

**Minnesota Valley Church; Sunday, September 28, 2025**  
**16<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**

Prelude: Rebekah Olson

**HYMN #529 “Glory to His Name”**

**CALL TO WORSHIP: from Psalm 146**

**PASTOR: Praise the LORD.**

**ALL: Praise the LORD, O my soul.**

**PASTOR: I will praise the LORD all my life;**

**ALL: I will sing praise to my God as long as I live.**

**PASTOR: Do not put your trust in princes,**

**ALL: In mortal men, who cannot save.**

**PASTOR: When their spirit departs, they return to the ground;**

**ALL: On that very day their plans come to nothing.**

**PASTOR: Blessed is he whose help is the God of Jacob,**

**ALL: Whose hope is in the LORD his God,**

**PASTOR: The Maker of heaven and earth,**

**ALL: The sea, and everything in them--**

**HYMN #547 “The Light of the World Is Jesus”**

**CHILDREN’S MESSAGE:**

Reader: Joel Carrizales

Old Testament Lesson: *Amos 6:1-7 Woe to you who are complacent in Zion, and to you who feel secure on Mount Samaria, you notable men of the foremost nation, to whom the people of Israel come! 2 Go to Calneh and look at it; go from there to great Hamath, and then go down to Gath in Philistia. Are they better off than your two kingdoms? Is their land larger than yours? 3 You put off the evil day and bring near a reign of terror. 4 You lie on beds inlaid with ivory and lounge on your couches. You dine on choice lambs and fattened calves. 5 You strum away on your harps like David and improvise on musical instruments. 6 You drink wine by the bowlful and use the finest lotions, but you do not grieve over the ruin of Joseph. 7 Therefore you will be among the first to go into exile; your feasting and lounging will end.*

Gospel Lesson: *Luke 16:19-31 "There was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen and lived in luxury every day. 20 At his gate was laid a beggar named Lazarus, covered with sores 21 and longing to eat what fell from the rich man's table. Even the dogs came and licked his sores. 22 "The time came when the beggar died and the angels carried him to Abraham's side. The rich man also died and was buried. 23 In hell, where he was in torment, he looked up and saw Abraham far away, with Lazarus by his side. 24 So he called to him, 'Father Abraham, have pity on me and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue, because I am in agony in this fire.' 25 "But Abraham replied, 'Son, remember that in your lifetime you received your good things, while Lazarus received bad things, but now he is comforted here and you are in agony. 26 And besides all this, between us and you a great chasm has been fixed, so that those who want to go from here to you cannot, nor can anyone cross over from there to us.' 27 "He answered, 'Then I beg you, father, send Lazarus to my father's house, 28 for I have five brothers. Let him warn them, so that they will not also come to this place of torment.' 29 "Abraham replied, 'They have Moses and the Prophets; let them listen to them.' 30 "No, father Abraham,' he said, 'but if someone from the dead goes to them, they will repent.' 31 "He said to him, 'If they do not listen to Moses and the Prophets, they will not be convinced even if someone rises from the dead.'"*

**READER: Here ends the reading of God’s Word.**

**CONGREGATION SINGS: God be praised, for His glad Tidings!**

**CONFESSION OF FAITH:** *Apostles’ Creed- I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of Heaven and earth; And in Jesus Christ, His only son, our Lord; Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit; born of the virgin Mary; Suffered under Pontius Pilate; Was crucified, dead and buried; He descended into hell; The third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven; And is seated on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; From where He shall come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit; The holy Christian Church; the Communion of Saints; the Forgiveness of sins; The Resurrection of the body, And the Life everlasting. Amen*

Gloria Patri: Ambassador Hymnal p. 4 *Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, Amen.*

Announcements and Receive Offering

PRAISE AND WORSHIP: Songs to be chosen by Hannah

### **“THE FOUNDATIONS OF A LIFE WORTH LIVING”**

**9/28/25: 1 Timothy 6:6-19 Pastor Tom Olson** *Grace to you and peace from God our father and our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Amen*

ANGIE: This past week has been a time of reflection for me about life. One reason was taking time to view the funeral of Glenn’s mother, Angie Gustafson. The mother of twelve children and also the kitchen and nutrition leader at their local hospital for her 30 plus year career.

CHARLIE: Charlie Kirk’s memorial service also was a time of serious reflection for me as well. Angie Gustafson and Charlie Kirk represent LIVES WELL LIVED. I believe they received these words from their Savior Jesus Christ, “Well done, good and faithful servant. Enter into the joy of your master.”

The topic for today’s message is on this very theme: “*THE FOUNDATIONS OF A LIFE WORTH LIVING*,” from I Timothy 6:6-19:

### **I. THE FOUNDATION OF CONTENTMENT**

***1 Timothy 6:6-10 But godliness with contentment is great gain. 7 For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it. 8 But if we have food and clothing, we will be content with that. 9 People who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge men into ruin and destruction. 10 For the love of money is a root of all***

***kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.***

EPISTLES: The Apostle Paul writes to Timothy two letters toward the end of his life and ministry. He is passing the baton to the next generation of church leadership. Here he wants to underscore a very important principle that will allow Timothy the ability to live his life well.

CONTENTMENT: The first foundation stone is GODLINESS WITH CONTENTMENT. A righteous life lived with gratitude is extremely important. Contentment is not about apathy. It is not an excuse to shirk or responsibility to prosper economically. Contentment is a state of mind that allows us to do whatever we do with a sense of peace and a lack of striving.

TRANQUILITY: This week at OK Bible study in Ecclesiastes 4:5&6, we saw that laziness leads you to ruin but on the other hand, ***Ecclesiastes 4:6, “Better one handful with tranquility, than two handfuls with toil and chasing after the wind.”***

HOUSE: A number of years ago I used an AutoCAD program to design our simple home that I planned on building. But I discovered that it would take all our retirement savings. Sharon and I had to accept the fact that we would have to be content with our 1994 mobile home.

PEACE: Once we accepted that reality, we got peace. We knew we would have enough savings to make it. Contentment allowed us to avoid spending all our money and living with a lot of stress.

INSPIRED: Contentment with one’s situation is a key to a peaceful life. I am continually amazed by Jeremy Hunter’s contentment in the midst of his most difficult life with muscular dystrophy. He is an inspiration to me.

RUIN: Paul also warns Timothy that lack of contentment can lead a person into a pursuit of wealth that leads to spiritual ruin. I visited with a man recently who told me about his friend who was trained to be a pastor but left that calling to become a successful musician. He eventually abandoned his faith in Christ. The musician became terminally ill and shortly before he died, he came back to the Lord. He got his worldly wealth but he sadly missed out on the life God had for him. He could have used his musical ability to serve God in the ministry but it would not have paid as well. The desire to get rich and famous stole his soul for many years and ended his life with regrets. CONTENTMENT IS IMPORTANT. Secondly...

## II. THE FOUNDATION OF RIGHTEOUS LIVING

***1 Timothy 6:11-16 But you, man of God, flee from all this, and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance and gentleness. 12 Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called when you made your good confession in the presence of many witnesses. 13 In the sight of God, who gives life to everything, and of Christ Jesus, who while testifying before Pontius Pilate made the good confession, I charge you 14 to keep this command without spot or blame until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ, 15 which God will bring about in his own time-God, the blessed and only Ruler, the King of kings and Lord of lords, 16 who alone is immortal and who lives in unapproachable light, whom no one has seen or can see. To him be honor and might forever. Amen.***

PREPARED: In these verses Paul tells Timothy how to be well prepared for the return of Jesus Christ. Christ will come for us either by our death or by His second coming, which could be any time. Paul seemed to be expecting Jesus to return in Timothy's lifetime. That is because the return of Christ is ALWAYS IMMINENT. We need to be ready at any time.

HOW: So how is Timothy supposed to be ready to meet the Lord? He tells him two things: FLEE and PURSUE.

FLEE: First of all, FLEE FROM SIN. Paul makes a list in ***Galatians 5:19-21 "The acts of the sinful nature are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; 20 idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions 21 and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God."***

TODAY: Our current culture is immersed in all these things. Evil is all around us. Just look at us locking the church doors during the service. Our nation has changed drastically. I blame my generation. We have lived for sin, we have abandoned God, we have bankrupted our nation. We have left young people with no hope for the future.

BOOMERS: My son told me that there is more debt in the world than there is money. It is a ponzi scheme that is about to crumble and crush our grandchildren. The outlook is grim. Add to it the wars and nuclear weapons and germ and chemical weapons we have made and my generation has set up the entire world for annihilation. How did this happen? We abandoned God. We have "sown to the wind and reaped the whirlwind."

PURSUE: Then he said PURSUE the things of a holy God. Verse 11: ***pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance and gentleness.***

ENCOUNTERS: I have been blessed by watching encounters that Charlie Kirk had with angry leftist college students. They come to the microphone and spew out the most vicious, false, unfounded accusations against him and he remains calm, refuses to lash back at them and often asked them to tell them their life story that causes them to be so angry and harsh. Time and again he would return a gentle response to their angry attacks.

GENTLE: He was a very sharp thinker but also very kind. ***1 Peter 2:20-24 ...if you suffer for doing good and you endure it, this is***

*commendable before God. 21 To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps. 22 "He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth." 23 When they hurled their insults at him, he did not retaliate; when he suffered, he made no threats. Instead, he entrusted himself to him who judges justly.*

VISCIOUS: The people who follow Satan are getting very vicious. They want to kill those of us who stand for righteousness in our depraved culture. In England, the government is persecuting those who speak up for righteousness. They basically have lost the freedom of speech. Last year the UK arrested and handcuffed over 12,000 people for saying things that the government doesn't approve, four times more than Russia! The United States is one of the last refuges of the freedom of speech and many politicians want to take it away from us. In England you will be handcuffed and arrested for praying silently in your mind if you are too close to an abortion facility.

MINNESOTA: Pastor Tom Brock, a Lutheran pastor, was asked to give the invocation at our Minnesota Capital but as soon as they found out that he prays in the Name of Jesus, he was rejected. You can pray in the name of any other god in Minnesota except the King of Kings. When I pray with the county board of supervisors in Barron County, Wisconsin once a year they still allow us to use the Name of Jesus.

STAND: If righteous living becomes illegal in Minnesota, we must live righteously anyway. *Revelation 2:10-11 Do not be afraid of what you are about to suffer. I tell you, the devil will put some of you in prison to test you, and you will suffer persecution for ten days. Be faithful, even to the point of death, and I will give you the crown of life. 11 He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. He who overcomes will not be hurt at all by the second death.*

FOUNDATION ONE FOR A LIFE WELL LIVED IS CONTENTMENT. FOUNDATION TWO IS RIGHTEOUS LIVING, and finally we see...

### III. THE FOUNDATION OF GENEROSITY

*I TIMOTHY 6:17-19 Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. 18 Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. 19 In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life.*

SHORTCUT: There is a shortcut to a life of overflowing joy, the shortcut of GENEROSITY. One of the great tragedies of life is to get so possessive of money that we never get the chance to enjoy it or share it. It is not wrong to make wealth or have wealth, but it is a tragedy if it owns us so we don't let it bring joy to our family and to others. Some people are so gripped by money that they can't even spend it on themselves. We saw this in our Bible study this week:

*Ecclesiastes 4:8*

*There was a man all alone;  
he had neither son nor brother.*

*There was no end to his toil,  
yet his eyes were not content with his wealth.*

*"For whom am I toiling," he asked,  
"and why am I depriving myself of enjoyment?"*

*This too is meaningless-  
a miserable business!*

ENJOY: Some of you here like to drive really nice new cars and have the means to do so. I am happy to see you enjoy the fruit of decades of stressful and demanding careers by spending some money and driving a nice car. I spent my money on a 100-year-old

tractor and I am having a great time fixing it up. It has opened the door to many rewarding friendships with great people. Several of them will gather on Monday at our hobby farm for a steam engine party!

GENEROUS: I also know that many of you are generous with your time and talents and treasures in the church and in your family and in the community. This is a source of great joy. Our Minnesota born Secretary of War, Pete Hegseth, recently donated his 12.9 million dollar Fox News bonus to build housing for the homeless in Minneapolis. I am sure it brought him greater joy than keeping it for himself. My farmer friend, Larry Larson, knows the Hegseth family well and said they are great people.

PARENTS: I would say that my mom and dad's joy was to volunteer. They volunteered at church, a nature center, volunteer fire department, Lion's club, high school football games, the public library, taking school children on nature walks and so much more. They didn't have a million dollars but they had time and they gave it away to us and to their community freely and it made them so happy. That is why the church was packed with people at their funerals...they learned the joy of generosity.

RICH: Paul tells Timothy to teach people to...*be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. 19 In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life.*

CONCLUSION: Do you want to live A LIFE WORTH LIVING? Angie Gustafson did for over 97 years! Her family packed out the church in Stanley, North Dakota to testify to it. She had discovered THE FOUNDATIONS OF A LIFE WORTH LIVING: Contentment, Righteousness and Generosity.

The priest who led her funeral mass told the congregation an amazing evangelical statement the Angie would tell him when he visited her in the nursing home. She would tell him, "Father,

remember that ALLWE NEED IS JESUS." I believe she was ministering to the priest who came to minister to her. Anyone who dies with those words on her lips has truly lived A LIFE WORTH LIVING. Prayer: *Father in heaven. We all have only a few brief years on earth. Help us to learn to live every day well. Help us to be content and peaceful. Help us to live righteous lives in a wicked generation. Help us to be generous with the time, talents and treasures you have given us. Most of all, help us to have true faith in our crucified and risen Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ in who's name we pray. Amen*

### **Hymn #452 "O Take My Hand, Dear Father"**

**Lord's Prayer:** *Our Father, Who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy Name. Thy Kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those that trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, The power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen*

**Benediction & Doxology** *Praise God from whom all blessings flow, Praise Him all creatures here below, Praise Him above, ye heavenly host, Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. A-men. A-men. A---men.*

**Postlude:** Rebekah Olson