

Our Mission: Growing in Faith and Sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ with All People

A Devotional Thought: Now Thank We All Our God

The Thirty Years War began in central Europe in 1618, and its reach was spreading. Many refugees fled to Eilenburg, where Martin Rinkart was archdeacon. In 1636, with war all around, Rinkart wrote “Now Thank We All Our God” (CW 597, 598) as a mealtime prayer.

The following year, plague struck overcrowded Eilenburg. Rinkart presided at over 4000 funerals that year, including the funeral of his own wife.

But the hymn continued to grow in popularity, even in war- and disease-ravaged Germany. It was widely sung by the end of the war in 1648 and was part of celebrations of the Peace of Westphalia, the treaty that ended the war.

What has you feeling less than thankful this year? The death of a loved one? Financial hardships brought on by inflation or job loss? Struggles with physical or mental illness? Strain on your marriage or family? So much seems unstable and uncertain.

But God has given us much to be thankful for. At Riverview, we have welcomed several new families to our school and church. Nearly \$1 million has been pledged for our *Growing in Grace* building expansion. We have a full school faculty and continue to call for an associate pastor to serve at Riverview.

Best of all, God’s grace continues to be ours through his Son. We have not always been thankful and faithful stewards of his gifts. We have neglected his means of grace and been discontent with his care. But, for Jesus’ sake, God counts us as his own. He cheers us with the blessed peace of his forgiveness and guides us to his mercy when we are perplexed by the troubles of life.

Through Word and Sacraments, he assures us that we are his forgiven children and will one day feast at his table in heaven. Meanwhile he hears and answers every one of our prayers. In good times and bad, we can say and sing, “Now thank we all our God with hearts and hands and voices!” Lord, move us to live thankful lives for you!

Yours in Christ, *Pastor Tim Wagner*

Now Thank We All Our God **597**



1 Now thank we all our God with hearts and hands and voices,
2 Oh, may this boun-teous God through all our life be near us,
3 All praise and thanks to God the Fa-ther now be giv-en,

Membership News

Meet Trevor & Mindi Hansmann and Family

Meet the Hansmann family, Trevor and Mindi and their 3 children. Jenna is in the 3rd grade and Brynn is in 4K here at Riverview Lutheran School. Little Liam blessed this family in May 2022 and is growing like a weed. Trevor is employed



with Apvion in the IT department and Mindi enjoys being a Teller at Community First Credit Union. Some of their favorite things to do includes camping and canoeing up north. The Hansmann's chose Riverview Lutheran Church and School because "it feels like family and everyone loves our children like their own".



-The Hansmann Family.

Membership Changes

+ Called to Eternal Rest

- Mark Disterhaft
- Earl Semrow

+ Joined By Transfer, from St. Paul, North Fond du Lac

- Lauren Evers

+ Joined By Baptism

- Natalie Ann Kopp

+ Released from Membership

- Eric & Amy Barth
Tyler, Jacob, Ellie
- Nathan Fieck
- Logan Fieck
- Gage Fieck
- Rachel Haese
- Dylan Haese
- Thara Haese
- Wendy Kolasinski
- Kyle Kolasinski
- Susan Rabiego
- Ryan Selle
- Alycia Marshall, at her request

Veterans Day Program

The students of Riverview will be performing a Veterans Day Program, in the gym on Friday, November 11, at 10:00 – 10:45 am. All are invited to attend.

There will also be a Scholastic Book Fair in the gym that day.

CPTO Trivia Night

On Friday, November 11, from 6 to 9:30 pm, join us at Sabre Lanes in Menasha to test your trivia knowledge. This contest sponsored by the CPTO will run from 7-9 pm, with fellowship before and after. This is team trivia, so each team member can answer as much or as little as he/she is able. Sign up on the display board in the entrance of school or call the school office to be added to a team. ***No carry-ins of food or beverages are allowed.*** Food and beverages will be available for purchase from Sabre Lanes.

Church Picture Directory

FINAL DATE ~ to have your picture taken for our new church directory. **Wednesday, November 23 from 10:00 am – 5:00 pm.** Every family that is photographed receives a complimentary directory and 8 x 10 family portrait. Call the office for an appointment time.

Divine Call Update

Pastor Ben Schone has returned the call to serve as Associate Pastor at Riverview. Please keep him, his family, and his congregation in your prayers, as they continue to serve the Lord in Houston, TX. Our next Divine Call meeting will be Monday, November 21, at 6:00 pm. All members are encouraged to attend.

Mission Presentation

On November 20, LWMS welcomes Mr. John Kolander for a special mission presentation about the Vulnerable Children's Foundation. The presentation will be held in the fellowship hall/7th-8th grade room during the bible study hour (9:20-10:10). Make sure to be there!

Advent Begins November 27

A new church year begins with the Advent season on November 27. The season of Advent is a season of preparation, not just for our celebration of Savior's first coming, but for our welcoming him when he comes again. During this special season, midweek devotional services will be held Wednesdays, November 30 – December 14, at 3:30 & 6:30 pm. (Note: there will not be Advent meals this year). This year's theme is: "A Savior is Born..."

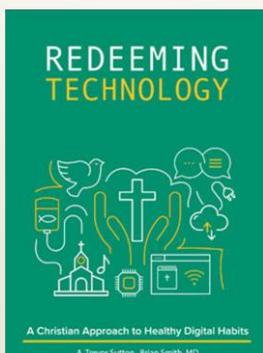
Library Corner

New in our library is *Redeeming Technology: A Christian Approach to Healthy Digital Habits*.

Americans spend countless hours engaging with media. The authors help the reader find a healthy balance with technology in today's modern age while still being focused on Christ.

We recently added a number of other new items. Stop in and see the latest additions today. Browse our entire library catalog at www.librarything.com/catalog/RLC-Appleton.

Contact Linda Zwieg with questions or suggestions.



Growing in Grace Update

On October 9, the voters of Riverview approved going forward with construction of an addition to include five classrooms, an upgraded kitchen, expanded fellowship hall/bible study space, and other improvements up to \$3 million.

Building Expansion News. We have **signed the construction contract** with Keller Construction totaling \$2,965,186. To save winter construction costs, construction may be delayed to late winter, also allowing Keller to get materials ordered and delivered. Payments of \$13,169 have been made for initial work. A payment of \$100,000 to finalize plans for construction and state approval will be paid from early gifts to the Capital Campaign.

Capital Campaign News. The application for long-term financing with Community First Credit Union was approved with interest at 5.25%. We will pay interest only on borrowings during construction and the 3 year pledge fulfillment. Principal and Interest payments will begin in 2025 with the debt amortized over 25 years. Every **contribution now will reduce borrowing** and save huge amounts later. A **gift of stock** was recently received into our brokerage account. Thank you!! We have **\$146,000 in the Capital Fund** to pay the first big invoice—see above.

LWMS Rally Update

Several Riverview ladies & gentlemen attended the Paperland Circuit fall Rally on Saturday, October 15, where we heard an update on synod's 100 in 10 project and had a surprise mission update from Rev. Connor Berg. Pastor Berg is a 2022 graduate of WELS Seminary and assigned as missionary to London. Pastor Berg, a former member of Riverview, gave us some interesting insight into the ministry in London. Paperwork for his transition is still in process so he was available to speak to the group.

LWMS Giving Tree

Our local LWMS group will sponsor a Christmas giving tree again this year during Advent. This year's tree will support the Vulnerable Children's Foundation (see above) and Kids c.a.r.e. project, *mi amigo Jesus*. Both of these projects are non-funded missions to children. For more information, contact Judy Kuepper or Cheryl Theimer

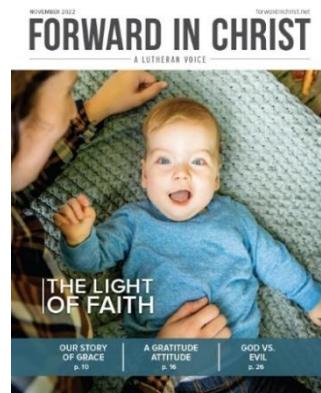


WELS News

November 2022 Issue of Forward In Christ

God showed his grace to us by giving up his Son to live, die, and rise again for our salvation. This month that grace is on display throughout the magazine.

- John Holtz uses an Old Testament figure to demonstrate God's grace, which gives us a seat "At the King's table."
- Two articles remind us that even when evil prevails in this world and in our lives, God is still in charge, and his grace is still present. Don't miss "Please explain," which explains why God allows evil in the world, and "Our Lord reigns," which shares a message of hope as we struggle to live according to God's purpose in this evil world.
- Using her own personal story, Megan Neisius reminds us that even when we feel broken and distant from God, God is still there and shining his light through us.



Board Updates

Board of Church Properties Notes

- Snow blowing and shoveling crews needed! If you are interested in helping with snow removal, please call the office
- New security cameras were installed throughout the facility this month.

Board of Lay Ministry Notes

- Guest Preachers for November:
 - 11/13 – Pastor Mark Barenz (retired)
 - 11/27 – Pastor Fred Toppe (retired)
- Pastor Winter and several lay members are assisting with shut-in visitation
- The Worker Care Committee is meeting with about half of the staff for annual interviews.
- The Elders continue to reach out to members who have been absent from worship.

Board of Evangelism Notes

- Postcards are being prepared for a Christmas mailing.
- Thank you to all the volunteers and candy donations for Trunk or Treat. It was a beautiful day and fun was had by all.

Board of Stewardship

- We passed the October audit with flying colors.
- Approved allocation of a life insurance gift, kitchen upgrade fund, and building expansion fund to the Capital Fund.
- Health insurance information was distributed to all eligible workers.

Board of Education Notes

- Approved a Culver's CPTO Fundraiser
- Reviewed RLS Emergency Plan.
- Faculty and Staff had ALICE training.

Board of Spiritual Growth Notes

- Monday Bible study resumes in November with a study of the book of Luke.
- A Women's Advent by Candlelight is being planned for Saturday, December 3, at 6:30 pm.
- The fall women's bible study has concluded. A new study will begin after the first of the year.

Riverview School Calendar November Highlights

- + Nov 6 – 3K/4K sing at 10:30 am Worship Service
- + Nov 10 – RLS Picture Retake Day
- + Nov 11 – RLS Chapel (8:10 am)
- + Nov 11 – Scholastic Book Fair in the Gym 8:00 am - Noon
- + Nov 11 – Grandparents Day 8:00 – 11:00 am
- + Nov 11 – Veterans Day Program 10:15 – 10:45 am
- + Nov 11 – CPTO Trivia Night (must be 21 to attend) Sabre Lanes 6:00 – 9:30 pm
- + Nov 12 – Robotics Tournament at RLS
- + Nov 15 – 7th-8th grade Math Bowl @ FVL 6:00 pm
- + Nov 18 – RLS Chapel (8:10 am)
- + Nov 20 – Kindergarten sings at 8 am Worship Service
- + Nov 23-25 – No School Thanksgiving Break
- + Nov 30 – Grades 5-8 sing at 3:30 pm Worship Service
- + Dec 1 – Basketball Games @ Neenah Lutheran (4:30, 5:30, 6:30)
- + Dec 2 – RLS Chapel (8:10 am)
- + Dec 3 – Robotics @ Winneconne



Holiday Worship Schedule

- ❖ Thanksgiving Worship
Wed, November 23— 6:30 pm
Thurs, November 24— 9:30 am
- ❖ Midweek Advent Worship
Wednesdays, Nov 30 – Dec 14— 3:30 pm & 6:30 pm
(no Advent Suppers due to lack of available space)
- ❖ RLS Christmas Service – December 16 - 6:30 pm
- ❖ Christmas Eve – 3:30 pm & 6:30 pm
- ❖ Christmas Day w/Communion – 9:30 am
- ❖ New Year's Eve w/Communion – 3:30 pm
- ❖ Sunday, January 1 – 9:30 am



Stewardship of God's Blessings

Average Weekly Attendance

	Worship		Bible Study	Sunday School
	In Person	Online		
August	317	20	41	
September	245	17	78	33
October	266	27	84	27

Year to Date Offerings (July 1 – Sept. 30)

	Actual	Budget	Difference
General	\$133,788.67	\$175,000.00	-\$41,211.33
Synod	\$8,823.60	\$8,500.00	-\$323.60
FVL	\$5,397.60	\$5,000.00	+\$397.60
TOTAL	\$148,009.87	\$188,500.00	-\$40,490.13

Serving in November

Ushers:

8:00 – Terry Wing, Dan & Diane VandenHeuvel, Tim Perry, Jeff Theimer, Ed VanDenHeuvel

10:30 – Jerry Glaze, Dave & Barb Meyer, Jeff & Sara Dobrunz, Spencer Brooks

Greeters:

Nov. 6– 8:00- Vadala

10:30- Muesbeck & Wenberg

Nov. 13– 8:00- Wundrow & Somers

10:30- Becker & Apitz-Peters

Nov. 20 – 8:00- Prey & D. VandenHeuvel

10:30- Melso & Doran

Nov. 23 – 6:30- Shaw

Nov. 24 – 9:30-

Nov. 27 – 8:00- Theimer & Marohn

10:30- Brooks & Zimmermann

Nov. 30 – 3:30- R. Dumke & T. Schmidt

6:30- Melso & Gagnon

Communion Assistants:

Nov. 13 – 8:00 – Vandenberg
10:30 – Bartels

Nov. 27 – 8:00 – Wundrow
10:30 – Witte

Powerpoint Assistants:

Nov. 6 – 8:00 - Rachel Somers
10:30 - Nano Aragon

Nov. 13 –8:00 - Levi Wolfgramm
10:30 - Claire Peters

Nov. 20 – 8:00 - Liam Kelley
10:30 - Ethan Melso

Nov. 23– 6:30 -

Nov. 24– 9:30 -

Nov. 27 – 8:00 – Micaiah Wagner
10:30 – Seth Brooks

Nov. 30 – 3:30 – Dashed Winsor
6:30 – Henry Jaeger

General Fund Offerings

Each week **\$13,500 is needed** to meet operating expenses. Thru September our support for the ministry supported by General Fund offerings lagged behind what was needed by \$41,000.

This is about **\$3,500 per week short** of what is needed. We pray that our members will be able to increase General Fund offerings to continue to support our ongoing ministry.