

Sermon Notes

Life Notes

**Joy That Holds:**  
"Never Meant To Walk Alone"  
Philippians 1:1-11

**Opener:**  
What is something that is more enjoyable when you do it with someone else?

**Go Deeper:** *(Exploring the Bible)*

- In Philippians 1:3-5, what causes Paul to pray with gratitude and joy?
- Read Philippians 1:6 slowly. What does this verse teach us about who begins, sustains, and completes the work of faith in a Christian's life?
- In Philippians 1:7-8, what does it mean to love others with "the affection of Christ Jesus"?

**Live It:** *(Applying to Our Lives)*

- Where are you most tempted to handle life alone? What makes it difficult for you to ask for help or prayer?
- Who has been a faithful gospel partner in your life? How might you thank or encourage that person this week?
- Where do you feel discouraged by your lack of spiritual progress? How does Philippians 1:6 redirect your confidence from yourself to God?

**Daily Bible Readings (July 19-25)**

|        |                        |                       |
|--------|------------------------|-----------------------|
| Sun:   | Philippians 1:1-11     | Gospel Partnership    |
| Mon:   | John 15:12-17          | Chosen as Friends     |
| Tues:  | Acts 2:42-47           | Life Together         |
| Wed:   | Galatians 6:1-10       | Carry the Burden      |
| Thurs: | 1 Corinthians 12:12-27 | One Body              |
| Fri:   | Hebrews 10:19-25       | Encourage One Another |
| Sat:   | Romans 8:31-39         | Held by Christ        |

Upcoming Week

**Sunday, July 19**  
8:30-11am Morning Fellowship, FH  
8am Worship & Communion, WC  
9:30am Worship, WC

**Monday, July 20**  
9-11:30am Food Pantry  
12:30pm GriefShare, C4

**Tuesday, July 21**  
3pm Council Meeting, B7  
6:30pm "Seekers" Small Group, B7  
7pm AA Men's Meeting, C5

**Wednesday, July 22**  
9-11:30am Food Pantry  
9am Feed My Starving Children (off-site)  
Bus leaves @ 8am  
10am Men's Bible Study, LR  
12:30pm Al-Anon, C4

**Thursday, July 23**  
10am Prayer Group, B7  
11am Al-Anon Meeting, C5

**Friday, July 24**  
OFFICE CLOSED

**Saturday, July 25**  
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

FAREWELL  
**RECEPTION**  
PASTOR DENTON  
**JULY 18 & 19**  
FOLLOWING EACH SERVICE

With Grateful Hearts, We Celebrate  
Your Ministry and Bless the Journey Ahead.

 VICTORY  
LUTHERAN CHURCH



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



VictoryLutheran\_Guest  
Password: Victory\_46



**JOY THAT HOLDS**

JULY 18 & 19, 2026

**NEVER MEANT TO WALK ALONE**  
PHILIPPIANS 1:1-11

 **THE PULSE**

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



Connect with us!  
   



## GOD TIME: God Is Already There Pastor Denton Bennet

There's an old adage about life: the only thing that stays the same is change. We nod at it because we know it's true, and because it's often hard. Change unsettles us. It moves the familiar things and sends us toward a future we can't quite see. But there is the deeper truth that adage can't teach: change may be constant, but God is greater. He never changes, and He is never caught off guard by our seasons. Before we arrive at what's next, He is already there.

Before the disciples reached the far shore, before Israel set foot in the land, before any of us stepped into tomorrow, God had already gone ahead. He doesn't trail behind and try to keep up. He goes before us. He gets there first. That is exactly the fear God speaks into. Israel stood at a border they had never crossed, about to lose the only leader they had ever known, staring into a future full of unknowns. And the Lord's word to them was not, "Be brave on your own." It was, "It is the Lord who goes before you. He will be with you; he will not leave you or forsake you. Do not fear or be dismayed" (Deuteronomy 31:8).

Congregations, like families, move through seasons of change. Shepherds come and shepherds go; it has been that way since the first apostles laid hands on those who came after them. But underneath every changing season is a Shepherd who never changes, the same yesterday, today, and forever. He is not going anywhere. So as this chapter turns, hear it clearly: the God who has carried this church is not staying behind. He is already out ahead of you, in the next word you'll hear, the next hand that will pray over you, the next searching soul who walks through these doors longing for hope. And He is out ahead of every one of us. That comfort isn't ours to take turns holding; it belongs to all of us at once, because He is that big and that good.

You are not being left. You are being led, by the One who was already there before any of us arrived, and who will still be there long after. So walk into what's next without fear. He has gone before you. And He is waiting for you there.

## GO TIME: Faith That Keeps Serving Joan Lindenmoyer

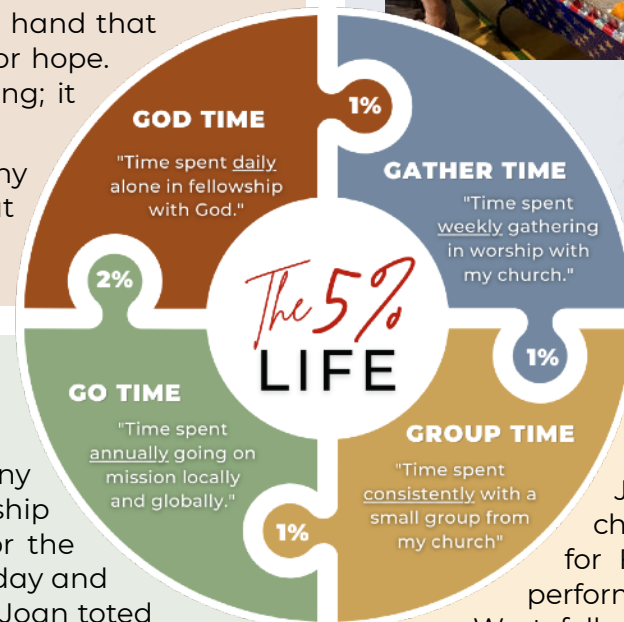
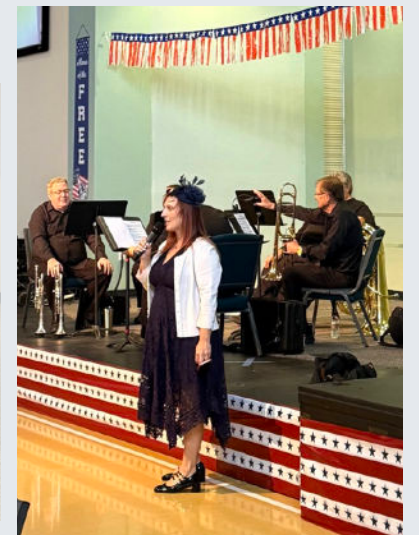
Joan along with her husband Don has faithfully served the Lord at Victory for many years in various capacities. They were very much a team, working together in worship services, rehearsals, and even during the week to make sure things were ready for the weekend. Back in the day, Don led a team who cooked a full breakfast for Easter Sunday and other events, along with Joan's help of course! And when Don could no longer drive, Joan toted him around so they could still do 'their thing'.



Don passed away in 2024, but Joan has continued to bless people with her homemade cards and other goodies. She is an artist with many mediums, most notably stained glass and mosaics. A few weeks ago, a box of homemade beanies (stocking caps) from Joan showed up in the church office. This is something that happens regularly every year, but this year seemed more poignant because Joan is struggling with health issues. At a time when many people would decide that it was their time to stop serving, Joan intentionally continues. She used to crochet while she watched TV or chatted with friends – or listened to the bell choir rehearse while Don played! These days when her cancer pain starts, she picks up her yarn and needle and goes to work. "It keeps my focus on the caps and not on my pain," she said. Her goal is to make 400 each year to send to the Navajo mission in northern Arizona where she and Don visited twice.

What an inspiration! She – and Don – definitely model 1 Peter 4:10 for us: ***"Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms."***

## GATHER TIME: 4th of July — Patriotic Potluck



## GROUP TIME: AZ Diamondbacks Faith & Family Night Friday, August 21 @ 6:40pm

Join the D-backs and hundreds of churches across Arizona at Chase Field for Faith & Family Night! Special music performance by Christian artist, Matthew West, following the game. All-You-Can-Eat-Seats (Sections 221-223) includes unlimited hot dogs, popcorn, peanuts, chips and Pepsi products through 7th inning.

**Tickets \$55 + \$5 if riding the bus**  
**Pay by check or exact cash**  
**Deadline: August 2nd**

Victory has reserved a total of 50 tickets. Limited seating on bus (28 seats). Bus leaves Victory at 5:15pm or you may want to drive yourself or Park & Ride from the Valley Metro LightRail Station. Come out and support your D-backs as we take on the Reds!

Please note: The Diamondbacks stadium has a "clear bag" policy no larger than 12" x 6". Additionally, fans may also carry a small clutch purse no larger than 4.5" x 6.5". Seat cushions no larger than 18" are permitted. We suggest bringing a clear water bottle to refill.

D-BACKS VS. CINCINNATI REDS

# FAITH & FAMILY NIGHT

**Friday, August 21, 6:40pm**

- All-You-Can-Eat-Seats (Sections 221-223)
- Tickets \$55 + \$5 if riding the bus
- Limited seating on bus (28 seats)
- Pay at time of sign-up at the Welcome Desk

DBACKS.COM/FAITH

**MATTHEW WEST**  
**FAITH & FAMILY NIGHT**  
PRESENTED BY *Cricket*

Deadline to purchase tickets:  
August 2, 2026

AUGUST 21