

Sermon Notes

Life Notes

The Recipe of a Godly Life: Love
John 13:1-35

Opener:

What is one small act of kindness someone did for you that you still remember?

Go Deeper: *(Exploring the Bible)*

1. In John 13:1, what does it mean that Jesus "loved them to the end"?
How does that phrase shape the whole foot-washing scene?

2. Why is it significant that Jesus washes the disciples' feet even though He knows Judas will betray Him and Peter will deny Him?

3. How does First Corinthians 13:1-3 help us understand the difference between outward religious activity and genuine Christ-shaped love?

Live It: *(Applying to Our Lives)*

1. What would "taking up the towel" look like in your home, friendships, church, or daily routine?

2. Who is one person God may be calling you to serve, forgive, encourage, or move toward this week?

3. What makes it difficult for you to receive love and help from Jesus or from others?

Daily Bible Readings (July 12-18)

Sun: John 13:1-17

Servant Love

Mon: John 13:34-35

Love's Witness

Tues: John 4:7-12

God Loved First

Wed: 1 John 4:16-21

Perfect Love

Thurs: 1 Corinthians 13:1-13

Love Endures

Fri: Philippians 2:1-11

Christ Humbled Himself

Sat: Romans 5:6-11

Loved While Sinners

Upcoming Week

Sunday, July 12

8:30-11am Morning Fellowship, FH
8am Worship & Communion, WC
9:30am Worship, WC

Monday, July 13

9-11:30am Food Pantry
9:30am Movie Matinee, FH
12:30pm GriefShare, C4

Tuesday, July 14

9:30am Women's Ministry
Combined Bible Study, C4
4:30pm Board & Batten Dinner (off-site)
7pm AA Men's Meeting, C5

Wednesday, July 15

9-11:30am Food Pantry
10am Men's Bible Study, LR
12:30pm Al-Anon, C4

Thursday, July 16

10am Prayer Group, B7
11am Al-Anon Meeting, C5
11:30am-1:30pm Stephen Ministers, C4

Friday, July 17

OFFICE CLOSED

Saturday, July 18

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

FREE
Movie Matinee!

MONDAY
JULY 13
9:30am

A GREAT
AWAKENING

One of the most defining moments in American history is the story of an unlikely friendship between Rev. George Whitefield and Benjamin Franklin

Victory Lutheran Church

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WiFi

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THE
Recipe
OF A
GODLY LIFE

The Ingredients

FAITH

GOODNESS

KNOWLEDGE

SELF-CONTROL

PERSEVERANCE

GODLINESS

MUTUAL AFFECTION

LOVE

A clear recipe from God's Word for a life that overflows.

July 11 & 12, 2026

Love

John 13:1-35

THE PULSE

Todd Mathison, Lead Pastor

Denton Bennet, Associate Pastor

Dirk Duhlstine, Chaplain

Kristin Holton Prouty, Director of Worship & Music

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GOD TIME: Liturgy Series — Prayers of the People

There is something powerful about praying, not only as individual believers, but as the gathered people of God.

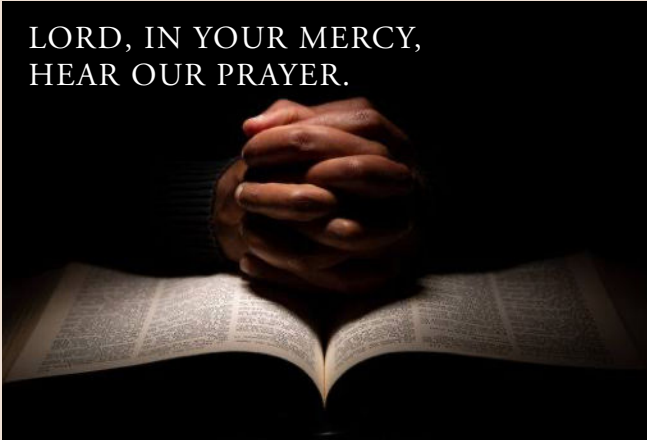
In worship, when we come to the Prayers of the People, we do not usually pray, "Lord, help me." We pray, "Lord, help us." We use the plural voice because these are the prayers of the church—our prayers—lifted together before the throne of grace.

This is not new. Throughout the Old Testament, God's people gathered to pray together: confess sin, cry out for mercy, ask for help, and give thanks for God's faithfulness. They prayed as a people because God had made them a people. The same is true for us in Christ.

In the Prayers of the People, we bring before the Lord the needs of the Church and the world. We pray in response to God's Word. We ask Him to shape us as His disciples. We lift up rulers and those in authority, first responders, military personnel, law enforcement, political leaders, and all who carry heavy responsibilities. We pray for those who need healing in body, mind, heart, and spirit.

And after each petition, we join our voices: "Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer." That simple response teaches us that prayer is not just private. It is shared. It reminds us to carry one another's burdens and to see the world through the mercy of Jesus.

So when we pray together, don't just listen. Join in. Let those prayers shape your own prayers. And together, as Victory Lutheran Church, let us keep bringing one another, our community, and our world to Jesus.



LORD, IN YOUR MERCY,
HEAR OUR PRAYER.

GATHER TIME: Farewell Reception
July 18 & 19, 2026

Please join us next weekend as we gather to celebrate and give thanks for Pastor Denton's faithful ministry among us at Victory. As he prepares to begin a new season focused on family and ministry, we invite our congregation to come together to share our appreciation, offer our prayers, and send him forward with our love and blessing.

Farewell receptions will be held following each worship service on July 18 & 19. Please take time to stop by, enjoy fellowship, and personally share your gratitude with Pastor Denton and his family.

We give thanks to God for the ways He has worked through Pastor Denton's ministry and for the many lives he has touched during his time with us. As we say farewell, we hold onto the promise of Psalm 121:

"The Lord will watch over your coming and going both now and forevermore."
(Psalm 121:8)



Thank you!
AND FAREWELL

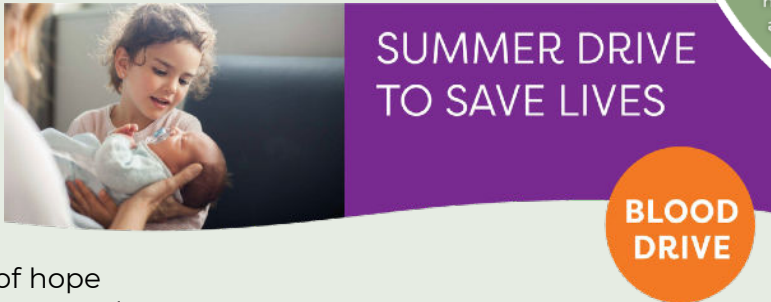
GO TIME: Give the Gift of Life — Blood Drive Coming Soon!

Roll up your sleeves and make a difference! The Vitalant Bloodmobile will be in our parking lot for a community blood drive. Your donation can help provide lifesaving blood for patients in need.

Reserve your donation time today by signing up online or scan the QR code below. Join us in sharing the gift of hope through blood donation. Go to vitalant.org and enter blood drive code **VLC**.

Thank you for helping save lives!

For questions, please contact Vitalant at 877-258-4825.



Victory Lutheran Church

BLOOD DRIVE

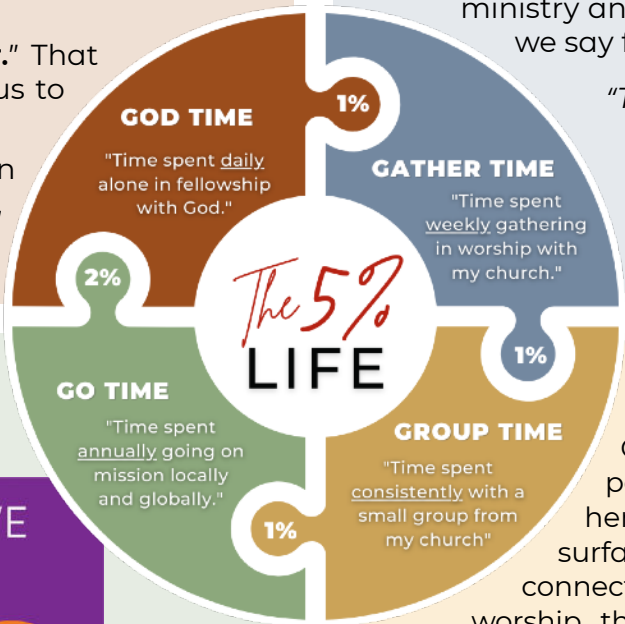
Wednesday, July 29, 2026
8:30am-11:00am

Vitalant Bloodmobile in Parking Lot
5946 E. University Drive, Mesa

To reserve your donation time,
sign up online at:

vitalant.org

Enter Blood Drive Code: **VLC**



GROUP TIME: Your Best Faith Is a Shared Faith

One of the quiet truths our church-wide survey revealed is that people don't just want to attend Victory — they want to belong here. Among the 613 who responded, a consistent theme surfaced beneath the warm numbers: a longing for deeper connection than a Sunday morning alone can offer. People love the worship, the preaching, and the warmth — and they're hungry to go further, together.

613 VOICES. ONE SHARED VISION. TOGETHER WE'RE BUILDING A FAMILY WHERE NO ONE WALKS ALONE, FAITH GROWS DEEPER, AND EVERYONE HAS A PLACE TO BELONG.

That tells us something important: the warmth you feel on Sunday is meant to become the friendship you carry all week. God never designed us to follow Jesus alone. From the very beginning He said, "It is not good that the man should be alone" (Genesis 2:18). The early church didn't just gather to worship — they shared life, prayed together, and cared for one another house to house (Acts 2:46).

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The good news is that stepping in doesn't have to be complicated. A small group is simply a few people who open Scripture together, pray for one another, and notice when your seat is empty. Group serving is friendship built shoulder to shoulder — the kind of bond that grows while you fold bulletins, set up chairs, or serve a meal side by side.

So here is our Group Time encouragement: think of one group you could try. Pray about it. Take the step. Fill out a Connect Card or reach out to the office, and we'll help you find your place.

You told us you want to belong. Let's make sure you do.

Visit: <https://victorylutheran.com/smallgroups/>

