

Sermon Notes

Life Notes

Game Plan: Faith for the Field of Life
"Whose Team Are You On?"
Luke 9:18-26

Opener:
What sports team have you remained loyal to through both good and bad seasons?

Go Deeper: (Exploring the Bible)

- What does Simeon declare about Jesus in Luke 2:34-35?
- Read Luke 9:18-26. Why does Jesus ask His disciples, "Who do you say I am?"
- What did Peter understand—and still misunderstand—about God's Messiah?
- What does it mean to take up your cross "daily"?
- What is the secret of being content?

Live It: (Applying to Our Lives)

- How would you describe who Jesus is to you?
- What might taking up your cross look like today?
- Where are you most tempted to hide your faith?
- How can you show that you belong to Jesus this week?

Daily Bible Readings (September 6-12)

Sun:	Luke 9:18-26	Follow the Messiah
Mon:	Luke 2:25-35	Light for All
Tues:	Romans 1:16-17	Unashamed Faith
Wed:	Philippians 2:5-11	The Servant King
Thurs:	Galatians 2:19-21	Christ Lives in Me
Fri:	2 Timothy 1:7-12	Courage to Witness
Sat:	John 21:15-19	Follow Me Again

Trouble Hearing?

We offer:

- Listening devices
- Headphones
- Neckloops
- Live closed captions



Scan this QR code for closed captions

Upcoming Week

JOIN THE GLOBAL WEEK OF PRAYER

September 6-13, 2026

Global Week of 24-7 Prayer
6 - 13 SEPTEMBER 2026

Sunday, September 6
COMMUNION WEEKEND
8:30-11am Coffee & Fellowship, FH
8am Worship & Communion, WC
9:30am Worship, WC
11am Tailgate Potluck, FH

Monday, September 7
9-11:30am Food Pantry
9am-12pm Interactive Prayer Room, B5
10am Movie Matinee, FH

Tuesday, September 8
8am-4pm Interactive Prayer Room, B5
9:30am Women's Ministry Combined Bible Study, C4
4:30pm Board & Batten Dinner (off-site)
7pm AA Men's Meeting, C5

Wednesday, September 9
8am-4pm Interactive Prayer Room, B5
9-11:30am Food Pantry
10am Men's Bible Study, C1
12:30pm Al-Anon, C4
2pm Sunshine Acres (off-site)
Bus leaves @ 1:15pm
4pm Prayer & Praise Worship Service, CH

Thursday, September 10
8am-4pm Interactive Prayer Room, B5
11am Al-Anon Meeting, C5

Friday, September 11
OFFICE CLOSED

Saturday, September 12
GRANDPARENTS 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

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

GAME PLAN

FAITH FOR THE FIELD OF LIFE

SEPTEMBER 5 & 6, 2026

Whose Team Are You On?
Luke 9:18-26



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



Connect with us!



GOD TIME: What If Jesus Sent You a Calendar Invite?

What if the most important person in the world wanted to meet with you? Imagine receiving a calendar invitation from their assistant for next week. You would probably rearrange your schedule, clear your calendar, and do whatever you could to make that meeting!

Well, here's the amazing part: Jesus wants to meet with you. And not just next week. He invites us to meet with Him every day. Prayer is one of the most incredible gifts we have from the Lord. Think about it: there was a time when people could not simply come into God's presence. They needed to make an offering, travel to a specific place, or rely on a priest to approach God on their behalf. Through Jesus, we have been given direct access to our Heavenly Father. We can talk with Him anytime, anywhere. Perhaps you already have a regular prayer life. That's wonderful! But this **Global Week of Prayer, September 6-13**, gives us a unique opportunity to pray not only individually, but together with believers around the world—people from South America, Africa, China, Pakistan, Iran, and many other places.

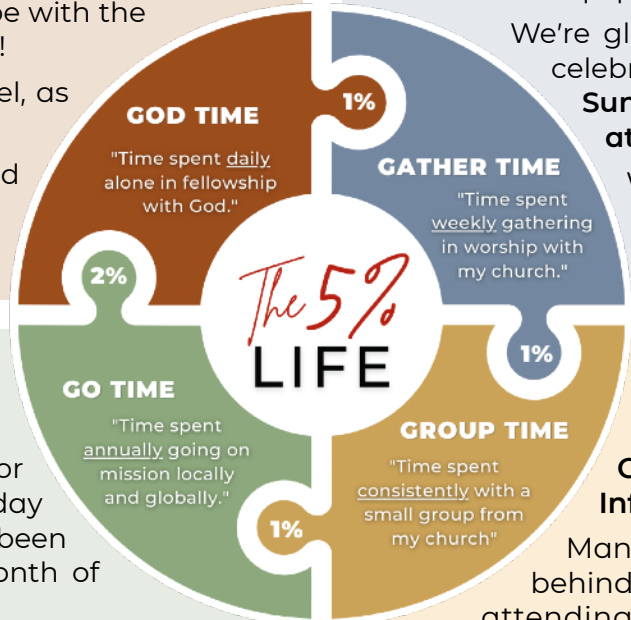
Make Time to Meet with Jesus. SIGN UP to pray daily.

Download the *Lectio 365* app or pick up a **Prayer Guide** in the Prayer Room today. Pray at home or **SIGN UP** to pray in our **Interactive Prayer Room** at church (similar to our annual Stations of the Cross). It's a creative and meaningful way to step away from the busyness of life, be with the Lord, and share your heart with Him. Stop by the prayer room today and get a preview!

Join us for **Prayer & Praise, Wednesday, September 9 @ 4PM** in the courtyard Chapel, as we gather and join our hearts with the global church in seeking the Lord.

If you have questions about participating—or if God speaks to you during this week and you have a testimony to share—I would love to hear from you!

Chaplain Dirk Duhlstine | dduhlstine@victorylutheran.com | 480-660-5231



GATHER TIME: What's Your Game Plan?

Football season is here, and whether you follow every game or couldn't name a single player, you know that no team steps onto the field without a game plan. Players need to know where they're going, whom they can trust, and how to respond when the pressure comes. So do we.

This weekend, we begin a new sermon series called **Game Plan: Faith for the Field of Life**. Over four weeks, we'll explore what Scripture teaches us about following Jesus when life becomes demanding, confusing, or uncertain.

We'll begin with a question Jesus asked His disciples: "Who do you say that I am?" That isn't merely a question for theologians or pastors. It's personal. Our answer shapes our identity, our priorities, and the way we live each day. Jesus doesn't simply invite us to believe certain things about Him. He calls us to trust Him, follow Him, and find our life in Him.

Along the way, we'll also discover why faith is not a solo sport, how God equips us to stand firm, and why the victory Jesus has won changes everything.

We're glad you're here, wearing the colors of your favorite team for our "Show Your Colors" celebration! Snap a picture by the banner in the foyer. Stay for the **Tailgate Potluck on Sunday at 11am**. Come back **Monday** for a free showing of the movie **"Facing the Giants"** at 10am.

Whatever team you cheer for, the most important question remains: Whose team are you on? Come worship with your Victory family as we gather around God's Word and learn to follow Jesus together.



GO TIME: September Food Drive Let's stock the shelves!

Victory Lutheran has partnered with Lutheran Social Services of the Southwest for many years. The Food Pantry, which serves people in need on Monday and Wednesday mornings, is one way we are the hands and feet of Jesus. This year the need has been greater than ever! To help meet the need we are having a food drive in the month of September.



They are most in need of rice, beans, pasta, pasta sauce, peanut butter, and cereal. If you would like to participate, please put your items on the specially marked table during the month of September. We look forward to seeing our provisions grow! Thank you, in advance, for joining the cause!



GROUP TIME: Congratulations, Jonas!

Victory Lutheran Church is excited to congratulate **Jonas Oehrlein** on completing his **Master of Science in Cybersecurity and Information Assurance** from **Western Governors University (WGU)**!

Many at Victory know Jonas through the important work he does behind the scenes helping with our IT needs. Jonas and his mom began attending Victory a few years ago and soon became members. At just the right time, as Victory was facing a major increase in the cost of outside IT support, Jonas stepped forward and offered his expertise. Since then, he has generously given his time and talents to help Victory with technology and IT support at no cost to the church.

Now we are thrilled to celebrate this important accomplishment with him. Completing a master's degree requires dedication, perseverance, and countless hours of hard work, especially while balancing a career and other responsibilities.

We are grateful for the gifts, knowledge, and passion he brings to Victory, and we are especially happy to celebrate this meaningful milestone with him.

Jonas, thank you not only for the knowledge and skills you bring to Victory, but also for your willingness to use those gifts in service to others. We are grateful to have you as part of our Victory family and excited to see where God leads you next.

Congratulations, Jonas, on this wonderful achievement!

