

Rev. Eric Van Scharrel was born in 1981 in South Dakota, where he lived until the age of 18. He was raised in the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod, and decided he wanted to be a Lutheran pastor when he was a senior in high school.

Rev. Van Scharrel attended Concordia University Nebraska, was a Pre-Seminary Studies major, and graduated in 2003. He enrolled at Concordia Seminary in St. Louis, and graduated with his Masters in Divinity in 2007. His vicarage was to Our Redeemer Lutheran Church in Moorhead, Minnesota.

His first Call out of the seminary was to Christ the Redeemer Lutheran Church in Tulsa, Oklahoma in 2007. His second Call was to Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Alexandria, Minnesota, in 2012.

Pastor Van Scharrel has served at St. John's Lutheran Church in Bakersfield, California since 2014 (St. John's website: <https://sjlchurch.org>). He was initially Called to serve as Associate Pastor, and then was Called to be Senior Pastor in 2019. St. John's has a K-8 school, and a pre-school. LCMS statistics report that St. John's has 1,277 baptized members, average weekly worship attendance of 751, and a total school enrollment (K-8 and pre-school combined) of 609. St. John's has a staff of over 100.

Rev. Van Scharrel serves as a Regional Vice-President for the LCMS California-Nevada-Hawaii district. In his comments about Pastor Van Scharrel in the Pastor Information Form that is part of the Call process, the CNH District President said:

“Pastor Van Scharrel is a leader, and he works effectively with a large staff. He has excellent people skills, and relates well to people of all ages. Pastor Van Scharrel is a solid Lutheran pastor, apt in handling God's Word. He serves flexibly in either traditional or modern contemporary worship, and he follows a Lutheran order of worship. He is a very good communicator and presenter, and he has a heart for the lost.”

Pastor Van Scharrel met his wife, Kristen, in St. Louis while he was a student at Concordia Seminary, and on their first date they went to a St. Louis Cardinals' baseball game. They were married in 2005, and God has blessed them with three children: Tate, 17, Quinn, 15, and Jax, 11. Kristen is from Minnesota, and she is a pediatric nurse practitioner.

Pastor Van Scharrel's interests center around his family, and their kids' activities. They enjoy traveling and lots of sports, and they have a family dog. Pastor Van Scharrel a big baseball fan, and also a daily runner.