



WHEN GRATITUDE GIVES WAY TO HOPE

"Praise the Lord, my soul, and forget not all His benefits." — Psalm 103:2

Dear Victory Family,

As November arrives, I've been thinking about the connection between gratitude and hope. I've noticed something in my own life: **When I stop paying attention to what I'm thankful for, hope can begin to feel far, far away.**

It's easy to get caught up in what's NOT going well, isn't it? We worry about what might happen, dwell on what hasn't worked out, or become so focused on problems that we lose sight of God's blessings. I've seen that happen in families, in our communities, and yes, even in the church. Sometimes we become so focused on what's wrong that we have a hard time seeing what's right.

I understand that. Life brings real challenges. And being thankful doesn't mean pretending otherwise. But here's what I'm learning: **Gratitude has a way of opening our eyes to God's faithfulness. And remembering God's faithfulness renews our hope.**

(continued on pg. 2)

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

**Sunday, November 15
11:00am**

THANKSGIVING EVE WORSHIP SERVICE

November 25 @ 4pm

Thanksgiving dinner served
immediately following
worship. Tickets \$5.00

RYAN BARLOW

Ryan has been selected to be presented to the congregation to be considered as the new Associate Pastor at Victory Lutheran Church.

(Read more on pg. 2-3)



Todd Mathison, Lead Pastor
Dirk Duhlstine, Chaplain
VictoryLutheran.com

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





YOU'RE INVITED!
ANNUAL MEETING / Q&A SESSIONS

Victory's Annual Meeting will be held on **Sunday, November 15, at 11am**. Join us as we discuss the 2027 proposed budget, ministry plan, and ballot. We'll also take a look back at the past year with a special Year-in-Review slideshow, capturing many of the events, ministries, and special moments that made this year at Victory so meaningful.

Want to learn more or have questions about the upcoming year? **Q&A sessions** will be held in room B7 immediately following each worship service on **Saturday, November 7, and Sunday, November 8**.

This is a great opportunity to learn more, ask questions, and share in the conversation as we look forward to all that God has in store for Victory in the year ahead!



QUESTIONS ABOUT ANNUAL MEETING REPORTS?

Q&A Sessions

Saturday:
Nov 7, 5-5:30pm

Sunday:
**Nov 8
9-9:30am & 10:30-11am**
(Room B7)

Budget & Ballot available starting Nov 1 at the Welcome Desk



ASSOCIATE PASTOR SEARCH UPDATE

Dear Victory Church Family,

We are grateful for the Lord's leading and for the faithful work of our Call Committee. The Church Council has unanimously approved presenting Ryan Barlow to the congregation as a candidate for Associate Pastor at Victory Lutheran Church.

Ryan will preach at our weekend worship services on November 7 and 8. Please join us for a special Q&A with Ryan on Sunday, November 8, at 10:45 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. It will be a welcome opportunity to meet him and hear about his heart for ministry.

At our November 15th Annual Meeting, the congregation will vote on whether to extend a call to Ryan as our Associate Pastor. Please keep Ryan and his family, and our congregation, in your prayers as we get to know him and seek the Lord's guidance together.



(continued from cover)

WHEN GRATITUDE GIVES WAY TO HOPE

One practice I've begun is naming ten things each day for which I'm grateful. Some are big. Most are surprisingly ordinary. A conversation with someone I love. An unexpected kindness. A moment of laughter. The privilege of serving alongside the wonderful people of Victory. And above all, the grace of God that meets me every morning.

As we celebrate Thanksgiving this month, I'd encourage you to give it a try. Name ten things you're thankful for. Better yet, invite everyone around your Thanksgiving table to share a few of their own. You might be surprised at what happens when gratitude becomes the focus of the conversation.

Victory family, we have so much for which to be thankful. As we celebrate fifty years of God's faithfulness to this congregation, may grateful hearts remind us of God's goodness, renew our hope, and give us confidence to follow wherever he leads.

With a grateful heart and great hope for what God has ahead of us,

Pastor Todd Mathison
Pastor Todd Mathison

We Count People Because People Count

"Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it." —1 Corinthians 12:27

	2026	2025
Average Weekly Attendance (for the month of October)	380	391
YTD Average Weekly Offerings (as of October 25, 2026)	\$18,692	\$17,768

A LETTER FROM RYAN BARLOW

HELLO MY BROTHERS AND SISTERS IN CHRIST,

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ! It is with great joy and humility that I get to introduce myself to you as we enter into this time of discernment together. My name is Ryan Barlow, and I currently serve in a full-time capacity, leading Christ Greenfield Lutheran Church's campus in East Mesa, Arizona. I have lived in Arizona since 1986, and grew up in Gilbert, Arizona in an LDS (Mormon) home. I have been married to my wife Ashley for 9 years. We have two wonderful boys, Jonah (9) and Micah (3). Apart from enjoying time with my precious family, I enjoy reading, writing, painting, drawing, photography, cooking, smoking meat, and spending time with family, friends and neighbors.

I was called into full-time ministry 5 years ago, at which time I began my seminary adventure with Sioux Falls Seminary (now Kairos University), connected to Luther House of Study. I graduated with an MDiv in 2025, and have continued to joyfully serve Christ's church body since then.



I am grateful for the invitation to learn more about Victory Lutheran Church, your culture, faith and hopes for the future. I recognize that the process of considering a pastoral call is an important one, and I am approaching this process prayerfully asking the Holy Spirit to guide all of us along the way.

My journey toward pastoral ministry has been shaped by God's Word and His people, but also by so many experiences – both difficult and joyful - that Jesus has carried me through. Growing up in a Mormon home and community meant that I was subject to the crushing weight of not only God's Law, but also the endless rules of the Mormon institution. I never felt like I could do enough to earn God's love or favor. Guilt, shame and the fear of

divine punishment were constantly dragging me down into dark despair.

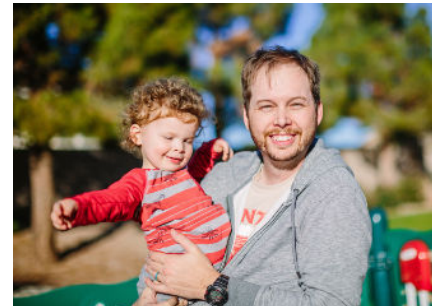
It wasn't until I was in my 30's, through a conversation with my wife (and a copy of the Book of Concord), that I was introduced to the pure, saving grace that comes through the gospel of Jesus Christ. Through worship, prayer, scripture, sacraments, and the encouragement of faithful people, I have found truth and freedom in the gift of God's grace.

Our Lutheran understanding that we are saved by grace through faith alone, apart from works, is central to my faith, ministry and daily mission to be the hands and feet of Jesus in the world. Christ's message of hope, His gospel, is applicable to every season of life for all people. It has been an honor to proclaim Christ crucified and risen for sinners for these past 5 years.

As I learn more about Victory Lutheran Church, I am interested in continuing to discover what makes Victory unique – the traditions you cherish, the ministries that are meaningful to you, and the ways you share Christ's love with your neighbors.

My understanding of pastoral ministry is deeply rooted in the belief that we are called to walk together as Jesus leads us. A pastor has the responsibility and privilege of preaching God's Word, administering the sacraments, providing pastoral care, teaching the faith and equipping the saints (all of you) for ministry.

As we prayerfully consider the possibility of serving together in full-time pastoral ministry, I hope we will have many opportunities to build relationships as we learn about one another, ask honest questions, and share our hopes and expectations. I trust that God will guide us as we prayerfully seek to understand whether this is the right partnership for Victory Lutheran Church and my own calling to serve God and His people.



Grace, peace and hope are yours in Jesus,

Ryan Barlow

VICTORY LUTHERAN PRESENTS

50th Anniversary Concert Season

As Victory Lutheran Church marks its 50th Anniversary, our 2026-2027 Concert Series explores the themes of past, present, and future through inspiring performances by guest artists, local ensembles, and our own choir and handbell choirs. Join us as we honor our rich heritage, celebrate the blessings of today, and look forward with hope to God's continuing work among us.

All concerts are at 3pm on Sundays and are followed by a reception. Invite a friend and celebrate this special anniversary season with us!

Songs of a New World: American Music

Keith Kelly, saxophone and Kristin Holton Prouty, organ

Sunday, November 15, 3pm

Experience the rich and varied soundscape of American music through the unique pairing of tenor saxophone and organ. Songs of a New World showcases the remarkable versatility of this cross-genre duo, featuring music that spans classical, jazz, hymn-inspired, and folk traditions. Keith Kelly and Kristin Holton Prouty bring together bold artistry and expressive collaboration in a program that explores both familiar melodies and fresh musical voices.

Highlights include newly commissioned works by American composer Andrew Ardizzioia, written specifically for Kristin and Keith and blending beloved hymn tunes with jazz-inspired techniques and improvisatory color. The program also features James Sclater's arrangements of American songs alongside adaptations of well-known works by Aaron Copland, celebrating the breadth, spirit, and enduring influence of America's musical heritage. Join us for an afternoon of captivating music that is both innovative and deeply rooted in tradition.



December 15

Once Upon a Noel - VLC Choir & Bells

February 7

Valley Chamber Chorale - Christopher Samuel, conductor



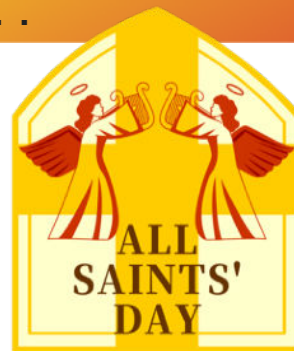
LEARN MORE

**FREE
ADMISSION!**



ALL SAINTS DAY — IN REMEMBRANCE . . .

Gary Armstrong	Elonete Froese	Martha Latch	Roxie Silver
Ruthie Beutel	Mel Frueh	Luther Lerseth	Carol Struck
Marjorie Dixon	Doy Gillespie	Arlene McLean	Ron Swalboski
Eric Duhlstine	Mary Goodwin	Richard Meyer	Carol Thimjon
Patrick Duffy	Carl Halker	Delores Mindrup	Fran Toombs
Margaret Ehnert	Warren Hazen	Bonnie Mund	Jerold Verner
Marilyn Farrar	Randy Horn	David Reurink	Bud Vosler
David Fauss	Blaine Janz	Nancy Robertson	Alan Williams
Janice Forbord	Barbara Diane Kent Venema	Linda Schmidt	Oscar Williams
Lois Fowler	Keith Kladnik	Joel Schneider	
Willis Friberg	Judy Konop	Daniel Skelly	



In remembrance of our loved ones, the weekend of October 31-November 1 we honor those who have "gone home to the Lord" within the past year.

HEBREWS: JESUS IS GREATER—AND ENOUGH Begins November 2, Meets Mondays @ 10am Led by Pastor Todd Mathison

When life feels uncertain, it's easy to drift toward whatever seems strongest or safest. The book of Hebrews speaks to that kind of moment with a steady invitation: Fix your eyes on Jesus.

In our Hebrews Bible study, we'll see how the story of Scripture leads to Christ. The promises, priests, sacrifices, and worship of the Old Testament were gifts from God, each pointing toward the One who would fulfill them. Jesus is the Son through whom God has spoken, our great High Priest, and the once-for-all sacrifice for sin. He doesn't simply belong at the top of a list. He is enough for us.

Hebrews also understands that faith can feel thin. It warns us about drifting, but it doesn't leave us with shame or a list of things to prove. It calls us to draw near to Jesus, who knows our weakness and gives us mercy and grace.

As we study, we can take time with the Scripture, bring our questions, and listen for what God is saying. Then, in the ordinary moments of the week, we can practice holding fast to Christ: trusting His promise of forgiveness, gathering with one another, and serving our neighbors in love.

I hope you'll join us for this study. Whether you come with confidence, questions, or a weary heart, there is room to learn and receive together. As Victory looks ahead with gratitude, we remember where our confidence rests: Jesus Christ, faithful yesterday, today, and forever.



REGISTER

Sign up in the Welcome Center or scan the QR code above.

REMEMBERING GOD'S FAITHFULNESS

The history of a congregation is more than a list of dates; it is a testimony to God's faithfulness through ordinary people. This sermon series remembers the saints, sacrifices, relationships, and acts of service through which Christ has cared for generations at Victory. Gratitude for the past becomes trust for the future because the God who carried His Church yesterday remains faithful today.

October 31 & November 1, 2026

Surrounded by Witnesses — John 11:17-27

At Lazarus's grave, Jesus speaks resurrection hope into the tears of Martha and all who grieve. On All Saints Sunday, we remember those who helped shape Victory's life and witness, yet our hope is not finally in their faithfulness but in Christ, who is the resurrection and the life. We honor those who came before us by trusting the same Savior and continuing the race He has given us.

November 7 & 8, 2026 — Guest Preacher, Ryan Barlow

One Generation to Another — Mark 10:13-16

Jesus welcomes children, blesses them, and shows that the kingdom is received as a gift rather than achieved as an accomplishment. Victory's story has been handed on through worship, teaching, prayer, mentoring, and everyday conversations about God's goodness. In a congregation centered on the second half of life, one of our greatest callings is to place the faith into the hands and hearts of those who come after us. You don't want to miss this weekend! Ryan Barlow, the new Associate Pastor recommendation, will be preaching.

November 14 & 15, 2026 — A Caring, Connected Community — John 13:1-17

Across fifty years, people have found at Victory more than a worship service; they have found brothers and sisters who pray, visit, listen, serve, and carry one another through life. Christian community is never perfect, but Christ's love keeps drawing us toward patience, forgiveness, and practical care. We give thanks for the ministries and relationships through which God has made His mercy tangible.

November 21 & 22, 2026 — Do Not Forget His Benefits — Luke 17:11-19



LET'S GIVE THANKS TOGETHER

NOVEMBER 25

Thanksgiving Eve

Worship @ 4pm

THANKSGIVING DINNER

TO FOLLOW @ 5PM

TICKET COST \$5 - "DINE IN" OR "TO GO"

ALL PROCEEDS FROM TICKET SALES
WILL BENEFIT THE FOOD PANTRY.

 VICTORY
CHURCH

Ten lepers receive mercy, but one turns back to give thanks at Jesus' feet. Before planning the next chapter, Victory pauses to remember how Christ has forgiven, sustained, and renewed His people through fifty years of change, loss, and new beginnings. Gratitude turns memory into trust because the Savior who has been faithful will complete the work He began.

THANKSGIVING EVE: Wednesday, November 25, 2026

The Giver and His Gifts — Luke 12:13-21

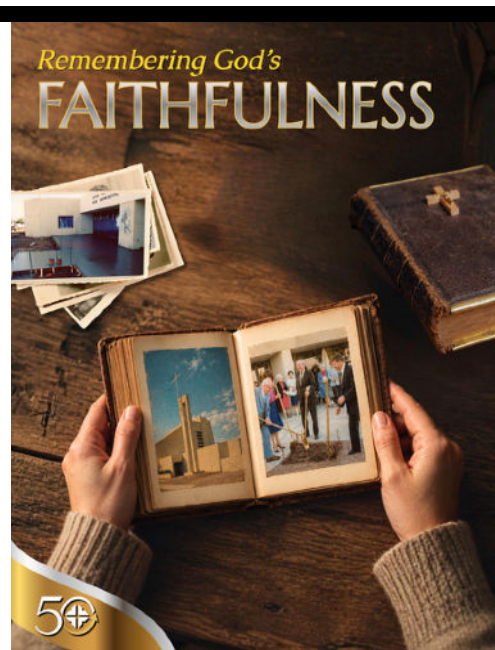
Prosperity can make people forget the Giver, while hardship can make them overlook the gifts still present. Scripture calls us to remember the Lord, whose grace sustains body and soul and whose greatest gift is Jesus Christ. **Thanksgiving dinner to follow. Tickets on sale for \$5.00 beginning November 7-22. Proceeds to benefit the Food Pantry.**

ADVENT SERMON SERIES: GOD MAKES HIS HOME WITH US

Advent tells the story of the God who refuses to remain distant. In Jesus Christ, God comes to make His home among anxious, wounded, waiting people and to give them hope, peace, joy, and love. This sermon series reminds us that God has already come to dwell with us in Christ.

November 28 & 29, 2026 — Hope Has A Home — Luke 2:25-38

Advent begins in darkness, but not in despair, because God has promised a Child whose light no darkness can overcome. Christian hope is not wishful thinking about better circumstances; it is confidence in Jesus, who has entered our world and claimed us as His own. The Church becomes a home of hope when people can bring their fear and grief into the light of Christ's promise.



OKTOBERFEST CELEBRATION — OCTOBER 24, 2026





Because of you,
life doesn't stop.

**BLOOD
DRIVE**

VICTORY LUTHERAN CHURCH BLOOD DRIVE

DATE: THURS, NOVEMBER 12, 2026

TIME: 9:00-11:00AM

**VITALANT BLOODMOBILE
5946 E. UNIVERSITY DR., MESA**

For more information or to schedule a
donation call 877-25-VITAL or visit vitalant.org.

To reserve your donation time,

Sign up online at vitalant.org

Enter code: **VLC**

Or scan the QR code.



Donate November 1-22 and receive a
Winnie-the-Pooh Tee!*

You'll also receive entry to win one of
three \$10,000 gift cards in our
Shopping Giveaway.

**Donor Rewards program opt-in required.



**ADVANCE
APPOINTMENTS**
are encouraged.

vitalantSM

IMPACT OF VITALANT NETWORK

**SIGN UP
ONLINE**



1.6 MILLION
DONATIONS A YEAR



PROVIDING BLOOD AND SPECIAL
SERVICES TO PATIENTS IN ABOUT
900 healthcare facilities

MORE THAN
60,000
**BLOOD
DRIVES**
ANNUALLY



Between community-hosted events
and about 115 donation centers

COLLECTING



**10%
OF THE
BLOOD
SUPPLY**

VICTORY IS TURNING 50!

WE WANT TO HEAR YOUR STORY

We know there are many stories over the last 50 years, and we want to hear yours!

In 2027, Victory Lutheran Church will celebrate 50 years of ministry—50 years of worship, service, fellowship, faith, and lives touched by God through this congregation.

As we prepare to celebrate this milestone, we want to hear from you. Over the coming months, we hope to share stories in The Pulse that help tell the story of Victory—not simply through dates and events, but through the experiences of the people who have called Victory home.

WHAT DOES VICTORY MEAN TO YOU?

Perhaps there is a moment you have never forgotten, a ministry that made a difference in your life, a friendship that began here, or a time when the people of Victory supported you or your family.

You might consider questions like:

- ▶ What is your most meaningful memory of Victory?
- ▶ How has Victory made an impact on your life or faith?
- ▶ Is there a person, ministry, worship service, event, or experience at Victory that holds a special place in your heart?
- ▶ Maybe an impactful experience or testimony connected to Victory that you would be willing to share?
- ▶ How has God worked through Victory or its ministries in your life?
- ▶ What does Victory Lutheran Church mean to you?

Your story does not have to be long or dramatic. Sometimes the simplest memories say the most about the ministry God has done through this church over the past 50 years.

If you have a story to share, please send it to:
hello@victorylutheran.com

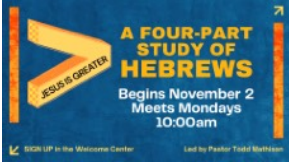
Photos connected to your story are welcome, too!

As we look toward Victory's 50th anniversary, we look forward to celebrating not only where we have been, but the many ways God has worked through this congregation and its people.

Thank you for helping us tell the story of 50 years of ministry at Victory!

Blessings,
Victory Lutheran Church



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
<p>1</p> <p>COMMUNION WEEKEND</p> <p>8:30-11am Coffee & Fellowship, FH 8am Worship & Communion, WC 9:30am Worship, WC 10:45am Discovering Victory, B7</p> 	<p>2</p> <p>VOTING SITE 9AM-5PM</p> <p>9-11:30am Food Pantry 10am-12pm Hebrews Study, WC 12:30-2:30pm GriefShare, CH</p> 	<p>3</p> <p>VOTING SITE 6AM-7PM</p> <p>6:30pm "Seekers" Small Group, B7 7pm AA Men's Meeting, C5</p>	<p>4</p> <p>9-11:30am Food Pantry 10am Men's Bible Study, C1 12:30pm Al-Anon, C4 1-4pm Stephen Ministry Training, B12 1pm Bell Choir Rehearsal, WC 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal, WC</p>
<p>8</p> <p>8:30-11am Coffee & Fellowship, FH 8am Worship & Communion, WC 9am Budget Q&A Session, B5 9:30am Worship, WC 10:30am Budget Q&A Session, B5 10:45 Ryan Barlow Q&A Session, FH 12pm Discovering Victory, B7</p>	<p>9</p> <p>9-11:30am Food Pantry 10am-12pm Hebrews Study, FH 12:30-2:30pm GriefShare, CH</p>	<p>10</p> <p>10:00am Esperanza Bible Study, FS 1:30pm Mary Bible Study, meet in home 4:30pm Dinner at Red White & Brew (off-site) 7pm AA Men's Meeting, C5</p>	<p>11 VETERANS DAY</p> <p>9-11:30am Food Pantry 10am Men's Bible Study, C1 12:30pm Al-Anon, C4 1-4pm Stephen Ministry Training, B12 2pm Sunshine Acres (off-site) Bus leaves @ 1:15pm 1pm Bell Choir Rehearsal, WC 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal, WC</p>
<p>15</p> <p>8:30-11am Coffee & Fellowship, FH 8am Worship & Communion, WC 9:30am Worship, WC 11am Congregation Meeting, WC 3pm Concert, WC</p>  <p>SHOEBOX DEADLINE!</p>	<p>16</p> <p>9-11:30am Food Pantry 10am-12pm Hebrews Study, FH 12:30-2:30pm GriefShare, CH</p>	<p>17</p> <p>8:30am-2:30pm Quilters, FH 6:30pm "Seekers" Small Group, B7 7pm AA Men's Meeting, C5</p>	<p>18</p> <p>8:30-11:30am Quilters, FH 9-11:30am Food Pantry 10am Men's Bible Study, C1 12:30pm Al-Anon, C4 1-4pm Stephen Ministry Training, B12 1pm Bell Choir Rehearsal, WC 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal, WC</p>
<p>22</p> <p>8:30-11am Coffee & Fellowship, FH 8am Worship & Communion, WC 9:30am Worship, WC</p>	<p>23</p> <p>9-11:30am Food Pantry 10am-12pm Hebrews Study, FH 12:30-2:30pm GriefShare "Surviving the Holidays", CH</p> 	<p>24</p> <p>1:30-3:00pm Book Club, B7 3pm Council Meeting, B7 7pm AA Men's Meeting, C5</p> 	<p>25 THANKSGIVING EVE</p> <p>9-11:30am Food Pantry 10am Men's Bible Study, C1 12:30pm Al-Anon, C4 1pm Bell Choir Rehearsal, WC 4pm Thanksgiving Eve Svc, WC 5pm Thanksgiving Dinner, FH 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal, WC</p>
<p>29 FIRST DAY OF ADVENT</p> <p>NOISY OFFERING & BLESSING OF THE SHOEBOXES</p> <p>NEW MEMBER COMMISSIONING</p> <p>8:30-11am Coffee & Fellowship, FH 8am Worship & Communion, WC 9:30am Worship, WC</p>	<p>30</p> <p>9-11:30am Food Pantry 10am Christmas Decorating the Church 12:30-2:30pm GriefShare, CH</p>	<p>1 - DEC</p> <p>7pm AA Men's Meeting, C5</p>	<p>2 - DEC</p> <p>9-11:30am Food Pantry 10am Men's Bible Study, C1 12:30pm Al-Anon, C4 1-4pm Stephen Ministry Training, B12 1pm Bell Choir Rehearsal, WC 4pm Advent Communion Svc, WC 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal, WC</p>

THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
5 9:30am Women's Ministry Leadership Meeting, C1 10am Prayer Group, B7 11am Al-Anon Meeting, C5 11:30am-1:00pm Stephen Ministers, C4	6 OFFICE CLOSED	7 8am Men's Bible Study, C5 4pm Worship, WC 5pm Budget Q&A Session, B5
12 9am-12pm Vitalant Blood Drive 10am Prayer Group, B7 11am Al-Anon Meeting, C5 	13 OFFICE CLOSED	14 8am Men's Bible Study, C5 4pm Worship, WC 5pm Shoebox Packing Party, FH 
19 7am Men's Breakfast Fellowship @ IHOP (off-site) 10am Prayer Group, B7 11am Al-Anon Meeting, C5 11:30am-1:30pm Stephen Ministers, C4	20 OFFICE CLOSED 6pm Orchard: Africa Zoolights (off-site) Bus leaves @ 5:30pm 	21 8am Men's Bible Study, C5 4pm Worship, WC
26 THANKSGIVING DAY OFFICE CLOSED 11am Al-Anon Meeting, C5 	27 OFFICE CLOSED	28 NOISY OFFERING & BLESSING OF THE SHOEBOXES NEW MEMBER COMMISSIONING 8am Men's Bible Study, C5 4pm Worship, WC

3 - DEC

9:30am Women's Ministry Leadership Meeting, C1
 10am Prayer Group, B7
 11am Al-Anon Meeting, C5
 11:30am-1:00pm Stephen Ministers, C4

ANNUAL *Coffee Drive*

Please bring your donations to the counter in the Fellowship Hall.
 Thank you for keeping our coffee free of charge.

**Folgers brand preferred / Decaf*


DECEMBER EVENTS**December 2**

Advent Communion Service, 4pm

December 3

Barleen's Holiday Show (off-site), 5:30pm

December 8, 10, 15, 17

Christmas Lights Bus Tour, 5:30pm

December 12

Christmas Luncheon, 11am

December 13

Christmas Concert
 VLC Choir & Bells, 3pm

December 24

Christmas Eve Worship
 1, 3, 5, 7pm
 9pm with Communion

December 25

Christmas Day Worship
 10am with Communion

**YTD STATEMENTS**

Year-to-Date Statements will be mailed out early November. If you have corrections, please contact Heidi Somers so that we may fix them before the end of the year. Thank you!

hsomers@victorylutheran.com

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

PIZZA & PACKING PARTY!

ALL ARE INVITED!

SAT, NOV 14, 5PM

We will pack & pray over the boxes.

Bring 10-20 items to help fill the boxes, as you are able.

Sign up at the Welcome Center

Operation Christmas Child October 24-November 15, 2026

This wonderful ministry where we here at Victory Lutheran Church pack shoeboxes for children in need around the world. Pencils, markers, toys toothbrushes and other school supplies are always greatly appreciated. Be sure to pack and return your boxes by November 15th.

Pizza & Packing Party! Saturday, November 14 @ 5pm

We are asking each person to bring 10-20 items to help fill the boxes together. Items needed: Toys, toothbrushes, school supplies, t-shirts, etc. and monetary donations to cover shipping welcome too. **Sorry no food, no toothpaste, soap or liquid items allowed.** If you can't bring items join us anyway to pack boxes, pray over them for God's little ones and enjoy some pizza.

Remember every shoebox is delivered in Jesus Name. Let's take the message of the Gospel to the ends of the earth!

Marcia Hurry, Volunteer Coordinator
mhurry.up@hotmail.com

Bring your change!
NOISY OFFERING
NOV. 28 & 29

Proceeds to
Operation Christmas Child
"Shoebox" Ministry

Noisy Offering - November 28 & 29

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 to benefit the "shoebox" ministry —so let's give generously and make some noise!

GRIEF SHARE

GriefShare Group

Meets Mondays, 12:30-2:30pm

Griefshare is a special weekly 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 want to help you through the difficult days ahead. Each session stands alone, so you may drop in anytime.

Register at: find.griefshare.org/groups/301276

Grieving a death?
Holidays can be hard.

GriefShare
Surviving
the Holidays

Surviving the Holidays Special 1-Day Seminar November 23, 12:30-2:30pm

"I just want to hibernate through this season, but I keep being invited to events."

"She always decorated the tree. I just can't bring myself to put one up this year."

The holidays present unique challenges for people who are grieving. With Surviving the Holidays, you can receive support, understanding, and the tools to navigate through it.

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



Christmas Lights Bus Tours Merry and Bright!

December 8, 10, 15, 17 @ 5:30pm

Join us as we tour some beautiful residential light displays! The bus will leave Victory at 5:30pm. Seating is limited to 28 seats on the bus. Cost \$5.00. This popular tour fills up fast, so be sure to make your reservation. Please pay when you sign up at the Welcome Desk.



ANNUAL CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON

Saturday, December 12, 11:00am

Joel Finnesgard, Guest Speaker

All of Victory is warmly invited to the Annual Christmas Luncheon on December 12th, as we come together to celebrate the birth of our Savior in a spirit of fellowship, worship, and giving!

This special gathering will feature guest speaker Joel Finnesgard, a seasoned trumpeter. This will be a time of celebrating Jesus' birth in a unique setting of instrumental music. There will be opportunity for audience singing. The music will include a blend of familiar Christmas carols, and a few new Christmas selections in an easy listening style. 1999 was the beginning of *Sound of the Trumpet* and as of April 2026 has come full circle after a season as *Stones Cry* (a family worship team). Joel and his wife, June, continue in the ministry traveling throughout much of this great country. More information and concert dates can be found at joelfinnesgard.com. A free-will offering will be received for *Sound of the Trumpet*.

In the spirit of global compassion, *Fair Trade* items will be available for purchase—perfect for meaningful Christmas gifts that support artisans around the world. And to add a touch of festive fun, we'll hold a raffle! If you feel led to contribute, we welcome donations of new or homemade gifts.

Catered lunch

Tickets \$15.00

On Sale: Nov. 21 - Dec. 6

Sponsored by

VLC Women's Ministry



Advent Communion | Wednesday, December 2, 4pm

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

Daily Hope —A Simple Way to Share Encouragement

One of the blessings of ministry today is that encouragement can reach people far beyond the walls of our church. A short devotion, a Scripture verse, or a timely word of hope can meet someone right where they are — at home, at work, in a waiting room, or during a difficult season. At Victory, we have a simple and meaningful way to do just that. It is called **Daily Hope**.

Daily Hope is a short devotional message shared throughout the week to encourage faith, point people to Scripture, and remind us that God's promises are for everyday life. It is one of the ways Victory shares the good news of Jesus not only with our congregation, but also with friends, neighbors, family members, and anyone who may need encouragement.

In our church-wide survey, we learned that **33% of respondents were not familiar with Daily Hope**. That tells us we have a wonderful opportunity to make this ministry more visible and invite more people to receive it.



Subscribe by texting *victory* to 888-897-5573

And here is something simple to remember: **sharing is outreach**. When you forward a Daily Hope devotion, share a post, invite a friend to subscribe, or tell someone about something that encouraged you, you are helping the message of Christ reach another person.

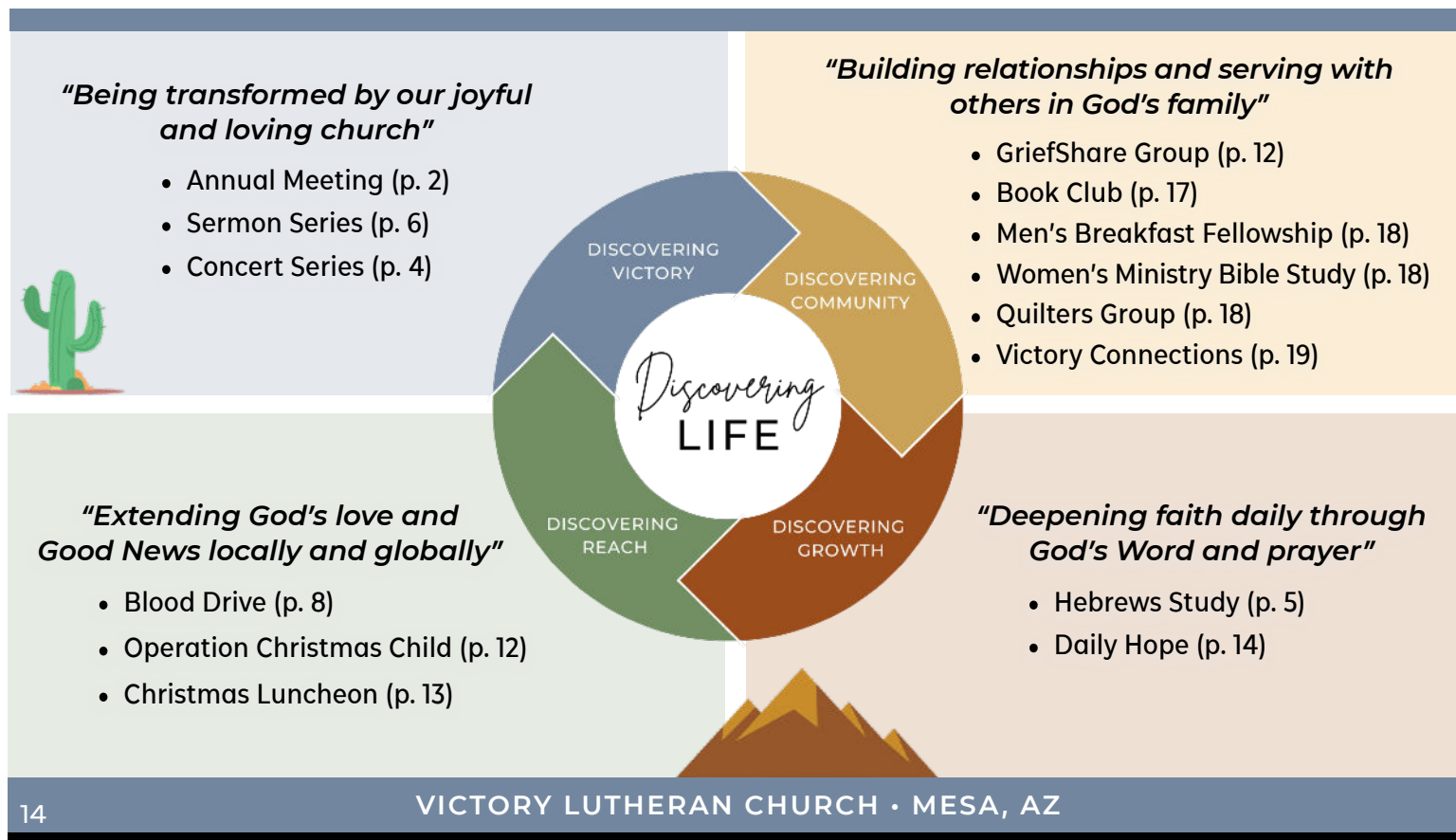
Another meaningful way to support Victory's online outreach is by leaving a [Google review](#). Many people look online before visiting a church for the first time. A kind review can help someone feel more comfortable taking that first step.

Scan the QR code or use the link below to leave a review, and consider sharing Daily Hope with someone who could use encouragement today.

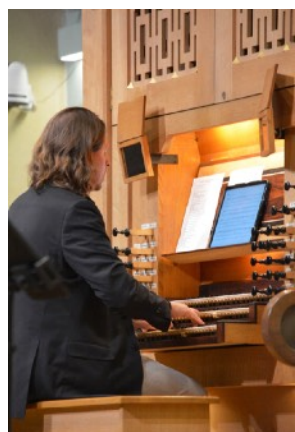


Scan the QR code above to leave a Google Review!

https://g.page/r/Cc_npC_9zlqaEBM/review



DEVON HOWARD, ORGAN CONCERT — OCTOBER 25, 2026



Multiply Your Impact—Through Your IRA



“This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of the Lord’s people but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God. Because of the service by which you have proved yourselves, others will praise God for the obedience that accompanies your confession of the gospel of Christ, and for your generosity in sharing with them and with everyone else.”

~ 2 Corinthians 9:12–13 (NIV)



When the Apostle Paul wrote about the early church’s ministry, he celebrated how their generosity was “making an impact around the world.” The same can be said of Victory Lutheran Church today! Lives are being changed in the name of Jesus—not only here in Arizona, but across the globe through our mission partners.

Did you know?

If you’re 70½ or older, you can make a gift of up to \$100,000 per year directly from your IRA to Victory Lutheran Church—without paying income taxes on the gift. This gift can satisfy all or part of your **Required Minimum Distribution (RMD)** and allows you to see the impact of your generosity right now.

Even if you’re not yet 70½, you can still bless the next generation by naming Victory Lutheran Church as a beneficiary of all or part of your IRA. Because Victory is a tax-exempt organization, your gift is received completely tax-free and continues to support Christ’s mission for years to come.

Benefits of giving through your IRA:

- ▶ Avoid taxes on transfers up to \$100,000 each year
- ▶ Satisfy your Required Minimum Distribution (RMD)
- ▶ Reduce your taxable income—even if you don’t itemize
- ▶ Make a gift not subject to charitable deduction limits
- ▶ Leave a lasting legacy for Victory’s ministry
- ▶ Available to donors age 70½ and older
- ▶ Must be completed before December 31



To make a gift or name Victory as a beneficiary:

- ▶ Contact your IRA administrator for a change-of-beneficiary form (or download one from their website).
- ▶ List Victory Lutheran Church, Mesa, Arizona, and the percentage or amount you’d like to designate.
- ▶ Return the form to your IRA administrator.
- ▶ Let us know! We want to ensure your charitable intent is carried out and thank you personally.

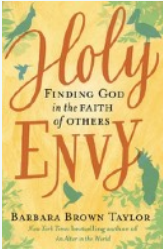
For more information about the many advantages of using your IRA to make a gift to Victory, please contact the church office at 480-830-5024 or email us at legacy@victorylutheran.com. Your generosity today helps shape Victory’s ministry for generations to come.

THE BOOK CLUB 2026-2027

Love to read books?

The Book Club meets the 4th Tuesday of the month from 1:30-3:00pm.

Please come prepared to discuss the monthly book selection.



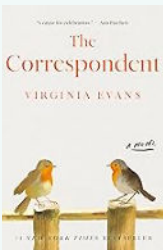
"Holy Envy: Finding God in the Faith of Others"

by Barbara Brown Taylor

The author recounts her moving discoveries of finding the sacred in unexpected places while teaching the world's religions to undergraduates in rural Georgia. She finds new meaning in old teachings that have too often been used to exclude religious strangers instead of embracing the divine challenges they present. And she takes heart in how often God chooses outsiders to teach insiders how out-of-bounds God really is.

Led by Paulette Krenke, November 24, 2026

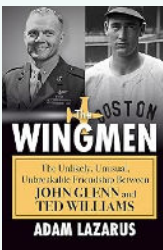
(No Meeting in December)



"The Correspondent: A Novel" by Virginia Evans

At 73, retired lawyer and devoted letter writer Sybil Van Antwerp navigates her daily life and reflects on her past, but when unexpected letters open old wounds, she must confront a painful chapter that reshapes her understanding of herself and her world.

Led by Judeen Hendrickson, January 26, 2027

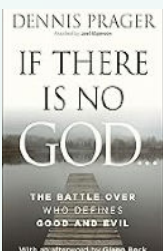


"The Wingmen: The Unlikely, Unusual, Unbreakable Friendship Between John Glenn and Ted Williams"

by Adam Lazarus

In 1953, the Korean War in full throttle, two men crossed the fabled 38th Parallel into Communist airspace aboard matching Panther Jets, creating a death-defying bond. Over the next half-century, their contrasting lives were challenged by exhilarating highs and devastating lows, yet they remained, however improbably, profoundly close friends.

Led by Mary Branstad, February 23, 2027

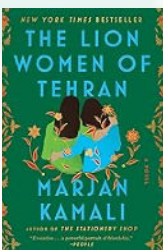


"If There Is No God: The Battle Over Who Defines Good and Evil"

by Dennis Prager

We live in an era when people increasingly make moral judgments based on emotions. Without objective morality, the world will descend into chaos, with every individual engaging in any behavior they feel is right. Thought-provoking, important, and accessible for the devout and the skeptic, this book is a guide for anyone seeking clarity in a morally troubled age.

Led by Joe Myers, March 23, 2027



"The Lion Women of Tehran" by Marjan Kamali

Historical fiction about the friendship between two young girls of different social status in Tehran, Iran. Decades later, they come of age and pursue their own goals for meaningful futures while the political turmoil in Iran builds to a breaking point.

Led by Mary Robb, April 27, 2027





Men's Breakfast Fellowship Faith — Friendship — Brotherhood Thursday, November 19 @ 7:00am

"Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ." — Galatians 6:2

Life was never meant to be a solo mission. Every man needs a few good brothers in arms—men who will stand beside him, share life's challenges, offer encouragement, and point him back to Jesus Christ.

Victory's Men's Breakfast Fellowship is about just that. Good food, honest conversation, a few laughs, and friendships that go deeper than a handshake on Sunday morning.

New Schedule!

We are now meeting on the
THIRD THURSDAY of every month!

Our next breakfast is Thursday, November 19, at 7:00am in the meeting room at IHOP, 10662 E. Southern Avenue, near Signal Butte.

No sign-up. No program. Just show up, enjoy breakfast, and take care of your own check. Come hungry. Bring a friend. Because no man should walk alone.



Women's Ministry Bible Study Tuesday, November 10

Individual Bible Study Groups meet the second Tuesday of each month (October-April).
Studies are open to all women.

Esperanza Bible Study

2nd Tuesday @ 10:00am, Room C5

Mary Bible Study

2nd Tuesday @ 1:30pm

Meets in home (call for location)
Gayle Schmidt, Chair, 612-867-2679

Quilters Group November 17 & 18 @ 8:30am

In October we gave 51 quilts to the Food Pantry for distribution. We welcomed several ladies into our group!! Glad they are here.

In November we will meet on Tuesday the 17th from 8:30am-2:30pm and Wednesday the 18th from 8:30-11:30am. Come when you can- leave when you must. See you there!

Co-Chairs:

Dottie Cisek 480-250-6668
Betty Swanson 480-234-4466





VICTORY CONNECTIONS

Connecting People. Enjoying Life. Growing Faith.

NOVEMBER

SINGLES & COUPLES WELCOME!
INVITE FAMILY & FRIENDS TOO!

NOTE: Deadlines to sign up for theater events are a few weeks in advance in order to get group discounts and seating together. Theater tickets are handed out on the bus or in the lobby of the event site.

This Month:

The Neil Diamond Tribute (Off Site – Bus)

Monday, November 2, 7:30 pm (Bus leaves at 6:30 pm)

Hale Centre (main) Theatre [not the Concert Hall], 50 W Page Ave, Gilbert

A brand-new tribute starring international performer Scott Moreau singing Neil Diamond's greatest hits with a live band and backup singers. (Tickets for this event are no longer available.)



Dinner at Red White & Brew (Off Site – No Bus)

Tuesday, November 10, 4:30 pm

6740 E McDowell Rd, Mesa (NW corner McDowell & Power)

Choose from a widely varied menu – most items are in the \$12 to \$20 range. **Sign up by Sunday, November 8th.**



We meet on the 2nd Tuesday of each month to enjoy eating with friends at a local restaurant, alternating between lunch at 11:30 and dinner at 4:30.

Sunshine Acres – Crafts with Kids (Off Site – **FREE** Bus)

Wednesday, November 11, 2:00-3:00 pm (Bus leaves at 1:15 pm)

Sunshine Acres, 3405 N Higley, Mesa

No experience or talent necessary. No standing. No cost. All supplies provided. This month the kids are coloring wood refrigerator magnets. **Sign up by Sunday, October 11th.**



Feed My Starving Children

This activity is suspended in November and December for the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays. We'll resume in January.



Next Month:

Barleen's Dinner & Home for the Holidays Show (Off Site – Bus Optional)

Thursday, December 3, Dinner 6:00 pm, Show 7:00 pm (Bus leaves at 5:00 pm)

2275 E Old West Highway, Apache Junction

Enjoy table service with an entrée of slow-roasted beef (plus braised chicken and pork ribs if you want them), mashed potatoes with classic pan gravy, carrots, salad, a roll fresh from the oven, plus Barleen's Famous Chocolate Cake (which you can indulge yourself by eating first!). Libations available on individual tabs. After dinner, feel the magic of the holidays with a mix of traditional and popular seasonal classics in a festive show overflowing with warmth and joy! **Tickets are \$52; the bus (optional) is \$7.**

Sign up by Sunday November 15th. \$52 without the bus, or \$59 with the bus.



For more information or questions, contact Judy Bailey at 480-462-9521 or JudithMBailey@hotmail.com



VICTORY
LUTHERAN CHURCH

5946 E. University Drive
Mesa, AZ 85205



Give thanks
TO THE LORD,
FOR HE IS GOOD:
HIS **LOVE** ENDURES
forever
PSALM 107:1



LET'S GIVE THANKS TOGETHER

NOVEMBER 25

Thanksgiving Eve

Worship @ 4pm

THANKSGIVING DINNER

TO FOLLOW @ 5PM

TICKET COST \$5 – “DINE IN” OR “TO GO”

ALL PROCEEDS FROM TICKET SALES
WILL BENEFIT THE FOOD PANTRY.



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.

SUBSCRIBE TO WEEKLY EBLAST & MORE!

Scan the QR code with your smart phone's
camera and tap on the link.



SCAN ME

DAILY HOPE

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the word **victory** to **888-897-5573**

