or a little religious boost when life gets heavy. He is God Himself, bringing the forgiveness, comfort, truth, and presence of Jesus into our hearts. He leads us back to the Word. He reminds us of Christ's promises. He corrects us when we drift. He comforts us when we are tired. And sometimes, He puts someone on our heart and nudges us to call, pray, forgive, encourage, or simply notice.

You may retire from a job. But you do not retire from being used by God. So today, open the Word. Pray honestly. Take one faithful step. Jesus has not left you alone. By His Spirit, He is still with you.



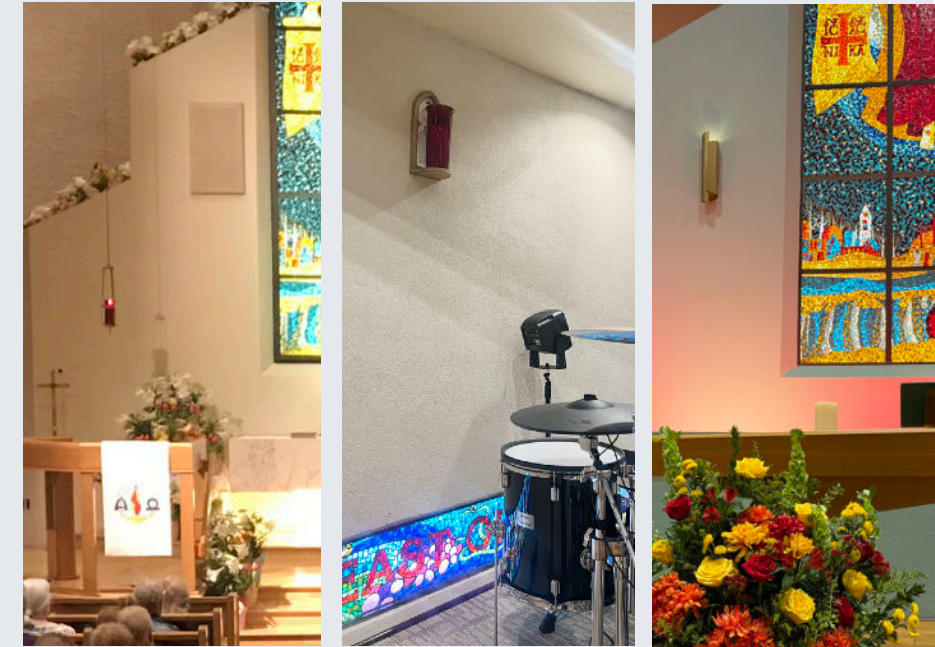
GATHER TIME: The Presence of God

"Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place!" (Genesis 28:16)

When Victory Lutheran was built nearly fifty years ago, its worship space reflected the modern-traditional style of the time, including the sacred furnishings that shaped the chancel. During the recent renovation, the goal was to update the Worship Center for today's needs while honoring that original foundation. As the project grew in scope, some furnishings had to be completed in stages. The altar and pulpit came first, followed by the baptismal font, lectern, Paschal candle, and later the cross.

One element, however, has been present from the beginning: the sanctuary lamp, or eternal flame. Rooted in the Old Testament tabernacle, this light symbolizes God's abiding presence. The original lamp hung from a long chain, and after the renovation a temporary fixture was placed on the wall with hopes of eventually replacing it with something more fitting.

This Pentecost weekend, as we celebrate the Spirit who is always with us, we dedicate our new sanctuary lamp. May this light—linking our tradition with our mission in a changing world—stand as a steady reminder of God's presence as we look toward the future of Victory.



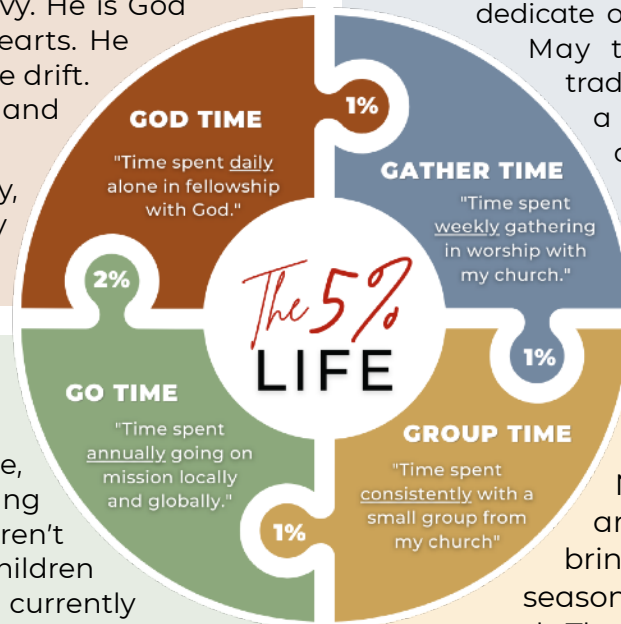
GO TIME: Victory Connections @ Sunshine Acres

Judy Bailey, Victory Connections Coordinator

A group of us from Victory recently did a tour of Sunshine Acres Children's Home, arranged by Victory Connections. It's about ten minutes from Church, and an amazing place. They provide long-term Christian family homes for children whose parents aren't able to care for them. They have 10 homes, each with live-in "parents" and up to 10 children ages 4 to 18, who can stay through high school, and sometimes college. There are currently about 70 children in residence. It is a community neighborhood of homes, a chapel, a learning center (with a computer lab, library and craft room), medical clinic, livestock areas, a greenhouse, auto repair shop, an administration building, and of course, the Thrift Store and Boutique (which many of us patronize regularly!). Sunshine Acres relies entirely on voluntary donations of funds, goods and services – they receive no government money, and do not solicit.

We were inspired to ask how we could help. It turns out they have all sorts of volunteer opportunities depending on interests and abilities. *Victory Connections* has decided to sponsor **Crafts with Kids** on the **first Tuesdays of each month** over the summer (June, July and August). The project and all supplies will be provided. We will be taking the Victory bus – for FREE (leaving at 9:30am and back about 11:30am). Participation does not require standing. No experience or talent is necessary. There is no cost. So please **SIGN UP** in the Welcome Center – everyone is welcome – we need enough adults to help all the kids who would like to participate. You will have a great morning with friends, and give kids who need it a bit of extra love and attention.

If you have questions, please contact:
JudithMBailey@hotmail.com or 480-462-9521



GROUP TIME: Children's Church End of the Year Celebration!

Next Sunday, **May 31st**, our Children's Church kids are invited to come to church in their pajamas and bring a favorite snack to share as we close out the season with a little celebration! We will gather together to watch *The Story of Jesus* — a simple and sweet way to finish the year well, as we take a break over the summer months.

For more details, be sure to stop by the Children's Church room and speak with Heather.

And a word of thanks is in order!

Heather & Cee Martinez and their family faithfully showed up every Sunday this year to serve our youngest members, even when the numbers were small. That kind of quiet, steady commitment is no small thing. It takes a special person to serve wholeheartedly, whether there are two kids in the room or none at all.

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

