

VICTORY VOICE

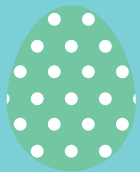
April 2024

Easter
March 31

Join us on Sunday
morning to
celebrate our
risen Savior!

Worship at 8:00 or 10:30

Easter Breakfast at 9:15



followed by



Easter Egg Hunts
for the kids!



**March 29-
April 1**

No school on
Good Friday or
Easter Monday

Singing for Church

VLP students will
sing for church
on April 21 at the
10:30 service!



**April celebrations: Jacob,
Harper, & Gabrella!**

*"Every good & perfect gift is from above,
coming down from the Father of heavenly
lights." James 1:17*

March 18, 2024

Dear Victory family,

Since February 20th, I've been deliberating two divine calls: One to continue serving as pastor at Victory, and the other to serve as the Dean of Students at Michigan Lutheran Seminary in Saginaw, MI. The Dean of Students is basically the campus pastor at the school, where 60% of the student body lives in dormitories on campus. MLS is one of two high schools in the WELS that has the express purpose of equipping and encouraging high school students to consider serving in ministry as pastors, teachers, or staff ministers in our churches and schools.

After many prayers, many conversations with people at MLS and at Victory, and many hours spent thinking and reading Scripture, I have decided to accept the call to serve as Dean of Students at MLS. As I told the congregation yesterday morning when I announced my decision, a pastor choosing to accept a call to a different ministry is one of the most difficult decisions he has to make. This was one of the hardest decisions for me because of the wonderful people I've been blessed to serve and serve alongside here at Victory and in Jacksonville. It was one of the hardest decisions because I'm still so excited about all the ways God has been richly blessing this ministry, and all the "green lights" that are on the horizon to reach even more people with the good news of Jesus through our church and preschool.

At the same time, it also wasn't one of the hardest decisions, because this position at MLS feels like such a good fit for my gifts, strengths, and experience, and I'm excited to be able to have a multiplication impact on God's kingdom by encouraging young people to serve in ministry, and therefore, through their ministries bring even more souls in. Although MLS is my alma mater, and although Saginaw, MI is where I grew up, this decision wasn't made based on proximity to home and family, otherwise we never would have come to Jacksonville in the first place! This simply feels like the right fit at the right time for me and my family. And so, as hard as it is to leave a place and people and ministry that we love, I can't help but feel God's timing in this decision.

I also feel confident to leave, because I feel so confident in all of you. I know with absolute certainty that God is going to continue to use each and every one of the members of the Victory family to continue moving this ministry forward, and to keep carrying out our purpose of Winning Souls for Christ, and Coaching Christians for Life. I'm also confident, because God has promised, that this decision will serve to be a blessing to Victory, and that the next shepherd of this congregation that God sends, will be an incredible blessing to this ministry also.

Because we won't be moving until after the school year has concluded, my family and I will still be serving in Jacksonville for the next three months or so. I'm thankful for that time to help tie up loose ends and get everything ready for the transition into a new pastor. I'm also thankful for that time so we can spend it with our Victory family and friends that we love, and enjoy these remaining months in Jacksonville, a city that we will always love.

Thank you for letting me be your pastor for these past five years. You've been such an incredible blessing to me and my family and to God's Kingdom. May he be with us and bless us. May he make his face shine on us, and be gracious to us. May he look upon us with his favor, and grant us his peace.

Serving our Savior with you,

Pastor Troy R. Schreiner