

Sermon Notes

Trouble Hearing?

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- Listening devices
- Headphones
- Neckloops
- Live closed captions



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Life Notes

Foundations of Our Faith:
"50 Years! Who Are We Celebrating?"
Luke 18:9-14

- Opener:**
If you arrived at church on a Sunday morning and were the very first one there, where would you choose to sit? In the front? Or in the back? Why?
- Go Deeper:** *(Exploring the Bible)*
1. Compare Psalm 51:10-11 with Luke 18:11-12. How does David's confession compare with the Pharisee's prayer?
 2. Now compare Psalm 51:10-11 with the tax collector's prayer in Luke 18:13. Why do you think Jesus' judgment of the two men was so different?
 3. Is it possible for us to be recipients of God's grace, but not be aware of it in our life?
 4. Read Ephesians 2:8-9 carefully. It gives us a convincing and absolutely true description of how we are saved. Is it by God's grace or our works? Is it something to brag about?
- Live It:** *(Applying to Our Lives)*
1. When might you be tempted to think like the Pharisee? Thinking about your faithful church attendance? Your generous giving? Your position in life compared to someone else?
 2. Think of one time when God's grace stood out more than another. How did you recognize/notice it?
 3. Did you acknowledge that gift of grace from God? Did you give God thanks?
 4. It may happen during worship today. You may think of it as you drive to an appointment or an event this week. However it happens (the Holy Spirit doesn't always speak to us at the most convenient time), will you ask God's forgiveness when you are convicted as King David was in Psalm 51? Something of which you are not at all proud. When you do, make an effort to see God's grace in that moment awareness.

Daily Bible Readings (October 18-24)

Sun:	Luke 18:9-14	God Welcomes the Humble
Mon:	Psalm 51:1-12	Create in Me a Clean Heart
Tues:	Romans 3:19-28	Made Right by Faith
Wed:	Ephesians 2:1-10	Saved by Grace
Thurs:	Titus 3:3-8	Renewed by God's Mercy
Fri:	Luke 15:11-24	The Father Welcomes Us Home
Sat:	1 John 1:5-9	Forgiven and Cleansed

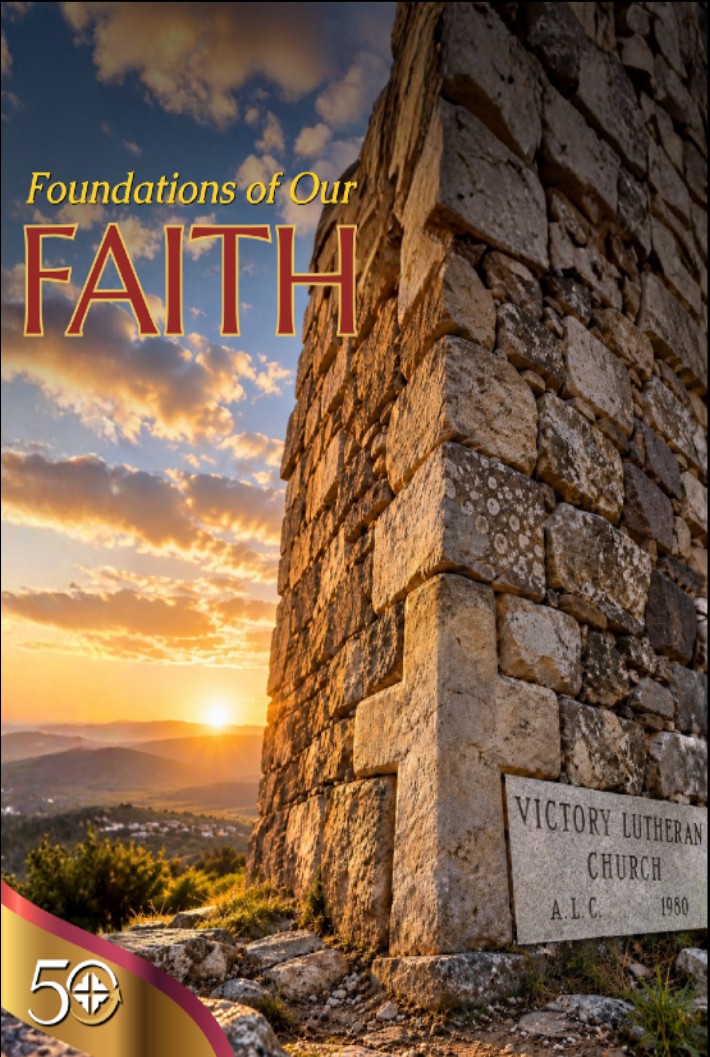
Upcoming Week

- Sunday, October 18**
8:30-11am Coffee & Fellowship, FH
8am Worship & Communion, WC
9:30am Worship, WC
- Monday, October 19**
9-11:30am Food Pantry
12:30-2:30pm GriefShare, CH
10am Movie Matinee "The Chosen", FH
12:30-2:30pm GriefShare, CH
- Tuesday, October 20**
8:30am-2:30pm Quilters, FH
3pm Council Meeting, B7
6:30pm "Seekers" Small Group, B7
7pm AA Men's Meeting, C5
- Wednesday, October 21**
8:30-11:30am Quilters, FH
9-11:30am Food Pantry
10am Men's Bible Study, C1
12:30pm Al-Anon, C4
1pm Bell Choir Rehearsal, WC
6:30pm Choir Rehearsal, WC
- Thursday, October 22**
7am Men's Breakfast Fellowship @ IHOP (off-site)
10am Prayer Group, B7
11am Al-Anon Meeting, C5
- Friday, October 23**
OFFICE CLOSED
7:30pm Come From Away Musical (off-site)
Bus leaves @ 6:15pm
- Saturday, October 24**
REFORMATION WEEKEND - Wear Red!
NEW MEMBER COMMISSIONING
8am Men's Bible Study, FS
4pm Worship, WC
5pm Oktoberfest, FH
Operation Christmas Child begins

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

Victory Lutheran Church
5946 E. University Drive, Mesa, AZ 85205
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480-830-5024 | VictoryLutheran.com

 VictoryLutheran_Guest
Password: Victory_46



OCTOBER 17 & 18, 2026

50 Years!
Who Are We Celebrating?
Luke 18:9-14



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



Connect with us!



GOD TIME: What Victory Lutheran Church Means to Me!
Pastor Bruce Lerum

Victory will always be home . . . a place you can come back to and feel like you never left. Prior to serving there for internship, I remember driving down the Red Mountain 202 to visit Victory for the first time on a Sunday morning . . . probably March 2006. Anxious! Inquisitive! Inexperienced! Meeting mostly new people.

That's when it began to feel like a new home. Terrie and I arrived to begin internship August 2006. The first week there they needed a choir director (not something an intern usually does but I had 20 years' experience). Victory owned a 28-passenger bus (not the current one) and needed a driver, so I got my CDL (owning a furniture store I had experience driving large trucks). Pastor Mike Tessendorf of Orchard: Africa once said, "God is working behind the scenes, to change things from what they are, to what He wants them to be".

Fast forward about five years. Victory was looking for an Executive Pastor and I was called back to Victory. Terrie and I returned and I started March 1, 2012; this time as an ordained pastor. Then in June 2014, Christ the Victor, a Victory "church start," needed a pastor. A six-month interim became a seven year call! Then retirement. But not really.

Roughly five months later I was asked to lead an upcoming ALPHA program. I went back to Victory one more time. And now, 20 years since that drive down the Red Mountain 202, I get to preach here again!!! More to come . . . I hope.



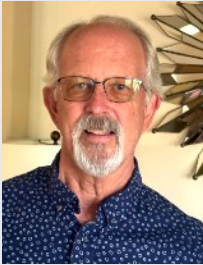
2015 Orchard: Africa Mission Trip



Pastor Bruce Lerum at Christ the Victor

GATHER TIME: Welcome Home, Pastor Bruce Lerum

As Victory celebrates its upcoming 50th Anniversary, we are grateful to welcome several former pastors and preachers back to our pulpit—people God has used throughout the years to help shape the ministry and mission of our congregation. We are delighted that Pastor Bruce Lerum is kicking off this special series of guest preachers. Pastor Bruce is more than a guest preacher—he is part of Victory's story and part of the family God has formed here across the generations. It is a joy to welcome him back as we give thanks for those who have served before us, celebrate God's faithfulness throughout our first fifty years, and look forward to where Christ will lead Victory next.



Pastor Bruce and his wife Terrie recently celebrated their 48th wedding anniversary. In that time God has brought them down a road that has been full of blessings and challenges. Growing up in Minneapolis and Bloomington, Minnesota respectively, he and Terrie moved to Cottonwood, Arizona a week after they were married. They owned and operated Village Furniture in Cottonwood from 1980 until 2003 when he answered God's call to enter ordained ministry.

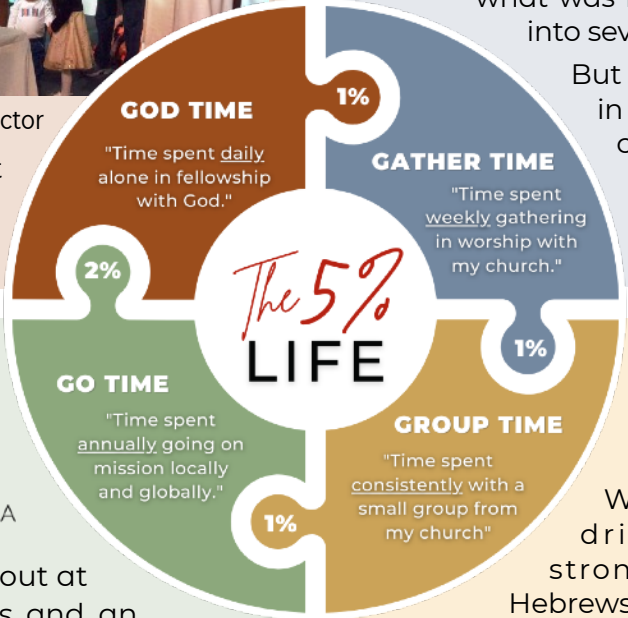
During his course of study at Luther Seminary, God's hand orchestrated the path that led to internship here at Victory in 2006-2007. Ordained in 2008, his first call took he and Terrie to St. James Lutheran Church in Jackson, Michigan. After 3 1/2 years in Michigan, God called him back here to Victory until, about two years later, there was a need at Christ the Victor in Florence, AZ (daughter congregation of Victory) for what was intended to be a 6-month interim. Once again, God had other plans, and that turned into seven years; until retiring in 2021.

But pastors, it is said, never really retire. Up next was a one-year interim at Peace Lutheran in Holbrook, AZ. Since then, there have been opportunities to preach and teach at various churches. They have two married children and four grandchildren, all of whom live in Arizona. He and Terrie enjoy time with their family (especially the grandkids), traveling, leading a monthly seniors ministry gathering, and various other opportunities that keep them busy and active.

GO TIME: Orchard Africa Zoolights
Friday, November 20, 2026 @ 6:00pm

Phoenix Zoo, 455 N. Galvin Parkway Phoenix, AZ 85008
Our favorite night of the year is right around the corner! We can't wait to share a meal together, reflect on all that God has done through Victory's global mission partner Orchard: Africa this year. Enjoy an evening out at the Phoenix Zoo with a delicious barbecue dinner, a private viewing of Zoolights and an opportunity to make an impact in the lives of families in Southern Africa. Tickets are \$50 (includes meal and Zoolights). Bus will leave Victory at 5:30pm.

Sign up and pay in the Welcome Center.
Early Bird Rate Deadline — October 25th!



GROUP TIME: Jesus Is Greater—and Enough
Begins November 2, Meets Mondays at 10:00am
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.

Advertisement for 'A FOUR-PART STUDY OF HEBREWS' featuring a QR code, a 'REGISTER' button, and text about the study beginning November 2 at 10:00am, led by Pastor Todd Mathison.

SIGN UP IN THE WELCOME CENTER!