

Sermon Notes

Life Notes

Joy That Holds: Keep On Keeping On
3:12-16, 4:1

Opener:
What race, sport, or activity did you enjoy when you were younger?

Go Deeper: (Exploring the Bible)

1. Why is Paul's admission that he has "not yet arrived" a sign of Christian maturity rather than weak faith?

2. What does Paul mean by "forgetting what is behind"? What does he not mean?

3. Why is the order important in Paul's words, "Christ Jesus took hold of me"?

4. How does Paul's call to "press on" fit with the biblical teaching that we are saved by grace rather than our works?

Live It: (Applying to Our Lives)

1. Where do you need to be more honest with Jesus about how you are really doing?

2. What regret, fear, disappointment, or past success may be keeping you from moving forward?

3. What would "pressing on" look like for you this week?

4. Who could help you keep going—or who might need your encouragement right now?

Daily Bible Readings (August 23-29)

Sun: Philippians 3:12-16; 4:1

Mon: Hebrews 12:1-3

Tues: Acts 9:1-19

Wed: Psalm 32:1-7

Thurs: Isaiah 43:16-19

Fri: Romans 8:31-39

Sat: 2 Timothy 4:6-8

Press Toward the Goal

Fix Your Eyes

Christ Takes Hold

Forgiven and Free

Leave the Past

Nothing Lets Go

Finish the Race

Upcoming Week

Sunday, August 23
8:30-11am Coffee & Fellowship, FH
8am Worship & Communion, WC
9:30am Worship, WC
3pm Summer Concert, WC

Monday, August 24
9-11:30am Food Pantry

Tuesday, August 25
7pm AA Men's Meeting, C5

Wednesday, August 26
9am Feed My Starving Children (off-site)
Bus leaves @ 8am
9-11:30am Food Pantry
10am Men's Bible Study, LR
12:30pm Al-Anon, C4

Thursday, August 27
7am Men's Breakfast
Fellowship @ IHOP (off-site)
10am Prayer Group, B7
11am Al-Anon Meeting, C5
11:30am-1:30pm Stephen Ministers, C4

Friday, August 28
OFFICE CLOSED

Saturday, August 29
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

SUN, AUGUST 23, 2026
3:00PM

Lights, Camera... Music!

Alisson Unglaub, violin
Chris Albrecht, trumpet
Kristin Holton Prouty, piano/organ
WWW.VICTORYLUTHERAN.COM

FREE CONCERT
BRING A FRIEND!

Victory Lutheran Church
5946 E. University Drive, Mesa, AZ 85205
Office Hours: 8am-4pm, Mon-Thurs
hello@victorylutheran.com
480-830-5024 | VictoryLutheran.com

VictoryLutheran_Guest

Password: Victory_46

JOY THAT HOLDS



AUGUST 22 & 23, 2026

KEEP ON KEEPING ON
PHILIPPIANS 3:12-16, 4:1

THE PULSE

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

SCAN ME

Connect with us!

YouTube

Facebook

Instagram

Twitter

GOD TIME: At the Name of Jesus

Therefore God exalted Him to the highest place and gave Him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father." (Philippians 2:9-11)

This September 6-13, believers around the world will unite for the **Global Week of Prayer**. At Victory Lutheran, we want to boldly proclaim that Jesus is Lord over all the earth and seek His presence, power, and purposes for our communities, our nation, and the nations of the world. Although prayer is happening all the time, all over the world, this is a unique and powerful opportunity for the global Church to stand together in unity.

Victory Lutheran will participate in several ways:

Interactive Prayer Room at the Church — Stop in and spend time with Jesus (September 7 @ 9am-noon & September 8-10 @ 8am-4pm)

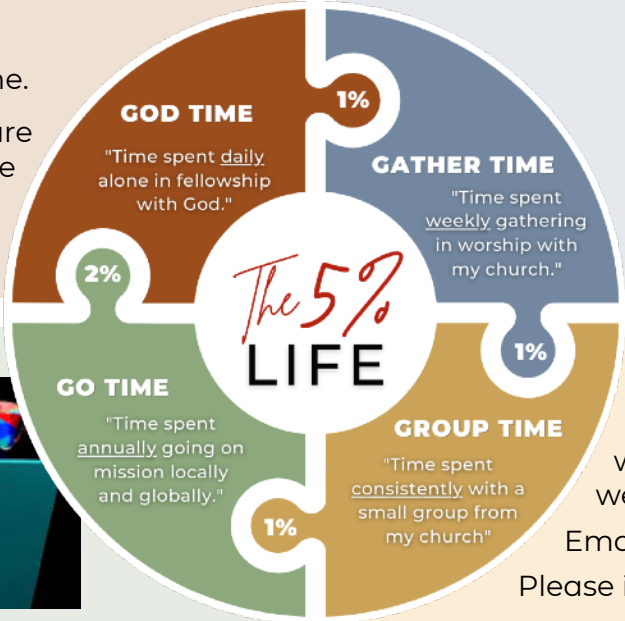
Daily Prayer Focus — Join the Global Week of Prayer through the *Lectio 365* app

Pray Every Day — Sign up in the lobby to pray at a specific time each day

Special Prayer & Praise Worship Service —Wednesday, Sept. 9, 4pm
Gather with us in the chapel as we focus together on this year's global theme.

THE GLOBAL CHURCH IS PRAYING! As of August 10, 2026: 983 prayer rooms are registered around the world, from more than 140 nations. 214 prayer rooms are registered in the USA Come be part of something bigger than ourselves.

*** **SIGN-UP to PRAY for a 30 minute time slot in the lobby!**



GATHER TIME: Acolytes — Serving in the Light of Christ

During each worship service at Victory, our acolytes light the candles in the beginning of the service. Candles in Christian worship represent Jesus Christ as the Light of the World, reflecting His presence and guidance in the lives of believers (John 8:12). The light serves as a visual reminder of God's presence, illuminating both the worship space and the hearts of the faithful. The soft glow fosters reflection, peace, and a sense of holiness, enhancing the spiritual ambiance of the church and help our focus to be on Jesus. The act of lighting and extinguishing candles is a meaningful ritual that connects worshippers to the divine and reminds them of their mission to carry Christ's light into the world.

Thank you to our faithful acolytes — **Mark Rossmann, Lois Kimbrell, Rachel Roth, Bev Locke, Gregory Hansen, Brian Akre, John Diesing, Ken Nelson, Jake Bedoya and Will Bedoya** – for being a vital part of our worship team.

If you would like to join the team of acolytes, find a Volunteer brochure in the Welcome Center.



acolyte



GO TIME: Victory Connections — Crafts with Kids
Wednesday, September 9, 2:00-3:00pm
(Bus leaves Victory at 1:15pm)

Victory Connections is sponsoring Crafts with Kids at Sunshine Acres Children's Home this fall on the second Wednesday afternoons of September, October and November. There will be different projects each month. The ages of the children will vary and be appropriate for the month's project. The projects and all will be provided. (September project: paper chain snake)



supplies

Participation does not require standing. No experience or talent is necessary. There is no cost. Please sign up – each month will be a separate sign up – you can do one, two or all three months – we need enough adults to help all the kids who would like to participate. You'll have a great morning with friends, and be giving these kids a needed bit of extra love and attention.

Sunshine Acres provides long-term Christian family homes for children whose parents can't care for them. They have 10 homes, each with live-in "parents" and up to 10 children ages 4 to 18, who can stay through high school, and sometimes college. There are currently about 70 children in residence. It's a community neighborhood of homes, a chapel, a learning center (with a computer lab, library and craft room), medical clinic, livestock areas, a greenhouse, auto repair shop, an administration building, and of course, the Thrift Store and Boutique (which many of us patronize regularly!). Sunshine Acres relies entirely on voluntary donations of funds, goods and services – they receive no government money, and do not solicit.

If you have questions, please contact:
Judy Bailey, Victory Connections Coordinator
480-462-9521 or JudithMBailey@hotmail.com



3405 N. Higley Road, Mesa
Sign up by September 6th!

GROUP TIME: National Grandparents Day — September 12 & 13

We know many of you like to brag on your grandchildren, so send us a photo of you with the grandkids/great-grandkids! A slideshow presentation will be shown the weekend of September 12 & 13.

Email your photo to: ehernandez@victorylutheran.com

Please include your full name to display with the photo. **Deadline:** September 6, 2026