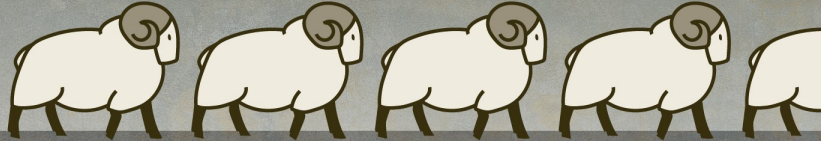


THE NEED FOR



FOLLOWERSHIP

**SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY
AFTER PENTECOST**

*Followers of Christ Are
Armed for Battle*

September 15, 2024





4651 Kernan Blvd S,
Jacksonville, FL 32224
(904) 642-8900

Worship at 8am and
10:30am

Bible Class and Youth
Sunday School at
9:15am

victorylutheran.org



Find us on Facebook,
Instagram, and YouTube



*Victory is affiliated with
the Wisconsin Evangelical
Lutheran Synod*

Welcome to Victory!

- Thank you for choosing to worship the Triune God with us! May the grace and peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you as we join together in worship.
- We prepare for worship by quietly meditating on the theme for the day and respectfully listening to the music chosen and prepared by our musicians.
- If you are looking for a church home, we would be thrilled to serve your spiritual needs. Our name comes from 1 Corinthians 15:57: **"Thanks be to God! He gives us the VICTORY through our Lord Jesus Christ!"**
- Our mission as a Christian congregation is to: **"Win souls for Christ and coach Christians for life."**
- Please sign the Connection Card inside the worship folder to give us a record of your visit, and so we can properly thank you for joining us!
- Restrooms are located in the hallway to the right as you enter the front doors. Changing tables are available in both the women's and men's restrooms.
- A Quiet Room for children who need a quiet moment with a caretaker is located on the right before entering the sanctuary.

TODAY'S WORSHIP: *Followers of Christ Are Armed for Battle*

What is the worst war in human history? One might point to World War II, which has the highest death toll of at least 90 million people. Or consider the Three Kingdoms War, which not only resulted in over 40 million deaths but also lasted for most of the third century. There is no end to the sad list of nominations: the Thirty Years War, the Taiping Rebellion, the American Civil War, World War I. None of those is the correct answer. The worst war in human history began when the first shot was fired in Eden. It has been raging since. It is a war against "spiritual forces of evil" (Ephesians 6:12). This is not a war over land or resources. It is a war for souls. The reality is that there are demonic forces that want to do more than kill you; they want to claim you for all eternity. The good news: Christ has already called you his own and equipped you for this war. Followers of Christ are armed for the battle.

CURRENT SERMON SERIES: *The Need for Followership*

"We need better leadership!" Have you ever said that? Perhaps you were frustrated with the direction being taken by some elected official or by management at your workplace or by the coach of your favorite team. You were frustrated because you know that no matter how many resources an organization has, it will flounder if leaders do not lead well: providing direction, training, motivation, coordination, encouragement, and even grace. Leadership is extremely important. And so, there are times we lament, "We need better leadership!" Jesus Christ is the leader of our congregation, our home, our lives. And his leadership is perfect in every way. Therefore, when things are amiss in any of those arenas, what is needed is not better leadership, but better followership. In this series, we ask Christ to empower us with his Spirit so that we might better follow his lead. May we better reflect the beauty of his life, better make his priorities our own, and better serve our God and neighbor.



| | |
|----------|--|
| Sept. 15 | Followers of Christ Are Armed for Battle |
| Sept. 22 | Followers of Christ Are Humble Servants |
| Sept. 29 | Followers of Christ Have Powerful Allies |

SERVICE OF WORD AND SACRAMENT

OPENING HYMN

Rise! To Arms! With Prayer Employ You

Christian Worship 871

M: The grace of our Lord † Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

CONFESSION OF SINS

M: God invites us to come into his presence and worship him with humble and penitent hearts. Therefore, let us acknowledge our sinfulness and ask him to forgive us.

C: **Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful, and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.**

M: God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son † and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**



LORD, HAVE MERCY *Kyrie*

M: For all that we need in life and for the wisdom to use all your gifts with gratitude and joy, hear our prayer, O Lord.



C: Lord, have mer - cy.

M: For the steadfast assurance that nothing can separate us from your love and for the courage to stand firm against the assaults of Satan and every evil, hear our prayer, O Christ.



C: Christ, have mer - cy.

M: For the well-being of your holy Church in all the world and for those who offer here their worship and praise, hear our prayer, O Lord.



C: Lord, have mer - cy.

M: Merciful God, maker and preserver of life, uphold us by your power and keep us in your tender care:



C: A - men.

M: The works of the Lord are great and glorious; his name is worthy of praise.

O LORD, OUR LORD



C: O Lord, our Lord, how glo - rious is your name in



all the earth. Al - might - y God, mer - ci - ful Fa - ther,



you crown our life with your love. You take a - way our sin;



you com - fort our spir - it; you make us pure and



ho - ly in your sight. You did not spare your on - ly Son,



but gave him up for us all. O Lord, our Lord,



how glo - rious is your name in all the earth.

O Son of God, e - ter - nal Word of the Fa - ther,
 you came to live with us; you made your Fa - ther known;
 you washed us from our sins in your own blood. You are the
 King of glo - ry; you are the Lord! O Lord, our Lord,
 how glo - rious is your name in all the earth.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: Let us pray.

Almighty God, you see that we have no power to defend ourselves. Guard and keep us both outwardly and inwardly from all adversities that may happen to the body and all evil thoughts that may assault and hurt the soul; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: A - men.

THE WORD

FIRST READING: 1 Kings 18:21–39

Even the combined forces of hell are nothing compared to God's almighty power

²¹Elijah went before the people and said, "How long will you waver between two opinions? If the Lord is God, follow him; but if Baal is God, follow him."

But the people said nothing.

²²Then Elijah said to them, "I am the only one of the Lord's prophets left, but Baal has four hundred and fifty prophets. ²³Get two bulls for us. Let Baal's prophets choose one for themselves, and let them cut it into pieces and put it on the wood but not set fire to it. I will prepare the other bull and put it on the wood but not set fire to it. ²⁴Then you call on the name of your god, and I will call on the name of the Lord. The god who answers by fire—he is God."

Then all the people said, "What you say is good."

²⁵Elijah said to the prophets of Baal, "Choose one of the bulls and prepare it first, since there are so many of you. Call on the name of your god, but do not light the fire."

²⁶So they took the bull given them and prepared it.

Then they called on the name of Baal from morning till noon. "Baal, answer us!" they shouted. But there was no response; no one answered. And they danced around the altar they had made.

²⁷At noon Elijah began to taunt them. "Shout louder!" he said. "Surely he is a god! Perhaps he is deep in thought, or busy, or traveling. Maybe he is sleeping and must be awakened." ²⁸So they shouted louder and slashed themselves with swords and spears, as was their custom, until their blood flowed. ²⁹Midday passed, and they continued their frantic prophesying until the time for the evening sacrifice. But there was no response, no one answered, no one paid attention.

³⁰Then Elijah said to all the people, "Come here to me." They came to him, and he repaired the altar of the Lord, which had been torn down. ³¹Elijah took twelve stones, one for each of the tribes descended from Jacob, to whom the word of the Lord had come, saying, "Your name shall be Israel." ³²With the stones he built an altar in the name of the Lord, and he dug a trench around it large enough to hold two seahs of seed. ³³He arranged the wood, cut the bull into pieces and laid it on the wood. Then he said to them, "Fill four large jars with water and pour it on the offering and on the wood."

³⁴"Do it again," he said, and they did it again.

“Do it a third time,” he ordered, and they did it the third time. ³⁵The water ran down around the altar and even filled the trench.

³⁶At the time of sacrifice, the prophet Elijah stepped forward and prayed: “Lord, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Israel, let it be known today that you are God in Israel and that I am your servant and have done all these things at your command. ³⁷Answer me, Lord, answer me, so these people will know that you, Lord, are God, and that you are turning their hearts back again.”

³⁸Then the fire of the Lord fell and burned up the sacrifice, the wood, the stones and the soil, and also licked up the water in the trench.

³⁹When all the people saw this, they fell prostrate and cried, “The Lord—he is God! The Lord—he is God!”

M: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING: Ephesians 6:10–18

Followers of Christ put on the full armor of God to prepare for battle

¹⁰Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. ¹¹Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil’s schemes. ¹²For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. ¹³Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. ¹⁴Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, ¹⁵and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. ¹⁶In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. ¹⁷Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

¹⁸And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord’s people.

M: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL READING: Mark 9:14–27

Everything is possible for the one who relies on Christ, who has already won the war

¹⁴When they came to the other disciples, they saw a large crowd around them and the teachers of the law arguing with them. ¹⁵As soon as all the people saw Jesus, they were overwhelmed with wonder and ran to greet him.

¹⁶“What are you arguing with them about?” he asked.

¹⁷A man in the crowd answered, “Teacher, I brought you my son, who is possessed by a spirit that has robbed him of speech. ¹⁸Whenever it seizes him, it throws him to the ground. He foams at the mouth, gnashes his teeth and becomes rigid. I asked your disciples to drive out the spirit, but they could not.”

¹⁹“You unbelieving generation,” Jesus replied, “how long shall I stay with you? How long shall I put up with you? Bring the boy to me.”

²⁰So they brought him. When the spirit saw Jesus, it immediately threw the boy into a convulsion. He fell to the ground and rolled around, foaming at the mouth.

²¹Jesus asked the boy’s father, “How long has he been like this?”

“From childhood,” he answered. ²²“It has often thrown him into fire or water to kill him. But if you can do anything, take pity on us and help us.”

²³“If you can?” said Jesus. “Everything is possible for one who believes.”

²⁴Immediately the boy’s father exclaimed, “I do believe; help me overcome my unbelief!”

²⁵When Jesus saw that a crowd was running to the scene, he rebuked the impure spirit. “You deaf and mute spirit,” he said, “I command you, come out of him and never enter him again.”

²⁶The spirit shrieked, convulsed him violently and came out. The boy looked so much like a corpse that many said, “He’s dead.” ²⁷But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him to his feet, and he stood up.

M: This is the Gospel of our Lord.



C: Praise be to you, O Christ!



CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

All children are invited to join Pastor Phil at the front of the sanctuary for a message based on today's sermon, specifically designed for them! If it would help the children would feel more comfortable, an adult is welcome to come up with them.



CHILDREN'S CHURCH (10:30am Service)

Children ages 3–5 can be dismissed to the 3K/Kitchen classroom for Children's Church. Children will return from Children's Church to the sanctuary after the conclusion of the sermon.

HYMN OF THE DAY

Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness

Christian Worship 517

SERMON**Pastor Phil Hoyer**

Text: Ephesians 6: 10-18

BE STRONG IN THE LORD!

CONFESSION OF FAITH

The Nicene Creed

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is,
seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,**

begotten, not made,
of one being with the Father.
Through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary,
and became fully human.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures.
He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

OFFERING

***Guests:** This is the moment in our worship when members and friends of Victory Lutheran respond to God's good news with gifts to support his saving work in Jacksonville, St. Johns County, and beyond. If you are our guest today, you are welcome to participate in this offering, but don't feel forced to! You can also give an online thank offering by using the camera on your smartphone to scan the QR code.*



Please also fill out the Connection Card found inside your worship folder and drop it in the basket on the back (blue) table. You can also scan the QR code on the left to fill out an online Connection Card.

OFFERTORY *Sung by Leah Mielke, Katie Seelman, Annelyse Bond, and Lydia Cochran*

Be Strong in the Lord

by Tom Fettke

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

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 who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

THE SACRAMENT

M: The Lord be with you.



C: And al - so with you.

M: Lift up your hearts.



C: We lift them up to the Lord.

M: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



C: It is right to give him thanks and praise.

M: Praise to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In love he has blessed us with every spiritual blessing. By the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, he empowered his Church to be witnesses of Christ to the ends of the earth. Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ. To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and thanks and honor and glory for ever and ever.

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY *Sanctus*



C: Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly is the Lord of hosts.



The whole earth is full of your glo - ry.



You are my God, and I will ex - alt you.



I will give you thanks, for you have be - come my sal -



va - tion. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly is the Lord of hosts.



The whole earth is full of your glo - ry.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

M: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my + body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my + blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

M: The peace of the Lord be with you always.



C: A - men.

O CHRIST, LAMB OF GOD *Agnus Dei*



C: O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the



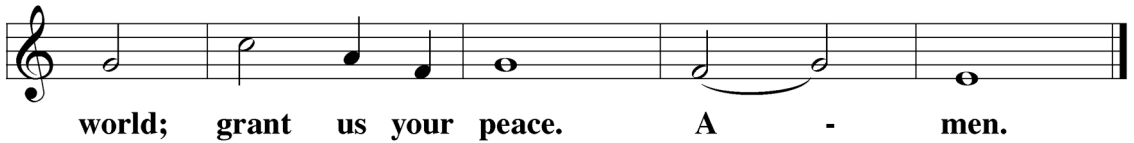
world; have mer - cy on us. O Christ, Lamb of God, you



take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.



O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the



DISTRIBUTION

Guests: Scripture teaches that when Christians partake of the Lord's Supper together, they are expressing their unity of faith. Through this act they are confessing that they agree on all the teachings of Scripture. We do not wish to put our guests in the position of making such a confession without knowing our teachings. Therefore, we ask that only those who are members of this or another WELS or ELS congregation come to receive communion at this time. If you desire communion fellowship with us, please speak to our pastor. We are eager to help anyone take this step.

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus

Christian Worship 872

By Faith

Christian Worship 868

THANK THE LORD





He re-news his prom-is - es and leads his peo-ple forth in joy with



shouts of thanks - giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

M: Hear the prayer of your people, O Lord, that the lips which have praised you here may glorify you in the world, that the eyes which have seen the coming of your Son may long for his coming again, and that all who have received in his true body and blood the pledge of your forgiveness may be restored to live a new and holy life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C: A - men.

BLESSING

M: Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another. Serve the Lord with gladness.

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look on you with favor and + give you peace.



C: A - men. A - men. A - men.

CLOSING HYMN

O Church, Arise

Christian Worship 870

ORGANIST **Mrs. Esther Huebner**

Acknowledgments

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BACK TO CHURCH SUNDAY—TODAY!

Join us in celebrating Back to Church Sunday! Starting today and continuing every Sunday at 9:15am are our new Bible studies for all ages!

Adult Bible Class Series: *Cold Case Christianity*

Uncover Christianity as you've never seen it before: from the eyes of a cold case detective. Atheist-turned-Christian J. Warner Wallace will teach you to defend your faith against those who claim there is no evidence for it using the same detective skills police use to solve decades-old mysteries.

Sunday School Series: *Enduring Faith*

This curriculum, produced by Concordia Publishing House, will teach your kids the foundational principles to building a faith that lasts. Grades 3K–1 will discover well-known (and some not-so-well-known) Bible stories. Grades 2–6 will explore what it means to be a Christian and how those stories apply to their lives. And grades 7–9 will learn to defend their faith, taking into account the unique challenges and circumstances of the twenty-first century.

And remember, these wonderful worship and Bible study opportunities are available every week! We hope to see you here again!

VICTORY MUSIC MINISTRY

Handbell Choir—Time to ring those bells! Victory's Handbell Choir will be starting back up on Tuesday, September 24, 6:30–7:30pm. If you've played before, we'd love to have you join us! If you've never played, not a problem! If you can count to 6 and know your colors, then you can ring! To have a full choir, we need 11 ringers who are willing to make a weekly commitment for rehearsal. The Handbell Choir will play approximately once a month, at Victory's Advent Song Service in December, and Christmas Eve (small group at this service). This is a great opportunity to be part of Victory's music ministry and to meet some really great folks! Ages 6th grade and up. The deadline to sign up for Handbell Choir is September 17.

Festival Choir—Do you like to sing? Do you want to join in an energetic and festive music ministry? Come to choir rehearsals starting on Tuesday, September 24, 7:30–8:30pm. We will be singing lots of different music this year and would love to have lots of voices. It is not necessary to read music, just bring your voice! Rehearsals are weekly and we will be singing 1–2 times a month, on festival Sundays (Reformation, All Saints Sunday), at the Advent Song Service and Christmas Eve. Ages 6th grade and up.

Small Group Singing—Do you like to sing and want to use God's gift of music? Do you like to sing but can't make a weekly commitment to rehearsals? The music ministry team would like to include more small group singing opportunities this fall—solos, duets, small groups, etc.

Calling All Instrumentalists!—Pull out that trumpet, flute, guitar, clarinet, oboe or whatever instrument you've got! We have some wonderful musicians here at Victory, but there are more of you out there, I'm sure! No matter your skill level—beginner, advanced, somewhere in between, a little rusty but willing to start practicing again—there is a place for you to enhance our worship services—be it playing a song with choir, preservice or offertory music, or maybe playing along with a hymn.

—Rachel Cochran

(904) 318-1404 or rachelhuebner@hotmail.com

If you are interested in any of these opportunities to use your musical gifts to support Victory, please contact Rachel Cochran at the phone number or email above with questions or to sign up.

For planning purposes, if you are interested in Handbell Choir, the deadline to reach out is September 17.

Need Help Dealing with Grief?

GriefShare Grief & Loss Support Groups Are Here for You

What is GriefShare?

At GriefShare you'll receive valuable guidance and tips, leading you to relief, comfort, and peace of mind.

A support group to help you move through the grief process

A GriefShare support group is a safe, welcoming place where people understand the difficult emotions of grief. Through this 13-week group, you'll discover what to expect in the days ahead and what's "normal" in grief. Since there are no neat, orderly stages of grief, you'll learn helpful ways of coping with grief, in all its unpredictability — and gain solid support each step of the way.

Videos that encourage

Each weekly GriefShare group begins with a 30-minute video featuring respected experts on grief-related topics and helpful stories from people who have experienced loss. Their insights will help you manage your emotions, gain clarity, and find answers to your questions as you walk through the grief process.

Supportive discussions

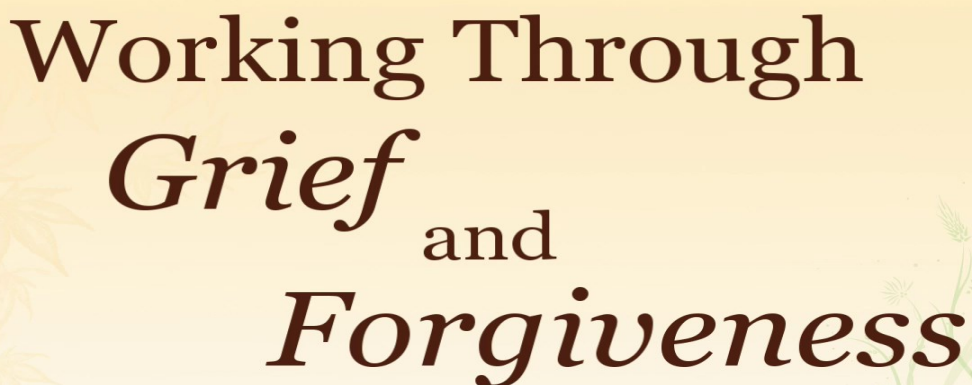
After the video, you and the other group members will spend time discussing what was presented in the video and what is going on in your lives. Talking with other people who understand what you're experiencing brings great comfort, normalizes the grief experience, and offers a supportive environment to work through your grief.

Helpful book to guide you

Your participant guide serves as a road map on your grief journey. This book helps you process your emotions and experiences and cope with the loss. You'll apply what you've heard in the group and gain tools to deal with complicated grief.

Go to Griefshare.org to find out more about this group.

Pastor Phil is working on establishing such a group at Victory. There is a great need for our Victory family to help those who are suffering from the loss of a loved one, a disability, or a loss of a job. **If you are interested in such a group, please let Pastor Phil know about this and sign up on a sheet near the computer booth.** He will keep you informed about when the group will be able to meet here at church. Friends, relatives and neighbors are also invited to come to such a meeting.



Working Through *Grief* and *Forgiveness*



MY WORSHIP NOTES



For children to use during worship.

NAME: _____

DATE: _____

What is the name of the church season or special day today? _____

What is the color of the church today? Circle one:

Blue White Purple Red Green

The Sermon Text Was: _____



This is in the: Old Testament New Testament

What was the sermon about? _____



My favorite song today was:



Did we have a Sacrament today?



Baptism?

Yes

No



Communion?

Yes

No

Draw a picture of something you heard or saw today:

What did you learn about God today?

Sermon Notes



VICTORY
LUTHERAN
Church & Preschool

VICTORY LUTHERAN CHURCH AND PRESCHOOL

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Victory is a member congregation of the
Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS),
headquartered in Waukesha, Wisconsin.

