

Sermon Notes

Life Notes

Game Plan: Faith for the Field of Life
"Playing for What Lasts"
1 Corinthians 15:50-58

Opener:
Are you someone who reads a book from beginning to end, or are you tempted to peek at the ending?

Go Deeper: (Exploring the Bible)

- What contrasts does Paul draw between our present bodies and our resurrection bodies in 1 Corinthians 15:50-54?
- Why can Paul speak so boldly to death in verses 54-57? What has Jesus done to change death's ultimate power?
- According to Romans 8:18-28, how does God meet us in suffering, weakness, and prayer?
- Read 1 Corinthians 9:24-27. How is spiritual discipline different from trying to earn God's love or salvation?

Live It: (Applying to Our Lives)

- What present burden do you need to bring honestly before God this week?
- Who may need your help carrying a burden, and what specific act of care could you offer?
- How does knowing that Christ has already won the final victory change the way you face uncertainty or disappointment?
- What "labor in the Lord" has felt unnoticed or fruitless? How does 1 Corinthians 15:58 encourage you to remain faithful?

Daily Bible Readings (September 27-October 3)

Sun:	1 Corinthians 15:50-58	Victory Through Christ
Mon:	Romans 8:18-28	Hope in Suffering
Tues:	1 Corinthians 9:24-27	Run With Purpose
Wed:	Galatians 6:1-10	Carry Their Burdens
Thurs:	Romans 6:3-11	Alive With Christ
Fri:	John 11:17-27	Resurrection and Life
Sat:	Revelation 21:1-7	All Things New

Upcoming Week

Sunday, September 27
8:30-11am Coffee & Fellowship, FH
8am Worship & Communion, WC
9:30am Worship, WC
10:45am Discovering Victory

Monday, September 28
9-11:30am Food Pantry
12:30-2:30pm GriefShare, CH

Tuesday, September 29
7pm AA Men's Meeting, C5

Wednesday, September 30
9-11:30am Food Pantry
10am Men's Bible Study, C1
12:30pm Al-Anon, C4
6:30pm Choir Rehearsal, WC

Thursday, October 1
10am Prayer Group, B7
11am Al-Anon Meeting, C5

Friday, October 2
OFFICE CLOSED

Saturday, October 3
WORLD COMMUNION WEEKEND
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



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GAME PLAN

FAITH FOR THE FIELD OF LIFE

SEPTEMBER 26 & 27, 2026

Playing for What Lasts
1 Corinthians 15:50-58



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



Connect with us!



GOD TIME: Playing for What Lasts
Pastor Todd Mathison

*Because Christ has secured our eternal victory,
we can live with hope and help carry one another along the way.*

Everything this world offers eventually fades. Seasons end. Records are broken. Trophies gather dust. Even the strongest bodies grow tired. But heaven lasts forever. That changes how we live today.

Paul writes, "Thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ" (1 Corinthians 15:57). Notice that the victory is given to us. We do not earn it through our goodness, strength, or religious effort. Jesus secured it for us through His death on the cross and His resurrection from the grave. Because Jesus lives, everyone who trusts in Him will live too.

That does not mean life will be easy. We still face grief, illness, disappointment, and uncertainty. There will be days when we feel knocked down and wonder how much more we can carry. Yet we do not face those days wondering how the story will end. Jesus has already won, and His victory belongs to us.

So we can live with hope. We can pray even when the words come slowly. We can forgive because Christ has forgiven us. We can serve, give, and love generously because what we do in Jesus' name is never wasted. We can face death with confidence because the grave does not have the final word.



Heaven is our promised home. Until we arrive, we keep playing for what lasts—trusting Jesus, caring for one another, and giving ourselves to the work God places before us. The final victory is already secure. Thanks be to God, Jesus Christ has won!

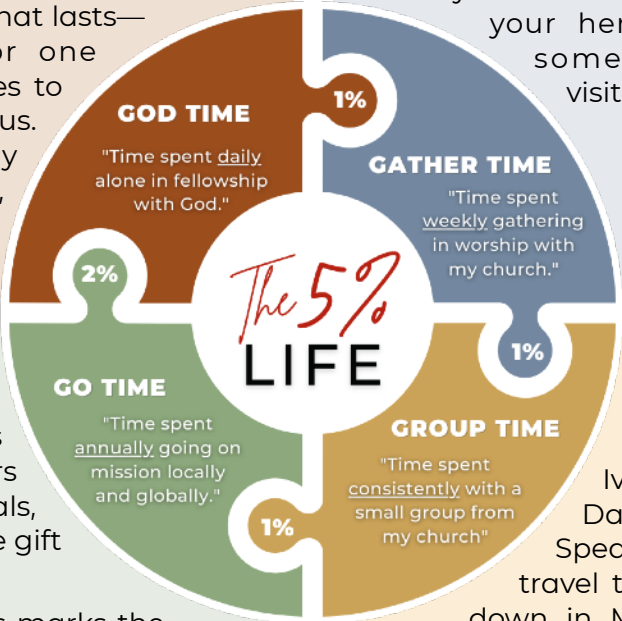
GO TIME: Family Promise Host Week — October 11-18, 2026

For many years, Victory has had the privilege of opening our doors to families experiencing homelessness through Family Promise. During each host week, volunteers have transformed church spaces into temporary bedrooms, prepared and served meals, welcomed guests with kindness, stayed overnight, helped with laundry, and offered the gift of Christian hospitality.

This upcoming host week will be Victory's final Family Promise host week. While this marks the end of one chapter in our congregation's hands-on partnership, it also gives us an opportunity to give thanks for the many ways God has worked through this ministry and through the people of Victory.

As we prepare for this final host week, we invite the Victory family to participate, pray, and give thanks. **Sign up in the lobby to help set up & take down rooms, prepare and serve meals, overnight host, baking, and laundry.**

At the same time, we are **praying for two people to step forward and help lead Victory's Family Promise mission partnership** into the future. Family Promise provides clear guidelines for its leaders to follow, and you would not be asked to carry this ministry alone. If the Holy Spirit is prompting your heart, please indicate your interest on a Connect Card or contact the church office. We will reach out to you, pray with you, and talk together about what this ministry could look like going forward.



GATHER TIME: World Communion Weekend – October 3 & 4
Wear your heritage!

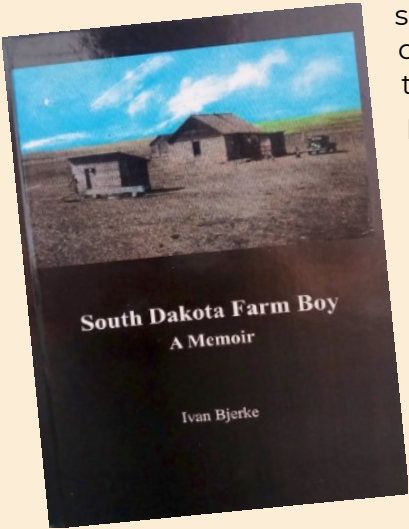
Join us the first weekend of October as we celebrate World Communion, a special occasion that reminds us of our unity with Christians around the globe. As we gather at the Lord's Table, we give thanks for the diverse cultures, traditions, and communities that together form the body of Christ.

This weekend offers an opportunity to reflect on our shared faith and our connection to believers throughout the world. All are invited to participate in this celebration of Christian fellowship and communion. If you have clothing that shares your heritage or perhaps somewhere you have visited, please wear it!



GROUP TIME: The Stories That Bring Us Together
Ivan Bjerke

Ivan was born in a tiny stone house on a small farm on the South Dakota prairie. He married Jan and they raised their twin girls in Spearfish. When their daughters left the house, Ivan and Jan set out to travel the country in a motor home and a fifth wheel, eventually settling down in Mesa. Ivan wrote his memoir specifically for his family, but they convinced him to have them published. In his memoir, Ivan details what life was like growing up on a small farm, his school days, and time spent in the Army, along with his favorite hobbies, and a few "mistakes" along the way. Ivan was able to happily retire at the age of 49 and enjoyed the freedom and ability to be with family.



Ivan's memoirs, "South Dakota Farm Boy" is available in the biographies section of the lending library located in the Welcome Center. Check it out for a nostalgic read!

You may donate Christian books for the library by dropping them in the main office.

