

Sermon Notes

Life Notes

Foundations of Our Faith:
"Always Reforming, Always Returning"
John 8:31-36

Opener:
What is one familiar song, saying, or story
that has stayed with you over the years?

Go Deeper: *(Exploring the Bible)*

- In John 8:31, what does Jesus say his
disciples are to do?
- What does Jesus mean when he says sin
makes a person a slave?
- How does Jesus describe the freedom he
gives in verses 35-36?
- How do Romans 1:16-17 connect the Gospel
with God's power and life by faith?

Live It: *(Applying to Our Lives)*

- What helps you remain in Christ's Word
when life feels unsettled?
- Is there an area of your life where you sense
God's truth inviting you to change?
- How does Christ's forgiveness help you face
a failure honestly?
- What is one way you can welcome or
encourage someone in your church
community this week?

Daily Bible Readings (October 25-31)

Sun:	John 8:31-36	Freedom in Christ
Mon:	Romans 1:16-17	The Gospel's Power
Tues:	Psalms 119:9-16	Treasure the Word
Wed:	Galatians 5:1, 13-14	Called to Freedom
Thurs:	Ephesians 2:1-10	Saved by Grace
Fri:	Saved by Grace	Changed by the Lord
Sat:	John 15:1-11	Remain in Jesus

Upcoming Week

Sunday, October 25
REFORMATION WEEKEND
NEW MEMBER COMMISSIONING
8:30-11am Coffee & Fellowship, FH
8am Worship & Communion, WC
9:30am Worship, WC
3pm Hymn Festival, WC



REFORMATION
Weekend
October 24-25, 2026

Monday, October 26
9-11:30am Food Pantry
10am Movie Matinee "Luther", FH
12:30-2:30pm GriefShare, CH

Tuesday, October 27
1:30-3:00pm Book Club, B7
7pm AA Men's Meeting, C5

Wednesday, October 28
9-11:30am Food Pantry
9am Feed My Starving Children (off-site)
Bus leaves @ 8am
10am Men's Bible Study, C1
12:30pm AI-Anon, C4
1pm Bell Choir Rehearsal, WC
6:30pm Choir Rehearsal, WC

Thursday, October 29
10am Prayer Group, B7
11am AI-Anon Meeting, C5

Friday, October 30
OFFICE CLOSED

Saturday, October 31
COMMUNION WEEKEND
ALL SAINTS WEEKEND
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

Trouble Hearing?
We offer:
• Listening devices
• Headphones
• Neckloops
• Live closed captions



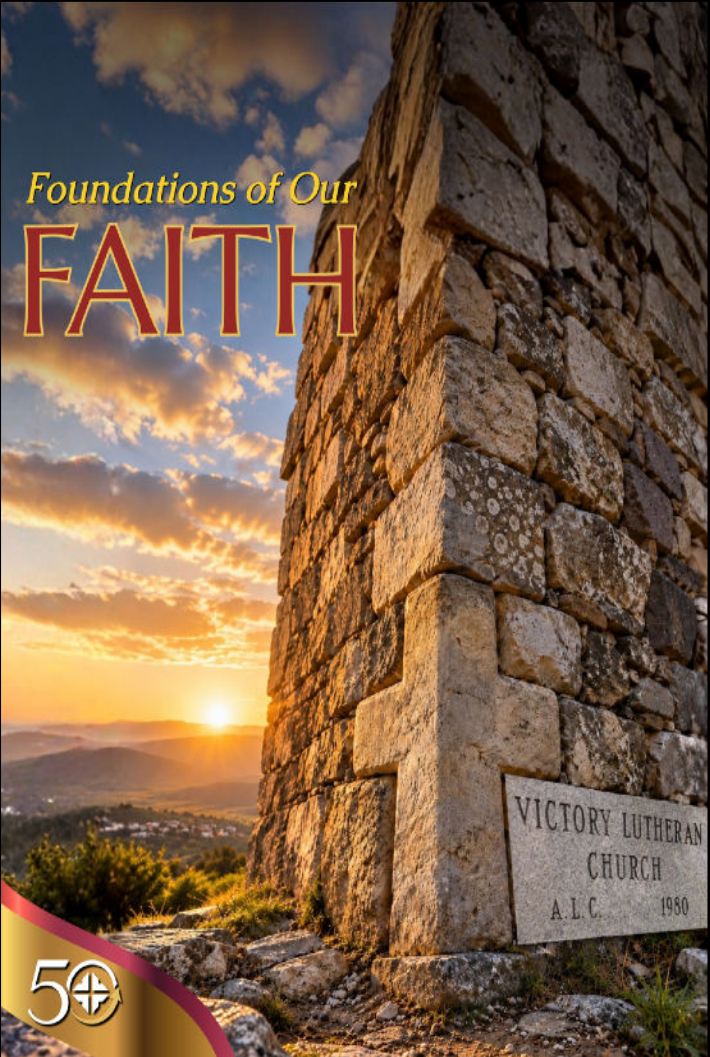
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Foundations of Our
FAITH



50+

VICTORY LUTHERAN
CHURCH
A.L.C. 1980

OCTOBER 24 & 25, 2026

Always Reforming,
Always Returning
John 8:31-36



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



Connect with us!



GOD TIME: Free in Christ
Pastor Todd Mathison

Most of us know the comfort of coming home to something familiar. But sometimes, even the things we cherish need a fresh look—not because they have no value, but because we want them to remain faithful to what matters most. That is part of what we remember when we celebrate the Protestant Reformation. It was not a call to novelty for novelty's sake. It was a call to return to the Gospel: the good news that Jesus Christ frees us from sin and gives us life by grace.

Jesus says, "So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed" (John 8:36). That freedom is not something we earn or preserve by our own effort. It is a gift Christ gives us. And as we remain in his Word, he keeps drawing us back to that gift. Victory honors its heritage best not by keeping everything unchanged, but by letting Scripture correct and renew us. That can begin in a simple way: open the Bible, listen for what God is saying, and ask where Christ is calling you to trust him more deeply.



As we remember who we have been, Christ calls us again to remain in his Word and live as people made free by his grace. May that freedom shape the way we care for one another and share the hope of Jesus. By his grace, we keep returning to the Gospel together—as God's people at Victory Lutheran Church.



Wittenberg, Germany, where Martin Luther posted his Ninety-five Theses on October 31, 1517

GO TIME: The Gospel We Carried Home
Pastor Todd Mathison

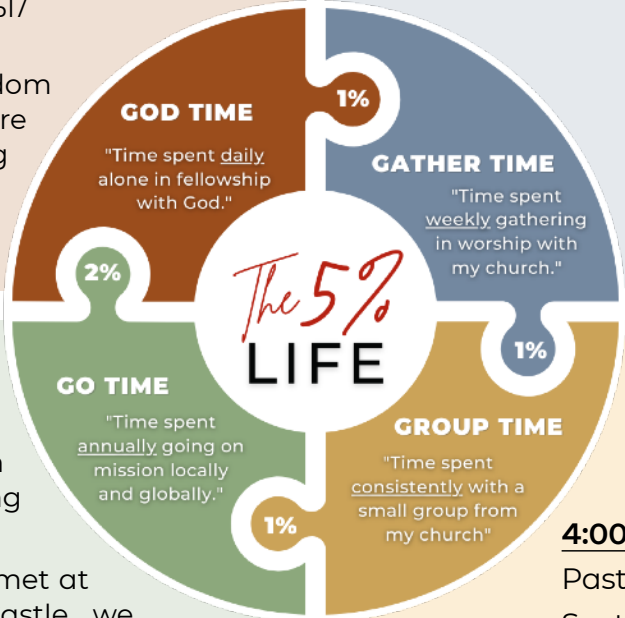
Reformation Sunday gives reason to look back with gratitude on our Luther-Bach Pilgrimage to Germany last year. A group of us from Victory traveled together, following the paths of Martin Luther and Johann Sebastian Bach.

We began in Tegernsee, traveling through a Germany where faith, music, and history met at every turn. In Erfurt, we followed the path of Luther's early life. At Wartburg Castle, we remembered his translation of the New Testament, bringing God's Word within reach of ordinary people. In Wittenberg, we stood at the heart of the Reformation and worshiped in the Castle Church.

Leipzig offered its own wonder. At St. Thomas Church, where Johann Sebastian Bach served as cantor, we remembered that the Gospel is proclaimed not only in words. We heard it in the music, too—beautifully, and in a way that stays with us.

That is the gift of pilgrimage. We came home with more than memories of Luther and Bach. We returned with fresh gratitude for the Gospel they served: Christ sets us free by grace, not by anything we have done. That same good news gathers us at Victory week after week—in Scripture, the Lord's Supper, our hymns, and the care we share.

Our heritage is alive whenever Christ meets us with forgiveness and sends us to love our neighbors. I give thanks to God for the journey, the companions who became dearer, and the Savior who was with us every step.



GATHER TIME: A Hymn Festival with Devon Howard
"O God, Our Help in Ages Past"
Sunday, October 25 @ 3pm

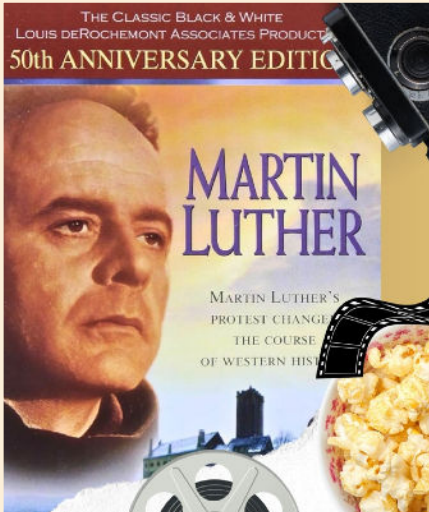
We are delighted to welcome back former Victory organist Dr. Devon Howard for a special Hymn Festival celebrating the rich traditions of congregational song and worship. A passionate advocate for sacred music, Devon studied in The Netherlands as a Fulbright Scholar and earned a Doctorate from ASU in 2012. He has served churches in a variety of worship roles, including here at Victory. He currently serves in Tennessee.

This afternoon of music will invite the congregation to lift their voices in beloved hymns, enjoy choral offerings by the choir, and hear organ selections based on treasured hymn tunes. Invite a friend and join us as we celebrate the God who has been our help in ages past and remains our hope for years to come.

"LUTHER" Movie Matinee
Monday, October 26 @ 10am

"This is not the story of a great man, but the story of a great God, who deeply loves miserable and tormented creatures like this monk." Join us for the classic 1953 biographical film about Martin Luther directed by Irving Pichel.

Invite a friend or neighbor.
FREE movie & popcorn!



GROUP TIME: New Member Commissioning

Be sure to take a moment to welcome Victory's newest members wearing a red carnation!

4:00pm

Pastor Lee & Debra Bottjen
Scott & Ann Eddy
Ann Lewis

8:00am

Muriel Cole
Don & Sharon Johannsen

9:30am

Sheri Armstrong
Jane Gilbert
Dan Griffiths
Laurenda Hingst
Mary Ritter
Sharon Schmid
Bob & Lori Thompson



Next — Discovering Victory Class!
Sunday, November 1 & 8, 12:30-2:30pm

This is more than a membership class—it is an invitation to better understand the heart of Victory and take your next step as we live out our mission: to be and make disciples of Jesus Christ.

You will learn more about what we believe, why it matters, and how our grace-centered faith shapes our worship, relationships, service, and everyday lives. You will also have the opportunity to meet others, learn about meaningful ways Victory can be part of your Christian walk, and ask Pastor Todd your questions directly.

Whether you are discovering Victory for the first time or rediscovering your place within it, you are warmly invited. Come and see what God is doing among us—and prayerfully consider how He may be calling you to be part of it.

SIGN UP in the Welcome Center or scan the QR code.



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