

Sermon Notes

Life Notes

Joy That Holds: A Life Worth Living Philippians 3:1-11

What is one possession, accomplishment, or memory that carries special meaning for you?

Go Deeper: *(Exploring the Bible)*

1. Read Philippians 3:7–8. What caused Paul to change the way he evaluated his former gains? What does “the surpassing worth of knowing Christ” mean?
2. In Philippians 3:9, what contrast does Paul draw between having a righteousness of his own and receiving righteousness through faith in Christ?
3. What does Philippians 3:10–11 reveal about the relationship between knowing Christ, sharing in His sufferings, and hoping in the resurrection?
4. Compare Philippians 3:9 with Luke 18:9–14. Where did the Pharisee look for righteousness, and where did the tax collector place his hope?

Live It: *(Applying to Our Lives)*

1. What accomplishment, role, relationship, or possession are you most tempted to use as the foundation of your identity?
2. Where in your life are you exhausted from trying to prove yourself, defend yourself, or appear stronger than you feel?
3. How would remembering that you are “found in Christ” change the way you face a current failure, regret, or criticism?
4. Where do you need Christ’s resurrection power right now—not necessarily to remove a hardship, but to help you live faithfully within it?

Daily Bible Readings (August 16-22)

Sun:	Philippians 3:7–11	Knowing Christ
Mon:	Luke 18:9–14	Mercy, Not Merit
Tues:	Romans 3:21–28	Righteousness by Faith
Wed:	Galatians 2:15–21	Found in Christ
Thurs:	Romans 6:3–11	Joined to Jesus
Fri:	2 Corinthians 4:7–18	Resurrection Power
Sat:	John 11:17–27	Resurrection and Life

Upcoming Week

Sunday, August 16

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

Monday, August 17

9-11:30am Food Pantry

Tuesday, August 18

3pm Council Meeting, B7
4:30pm Board & Batten Dinner (off-site)
6:30pm "Seekers" Small Group, B7
7pm AA Men's Meeting, C5

Wednesday, August 19

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

Thursday, August 20

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

Friday, August 21

OFFICE CLOSED
6:40pm Diamondbacks Game (off-site)
Faith & Family Night
Bus leaves @ 5:15pm

Saturday, August 22

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

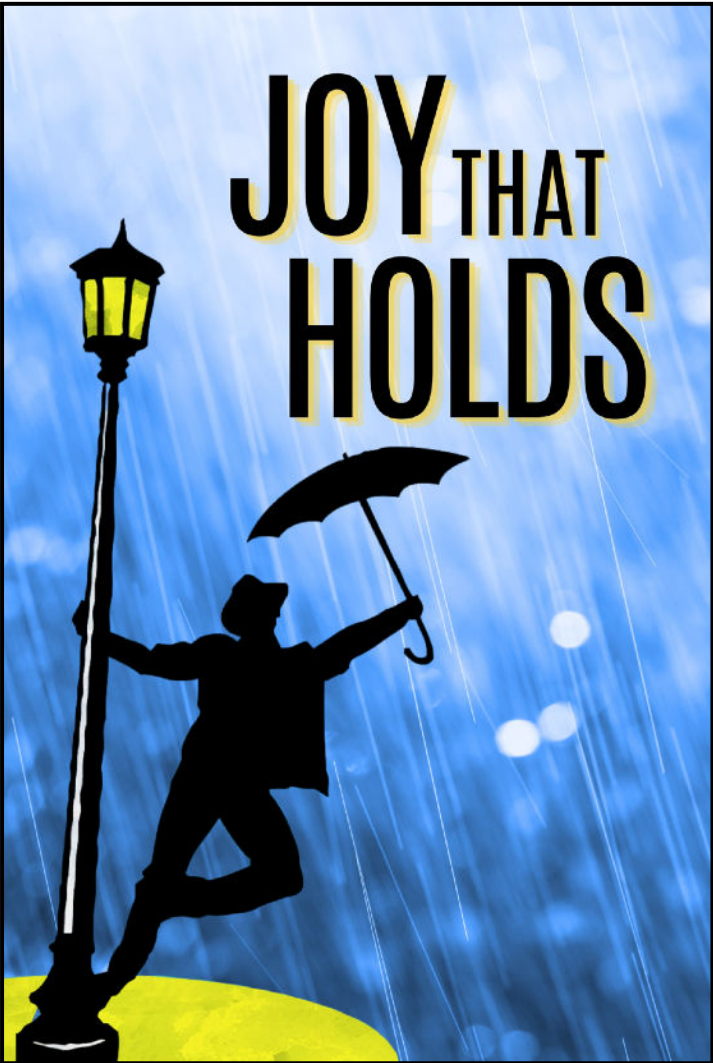


Victory Lutheran Church

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AUGUST 15 & 16, 2026

A LIFE WORTH LIVING

PHILIPPIANS 3:1-11



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



Connect with us!



GOD TIME: A Life Worth Living

"I want to know Christ—yes, to know the power of His resurrection and participation in His sufferings, becoming like Him in His death."
— Philippians 3:10

What makes a life worth living? The world often answers with success, possessions, accomplishments, recognition, or experiences. But the apostle Paul offers us a radically different perspective.

In Philippians 3, Paul lists everything that once gave him confidence: his heritage, religious accomplishments, reputation, and obedience to the law. Yet he came to realize that none of these things compared with knowing Jesus Christ. What once seemed valuable became insignificant compared with the surpassing worth of knowing Christ. Paul wasn't saying that his accomplishments had no value. He was saying they could never become the foundation of his life. His identity, purpose, and hope were found in Christ.

A life worth living isn't necessarily a life that looks impressive to others. It is a life that knows Jesus, follows Him, and increasingly becomes like Him. It is choosing Christ over comfort, faith over fear, and eternal purpose over temporary success.

Paul's greatest desire was not simply to know about Christ, but to know Christ—to experience His resurrection power and even share in His sufferings. That kind of relationship changes everything.

Perhaps today is a good time to ask: What am I living for? What am I pursuing? Where am I finding my identity and worth? When everything else is stripped away, may we discover what Paul discovered: Jesus is not merely part of a life worth living—He is the reason for it. May our greatest pursuit be knowing Christ, loving Him, serving Him, and becoming more like Him each day.



GATHER TIME: What Are My Options to Hear Better at Victory?

At Victory, we want everyone who comes to worship to hear clearly, take part fully, and stay connected to God's Word. That's why we have improved our assistive listening options. For your convenience, all options are available at the Welcome Center near the TV. Check them out!

Listening Devices: For amplified sound during worship, pick up a listening device before or during the service from the cabinet next to the TV. It can be used with church headphones or with a neck loop if your hearing aids are compatible.

Neck Loops for Hearing Aids: Neck loops are available for people whose hearing aids or cochlear implants have telecoil, or T-coil, technology. Choose a device with a neck loop attached, place the loop around your neck, and switch your hearing aid or cochlear implant to the telecoil or "T-coil" setting. If you are unsure whether your device has this feature, your hearing care provider can help.

Upgraded Headphones: New Sony headphones are available to use with the church listening devices. Find them in the cabinet next to the TV.

Live Captions: Available for anyone who would like to read along during worship. Scan the QR code on this page, on the back of The Pulse, or at the Welcome Center. Open the link on your phone or tablet and follow along. No special device or app is needed.

Questions? Contact Alisson Unglaub, Online Campus Director & AVL Supervisor



GO TIME: Who Will You Invite? — September 5 & 6

The first weekend of September is more than the kickoff of a new sermon series—it is a wonderful opportunity to invite someone to Victory.

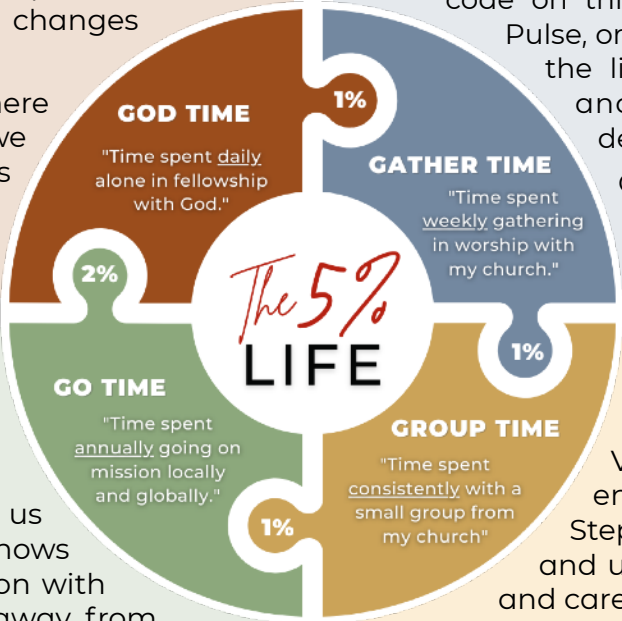
Our new series, *Game Plan: Faith for the Field of Life*, will explore how God equips us for the decisions, challenges, setbacks, and victories we all face. Every one of us knows someone who could use encouragement, hope, friendship, or a renewed connection with God. It may be a family member, neighbor, friend, or someone who has been away from church.

Please do not assume someone else will invite them. Ask God to place one person on your heart, then simply say, "Would you come to Victory with me?" Pick up a "Game Plan" invitation card as you exit today, and use it to make that invitation personal.

Encourage your guest to sit with you and wear the colors of a favorite team. Then continue the fun at our **Tailgater Potluck on Sunday, September 6, at 11:00am**. Friendly rivalries are welcome—though Packers fans may require extra grace!

The invitation continues on **Monday, September 7**, with a free showing of the inspiring football movie **"Facing the Giants" at 9:30am**.

One invitation can open the door to faith, family, and a whole new season of life. Who will you invite?



GROUP TIME: Meet Our Staff — Chaplain Dirk Duhlstine

It is a privilege to serve as Chaplain here at Victory Lutheran. Over the past year, I have enjoyed getting to know many of you through Stephen Ministry and our weekly prayer gathering and updates. Victory is truly a place where people love and care for one another.

I have served as a pastor in the East Valley for nearly 33 years. My wife, Diane, and I raised our two children here in Mesa. Our daughter Maggie is a high school teacher in town, and our son Josiah plays and teaches cello in Glasgow, Scotland. We get together as a family at least



twice a year, often enjoying escape rooms, board games, and trips to Disneyland. My mother, Barb, also moved into a condo at Leisure World earlier this year and is enjoying getting to know her neighbors. My daughter Sarah and her husband, John, live in Indiana, where I love visiting my two grandchildren.

Because my role at Victory is part-time, I also work at Apache Wells Country Club a couple of days each week. So if you call and I am not immediately available, there is a good chance you will find me out on a golf course.

Please feel free to call or email me anytime. I look forward to meeting you, (if I haven't already) and to praying together for all that God has for us here at Victory Lutheran.

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