

Sermon Notes

Life Notes

Forward Together #6:
"Choose This Day"
Joshua 24:14-15, 25-28, 31

Opener:
Growing up, was there a family tradition or keepsake that held meaning for you? Share one.

Go Deeper: (Exploring the Bible)

- Read Joshua 24:14–15. What competing "gods" were Israel tempted to serve?
- Why does Joshua rehearse God's faithfulness before calling for a decision?
- Read Matthew 6:19–24. What does Jesus teach about the relationship between treasure and the heart?
- Read Malachi 3:10 and 2 Corinthians 9:7–8. How do these passages complement each other?
- What "stones of remembrance" has God placed in your life?

Live It: (Applying to Our Lives)

- If someone asked your family, "What do these stones mean?" what story would your life tell?
- What step of allegiance—service, forgiveness, mission, or giving—is God calling you to take?
- What fears or hesitations hold you back from deeper generosity?
- How might choosing to tithe or increase giving reshape your trust in God?
- What legacy of faith do you want to leave for your children, grandchildren, or church family?

Daily Bible Readings (November 23-29)

Sun:	Joshua 24:1–15	Choose Whom You Serve
Mon:	Joshua 24:16–31	Stones of Witness
Tues:	Matthew 6:19–24	Treasure & the Heart
Wed:	Luke 6:27–38	Give & It Will Be Given
Thurs:	Malachi 3:6–12	Test Me in This
Fri:	2 Corinthians 9:6–15	Cheerful Generosity
Sat:	Psalms 103:1–14	Remember His Benefits

Upcoming Week

Sunday, November 23
"Meet A Pastor" (following each service)
8:30-11am Morning Fellowship, FH
8am Worship & Communion, WC
9:30am Worship & Children's Church, WC
11am Contemporary Worship & Children's Church, WC
10:30am Small Group Leader Training, C4

Monday, November 24
9-11:30am Food Pantry
12:30-2:30pm "Surviving the Holidays," C4

Tuesday, November 25
1pm Bell Choir Rehearsal, WC
1:30-3:00pm Book Club, B7
7pm AA Men's Meeting, C5

Wednesday, November 26
FOOD PANTRY CLOSED
10am Men's Bible Study, C1
12:30pm AI-Anon, C4
4pm Thanksgiving Eve Service, WC
5pm Thanksgiving Dinner, FH
8pm AA Meeting, C5

Thursday, November 27
OFFICE CLOSED
THANKSGIVING DAY

Friday, November 28
OFFICE CLOSED

Saturday, November 29
NOISY OFFERING
8am Men's Bible Study, C5
4pm Worship, WC
"Meet A Pastor" (following service)

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

Happy Thanksgiving

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FORWARD TOGETHER

November 22 & 23, 2025

"Choose This Day"
Joshua 24:14-15, 25-28, 31

THE PULSE

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

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GOD TIME: A Heart Full of Thanks

Dear Victory Family,

Thanksgiving isn't just a holiday—it's a posture of the heart. Paul's words in Ephesians remind us that gratitude begins not with our circumstances, but with the astonishing truth of what God has done for us: *"Long before he laid down earth's foundations, he had us in mind... decided to adopt us into his family... and wanted us to enter into the celebration of his lavish gift-giving."* (Ephesians 1:3–6, The Message)

Sit with that a moment. Before the first sunrise, God already knew you. Loved you. Chose you. Planned to call you His own through Jesus Christ. That means every blessing in your life—every breath, every sunrise, every act of grace—is tied to a deeper truth: **you are the focus of His love.**

There's a little story about a boy who prayed at dinner, "Dear God, thank You for this food—even though I don't like it very much." Honest. Simple. Grateful. And maybe a bit like us. Gratitude doesn't always come easy. Our world trains us to notice what we lack more than what we've been given. A recent Barna study found that while most Americans say they feel "blessed," less than half name God as the source. We've disconnected gratitude from its Giver.

But Scripture reconnects it. Thanksgiving, biblically, isn't a date—it's a way of seeing. It's remembering that everything we have flows from the extravagant generosity of God, who chose us, adopted us, redeemed us, and blesses us daily in Christ.

As you gather around your tables this week, may your heart whisper what your lips may or may not speak aloud: **"Thank You, Lord—for choosing me, for loving me, and for giving me everything in Jesus."**

Let's not just give thanks—let's live thankful.

Pastor Todd Mathison



"But I will thank the LORD for his righteousness; I will sing praises to the name of the LORD Most High."

PSALMS 7:17

GATHER TIME: Annual Congregational Meeting 2025 Victor Award Recipients

Each year the Nominating Committee and the Church Council select an individual or individuals for the Victor Award. This award was developed and is presented as a thank you for the service and spirit of volunteering within Victory Lutheran church and our community.

This year's award goes to a couple that generally attend our Saturday 4:00pm service; **Mark and Diana Rossmann**. Each week Mark and Diana can be found welcoming with a warm smile, and sometimes a hug. They both work on the hospitality team, working with the breakfast team during Winter Bible Study and serving popcorn at the recent viewings of *The Chosen*. In addition, Mark serves as an acolyte and as a reader. Mark and Diana are the picture of volunteering here at Victory and we strongly feel they are deserving of this award. Thank you Mark and Diana for your service and congratulations as the recipients of the 2025 Victor Award!

In case you missed the Annual Year in Review Video, scan the QR Code to watch.



GO TIME: Celebrating the Launch of Victory @ Leisure World

Something remarkable happened this past Sunday, November 16! We launched our first Microsite service at 3:00pm in the Leisure World Rendezvous Café. We prayed for 20 people. **God sent 52, 30 of whom were brand-new to Victory!** Many walked over. Some arrived by golf cart. All experienced Christ's presence in the heart of their own



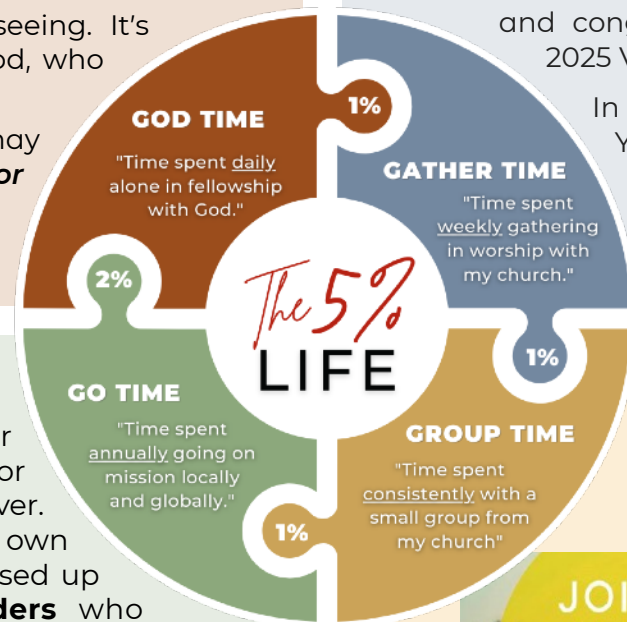
Microsite Team Commissioning - November 16, 2025

community. Even more, God has raised up a dedicated team of **eight leaders** who embody the heart of *Victory Forward*. And He has provided a **MicroSite Campus Pastor, Nathan Hilton**, whose pastoral heart and joyful spirit are already blessing this new outreach.

The purpose of Victory @ Leisure World is clear: **to reach those who live within Leisure World who may not have a church home**—not to draw away those already participating at our University & Recker campus. It is mission, not convenience; outreach, not duplication.

Why are we so surprised when God shows up? God is moving. Hearts are opening. *Forward Together...* now in Leisure World.

VICTORY  FORWARD



GROUP TIME: "Joining Jesus" — Living the Mission Where We Are

We had a wonderful time learning about spreading the word to those around us at the Joining Jesus classes. The videos, discussions, and readings left a positive impact on all of us. Check out what people had to say:



[The Joining Jesus Study] influenced my faith by challenging me to pray for neighbors I know and those I don't know. It reminded me that God has already "prepared" the good works of sharing Jesus or finding "people of peace". My daily prayer should be open to follow Jesus, and then have conversations with people. The truth that stood out to me is that Jesus' followers today have inherited the same commission Jesus gave His disciples, and that in our own "going". He goes with us. I need to act on this promise more intentionally. ~ Joe Myers

[Joining Jesus] makes the idea of evangelism something that everyone can do - we don't need to "go on a mission trip" - we have a mission field where we live - we just need to recognize it. The simplicity of just coming alongside someone - becoming friends - and seeing where Jesus is working. The idea [that came to me is] that the church is realizing that it needs to be doing "mission" differently. We need to change what we are doing because the church isn't the "social gathering place" it used to be 50 years ago. As a community we need to be looking for God's presence on a daily basis. ~ Anonymous

[Joining Jesus] made me more aware of opportunities to join Jesus on a "mission" trip. [I need to] open my eyes and ears to opportunities that have been around me for days, weeks, months, and years. ~ Denis Schneckloth

