

Sermon Notes

Life Notes

**Joy That Holds:**  
"To Live is Christ and to Die is Gain"  
Philippians 1:12-26; Romans 8:28-39

**Opener:**  
Is life real hard for you? Or is your life really easy?

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

- How difficult do think Paul's life was here in the 1st chapter of Philippians?
- What kind of relationship did he have with his guards?
- Look ahead a couple chapters and find out who were the two young men who came to minister to him?
- In Philippians 1:23, what do you think Paul really wanted to do?
- "To live is Christ". A powerful statement. Does it confuse you, trouble you or challenge you?

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

- The "Means of Grace" is the Gospel. It is shown in two ways. What are they?  
a. The Word & Sacraments, The Lord's Supper & Baptism
- What are the so-called "Marks of the Church?"  
a. The Word & Sacraments, The Lord's Supper & Baptism
- What are we to do with them?
- What happens when you die?
- Are you going to heaven?  
How can you be sure?

**Daily Bible Readings (July 26-August 1)**

|        |                     |                                   |
|--------|---------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Sun:   | Philippians 1:12-20 | Joy in the Defense of the Gospel  |
| Mon:   | Philippians 1:21-26 | To Live is Christ, to Die is Gain |
| Tues:  | Romans 8:28-36      | Who Shall Separate Us?            |
| Wed:   | Romans 8:37-39      | Nothing in All Creation           |
| Thurs: | Romans 12:1         | Living Sacrifice                  |
| Fri:   | Hebrews 12:1        | Run the Race Set Before You       |
| Sat:   | Philippians 1:19-20 | God is Honored in Life and Death  |

Upcoming Week

**Sunday, July 26**  
8:30-11am Morning Fellowship, FH  
8am Worship & Communion, WC  
9:30am Worship, WC

**Monday, July 27**  
9-11:30am Food Pantry

**Tuesday, July 28**  
7pm AA Men's Meeting, C5

**Wednesday, July 29**  
**8:30-11am Vitalant Blood Drive**  
9-11:30am Food Pantry  
10am Men's Bible Study, LR  
12:30pm Al-Anon, C4

**Thursday, July 30**  
7am Men's Breakfast Fellowship (off-site)  
10am Prayer Group, B7  
11am Al-Anon Meeting, C5

**Friday, July 31**  
OFFICE CLOSED

**Saturday, August 1**  
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

SUMMER DRIVE  
TO SAVE LIVES

**BLOOD DRIVE**

Victory Lutheran Church  
**BLOOD DRIVE**  
Wed, 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**  
[vitalant.org](https://vitalant.org)  
Enter Blood Drive Code: **VLC**  
(or scan the QR code above)

**DONATE BLOOD**  
[vitalant.org](https://vitalant.org) | 877-25-VITAL

**Victory Lutheran Church**  
5946 E. University Drive, Mesa, AZ 85205  
[hello@victorylutheran.com](mailto:hello@victorylutheran.com)  
480-830-5024 | [VictoryLutheran.com](https://VictoryLutheran.com)

VictoryLutheran\_Guest  
Password: Victory\_46

# JOY THAT HOLDS

JULY 25 & 26, 2026

## TO LIVE IS CHRIST AND TO DIE IS GAIN

PHILIPPIANS 1:12-26

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

Connect with us!

GOD TIME: Giving Glory to God  
Pastor Todd Mathison

Most of us do not wake up in the morning wondering, "How can I bring glory to God today?" We are usually thinking about appointments, responsibilities, family, health, and the long list of things that need our attention.

Yet Jesus says, "Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven" (Matthew 5:16).

That little phrase—"glorify your Father"—takes us to one of the great truths of the Reformation: *Soli Deo Gloria*, "to God alone be the glory." It reminds us that the Christian life is not about drawing attention to ourselves. It is about pointing beyond ourselves to the goodness, mercy, and faithfulness of God.

That doesn't mean we need to do something dramatic. God is often glorified through ordinary acts of faithfulness; things like speaking a kind word, keeping a promise, helping someone who is struggling, forgiving when it would be easier to hold a grudge, or quietly serving without needing recognition.

The light Jesus speaks of is not something we create on our own. It is His light shining through us. We love because He first loved us. We serve because He served us. We forgive because—you got it!— we have been forgiven.

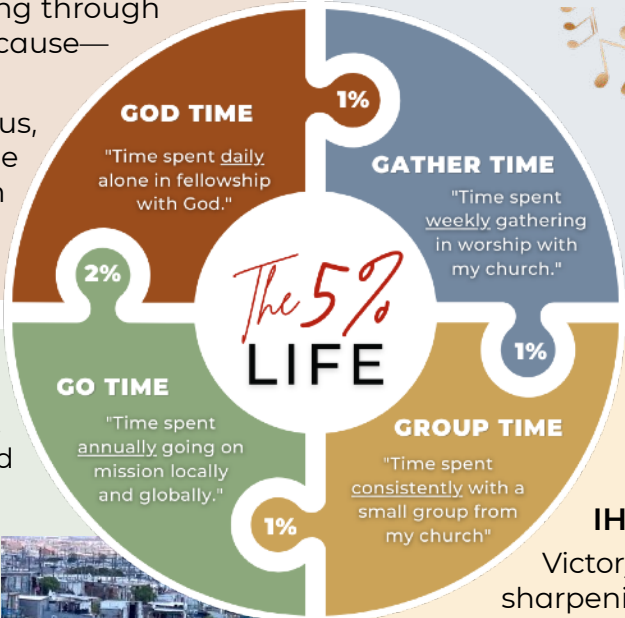
As you move through this week, take a moment each morning and pray, "Lord Jesus, let Your light shine through me today." Then watch for the simple opportunities He places in front of you. Together at Victory, may our lives keep pointing away from ourselves and toward Jesus—to God alone be the glory.



GATHER TIME: Summer Concert — Save the Date!  
Sunday, August 23, 3pm

Join us on August 23rd for an entertaining summer concert featuring light classical favorites and beloved movie and theater music performed by Alisson Unglaub - violin, Chris Albrecht - trumpet, and Kristin Holton Prouty - piano/organ. These three friends share a passion for music—and each holds a doctorate in music from ASU. Enjoy an engaging afternoon of music as this talented trio brings familiar melodies and timeless classics from composers including Ewazen, Gershwin, Bartok, Massenet, and John Williams.

Whether you're a classical music enthusiast or simply love great film scores, there's something for everyone and entrance is free, so be sure to invite a friend!



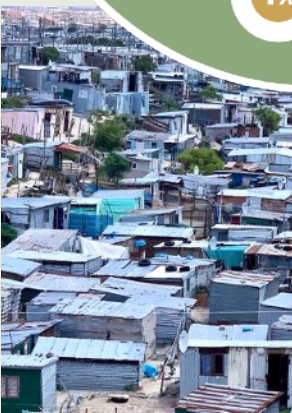
GO TIME: 2027 South Africa Mission Trip

Some trips give us a change of scenery. Others change the way we see the world. Victory's mission trip to South Africa has been rescheduled for **August 12-24, 2027**, and now is the time to mark your calendar and begin praying about whether God may be calling you to go. (Learn more at [orchardafrica.org](http://orchardafrica.org))

Our team will serve alongside **Orchard: Africa** in **Khayelitsha** — a township in **Cape Town, South Africa**. We will meet pastors, ministry leaders, families, and children.

We will visit churches, homes, schools, gardens, and community ministries, seeing firsthand how local Christians are caring for vulnerable people with courage, faith, and compassion. We will also have time for worship, team reflection, and experiencing some of the beauty and culture of South Africa. An **optional wild game park safari** is available as an added part of the trip.

Jesus said, "You will be my witnesses" (Acts 1:8). Sometimes that witness happens close to home. Sometimes Christ sends us across the world. Wherever we go, we go as people who have first been loved, forgiven, and sent by Him. You do not need previous mission-trip experience. Bring an open heart, a flexible spirit, and a willingness to learn. Begin praying now. Make room on your calendar. Then use the **Connect Card** to indicate your interest and have your name added to the personalized list for mission-trip updates. God may be preparing you to go—and to return with a deeper faith and a story that will bless you in so many ways.



2018 Mission Team in Khayelitsha, Cape Town

GROUP TIME: Small Groups

**MEN'S BREAKFAST FELLOWSHIP**  
Thursday, July 30, 7:00-8:30am

**IHOP, 10662 E. Southern Avenue, near Signal Butte**

Victory's weekly men's small groups are where true "iron sharpening iron" takes place as men study God's Word, encourage one another, and grow together in faith. Our new Men's Breakfast Fellowship offers another opportunity to connect with men from across the congregation—whether you already belong to a small group or not, and whether you have been at Victory for years or have only recently arrived. There is no need to sign up—just show up! Each man will order and pay for his own breakfast from the menu.

**WEEKLY MEN'S GROUPS:**

Mondays at 8:00am — Men's Bible Study, Leisure World Rendezvous Café  
Wednesdays at 10:00am — "Duck Club" Men's Bible Study, Courtyard Room C1  
Saturdays at 8:00am — Men's Small Group, Courtyard Room C5

**WOMEN'S MINISTRY COMBINED BIBLE STUDY GROUP**  
Tuesday, August 11, 9:30am, Room C4

During the summer months (May-September) Women's Ministry meets the 2nd Tuesday of the month at Victory as a combined group. Pastor or Bible Study leader chooses the study.

