

Sermon Notes

Life Notes

Joy That Holds: "Be Like a Star"
Philippians 2:12-30

Opener:
Luther said: "Someone who is trying to be a Christian is trying to hold on to something. The one who is a Christian knows they are being held by someone." What do you think?

Go Deeper: (Exploring the Bible)

1. Was Paul feeling good about his life in this chapter, good enough to give "advice?"

2. What's the one (or two) powerful words he used in verse 17 and 18 about himself and his readers?

3. Who almost died while helping Paul? God had mercy on him and Paul.

4. What's it like to "shine like a star" in our world today?

5. What and who gives us the power to shine?

Live It: (Applying to Our Lives)

1. What kind of effort does it take to do what Paul is urging the Christians to do?

2. "Fear and trembling." Do the words "awe and reverence" help your understanding?

3. Check Matthew 5, and think about what "salt of the earth" means.

4. Now read the first verses from Romans 12 and think about what is being said.

Daily Bible Readings (August 9-15)

Sun: Philippians 2:12-18 Shine Like Stars, Hold to Word of Life

Mon: Philippians 2:19-30 Timothy & Epaphroditus

Tues: Romans 12:1-2 Offer a Living Sacrifice

Wed: Philippians 3:12 Jesus Has Taken Hold of You

Thurs: Matthew 5:13-16 Salt of the Earth, Light of the World

Fri: Philippians 2:5-8 Have the Same Mindset as Jesus

Sat: Philippians 2:9-11 A Name Above Every Name

Upcoming Week

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

Monday, August 10
9-11:30am Food Pantry

Tuesday, August 11
9:30am Women's Ministry
Combined Bible Study, C4
11:30am Lunch Broken Yolk Cafe (off-site)
7pm AA Men's Meeting, C5

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

Thursday, August 13
10am Prayer Group, B7
11am Al-Anon Meeting, C5

Friday, August 14
OFFICE CLOSED

Saturday, August 15
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

Trouble Hearing?

We offer:

- Listening devices
- Headphones
- Neckloops
- Live closed captions



Scan this QR code for closed captions

Victory Lutheran Church

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JOY THAT HOLDS



AUGUST 8 & 9, 2026

BE LIKE A STAR

PHILIPPIANS 2:12-30



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



Connect with us!



GOD TIME: The Clarion Call of "Christ Alone"

Ask someone where they believe they will go when they die, and many will answer, "Heaven." Ask why, and a common reply is, "Well, I think I've lived a pretty good life. At least I've tried to be good." That is a widely held belief. It is also not the message of the Bible.

Scripture does not tell us that we enter heaven because we were good enough, tried hard enough, or compared favorably with someone else. Peter says plainly in Acts 4:12, "Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved." This is the Reformation truth of Solus Christus—Christ alone.

We are saved not by our merits, but only by the merits of Jesus. He lived the perfect life we could not live. He carried our sin to the cross. He died in our place and rose again so that we might receive forgiveness, life, and salvation.

This doesn't mean our actions don't matter. Good works have an important place, but not as a way of earning God's love. They flow out of a life already loved, forgiven, and made new in Christ. We serve, give, forgive, and care for others because God has first shown mercy to us. God's love for you is not built upon your performance. It rests upon Jesus and His finished work.

So let go of the exhausting burden of trying to prove yourself to God. Trust the promise. Your hope is not in how good you have been. Your hope is in Christ alone.



GATHER TIME: Why Doesn't the Pastor Lead All of Worship?

When we gather for worship, it may seem natural to think that the pastor is the one who "does" the worship while everyone else watches or follows along. But that is not how the New Testament describes the church.

Peter writes, "You are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession" (1 Peter 2:9). Notice that he is speaking to the whole church. In Christ, every believer is part of this royal priesthood.

This doesn't mean that everyone has the same calling or role. Pastors are called and ordained to preach, teach, administer the sacraments, and provide spiritual leadership. But the priesthood of all believers reminds us that the Holy Spirit gives gifts to the entire body of Christ.

At Victory, this is one reason you will sometimes see non-ordained members assisting in worship. They may lead portions of the liturgy, guide us in confession, or offer the prayers of the people. These are not simply tasks to be filled. They are expressions of the gifts God has given His people for the building up of the church.

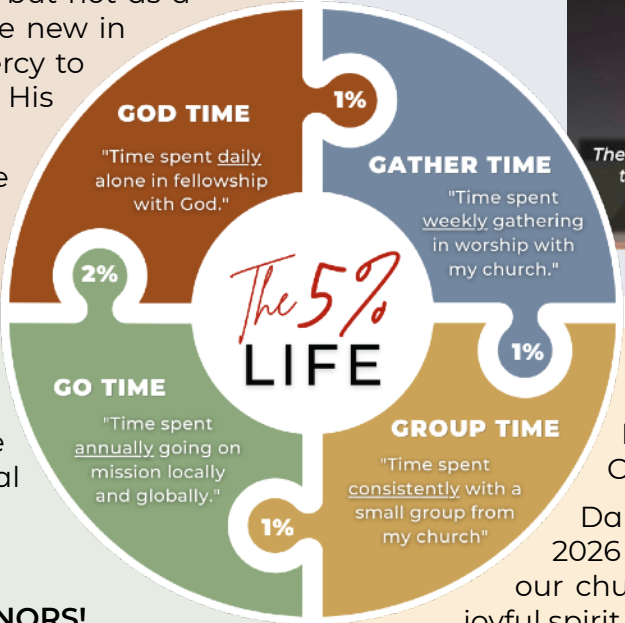


Worship belongs to the whole congregation. We come together with different gifts, different voices, and different responsibilities, but one shared purpose: to glorify God and encourage one another in faith. So when you see a fellow member helping lead worship, give thanks. God is at work through His people. At Victory, we gather not as spectators, but as the body of Christ—called, gifted, and serving together.

GO TIME: Blood Drive — Thank You!

Thank you for hosting the blood drive at Victory Lutheran Church. You helped make an impact, and here's the difference you created for our local Arizona hospital patients:

- **8 donors** showed up for your blood drive!
- **1 first-time donor** joined our lifesaving community - **WE LOVE FIRST TIME DONORS!**
- **5 units of blood** were collected
- That means your group has the **potential of saving 10 or more lives** because of your efforts!



GROUP TIME: Congratulations to the Curran Family!

Please join us in celebrating with Daniel and Deajenae Curran on the arrival of their beautiful new baby boy!

Daniel joined the Victory Lutheran Church staff in January 2026 and has already been such a tremendous blessing to our church family. His servant's heart, strong work ethic, and joyful spirit have made a lasting impact in a short time.

Daniel and Deajenae have been married for 10 years, and with the birth of their newest son, their family has grown to eight wonderful children!



We thank God for this precious gift of life and pray the Lord grant the entire Curran family strength, good health, joy and many treasured memories.

"Raising seven kids has taught me that grace builds on nature, and that every child is unique. I have to parent each child differently. One needs a bit more sternness, another a bit more gentleness, another long talks, another just wants to play. Meeting them where they are opens my eyes to how God handles each of us. He doesn't see a crowd. He knows our names, our quirks, and deals with each of us uniquely with perfect love."
~ Daniel Curran



Baby Theodore
Born 9:28pm on
Monday, August 3rd
8.4 lbs, 21 inches long



OUR NEXT DRIVE IS SCHEDULED FOR:
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2026

