

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

Crushed Yet Conquering

This Lenten season we have used the term crushed in our worship service themes. Often it has referred to the Messiah who was “crushed for our iniquities,” and “It was the Lord’s will to crush him and cause him to suffer” (Isaiah 53:5,10).

However, the first time the Bible uses the word, crush, is in Genesis 3:15. That verse is the first promise of the Savior. The Lord foretold that the Messiah / Savior of mankind would crush the head of Satan, but Satan would strike at the Savior's heel. This passage summarizes the entire message of Lent, and the suffering and death our Savior endured. Jesus defeated the devil, (crushed his head) but the cost was a mighty one. Jesus endured unimaginable pain and suffering and then death. All this was the price for our redemption, and this is the " he will strike his heel" section of Genesis 15:3.

Yes, Jesus our Messiah and Savior died, but He did not stay in that grave. Jesus physically rose from death on that third day that we now call Easter Sunday. Satan's power over us is crushed. Physical death has lost its sting, and eternal death will never touch believers in Christ the Savior.

For all whose sins and guilt is crushing down on them, the Savior has won the battle for you and for all. Jesus' victory is yours along with his love, forgiveness, and promise of life in heaven.

Come worship our victorious Savior on Easter Sunday, and review his final steps at our Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services. You are victors and are privileged to be on the Lord’s winning team. Come celebrate that victory. Share that good news with anyone who feels lost and crushed. We are victorious in the Risen Christ!



A blessed Easter to you and your family,
Pastor Dennis Belter

Membership Changes

- + Called to Eternal Rest
Gary Hagenow
Marilyn Popp
- + Transferred from Membership: Joan Winkler, to Martin Luther, Oshkosh

Opportunities to Serve

There are several opportunities for you and your family to serve here at RLC in the next couple of months. We are in need of candy donations and volunteers to help set up and take down the Easter for Kids event on Saturday, April, 9 from 12:30-3:30. The Elder Committee is hosting a continental breakfast on Easter morning from 7:30-10:00. They are in need of many donations to make this a success. Waffles, yogurt, fruit and pastries will be served. Sign up for donations is in the Narthex.

It seems like we were just seeking help to shovel snow and now lawn mowing will be right around the corner. Training will be provided if this will be your first summer to volunteer. Lastly, we are seeking greeters to welcome worshipers to services on Sunday mornings. If you are willing to serve contact Jo Theimer in the church office. 920 733 3728

Taking Outreach Personally

Those who attended the Everyone Outreach workshop were asked to share their personal takeaways. Here are three responses that represent many others:

- “The importance of looking for the mission field right in front of me. “
- “God has provided people who are unbelievers in my life so I can share His love with them.”
- “Do not underestimate the power of the God, and his Gospel.”

Take a moment to picture in your mind what it would look like if all the members of our congregation consistently reached out to the unchurched people in our lives and in our community. Here are two things you can do to help make this picture a reality:

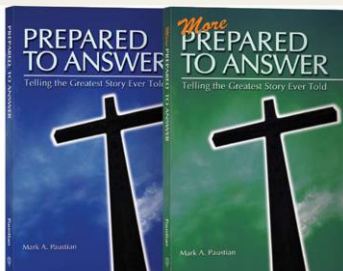
- Identify one thing you can do, personally, to reach out to an unchurched person in your life.
- Identify one thing you can do, personally, to encourage one or more fellow members of your congregation to reach out to the unchurched people in their lives.

Library Corner

The joy of Easter makes us eager to share our faith with those who need to know the hope that we have. As we share, people will have questions. Prof. Mark Paustian wrote two books that address many questions that people have using stories from the Bible, a witnessing method that connects to many in today's world. Check out *Prepared to Answer* and *More Prepared to Answer* in our church library.

Browse our entire library catalog at www.librarything.com/catalog/RLC-Appleton.

Contact Linda Zwieg with questions or suggestions.



Building Project News

The building committee is meeting with Keller in early April to begin looking at interior design work for the church/school expansion project. The design work is on track to be finalized by the end of April. Informational meetings for the congregation will follow.

Capital Campaign Update

A meeting was held to discuss timelines and schedule for our proposed building addition. Our Capital campaign will begin its work in April to share information casebooks and pictures. Please pray as the committees work to present plans to address our needs for classrooms, fellowship space, kitchen updates, parking and other enhancements. May through September will be some very exciting months for our church family. We are very close to sharing these exciting plans with you. Stay tuned!

Summer Softball and Kickball Teams

Riverview is sponsoring CoEd Softball and Kickball teams that will compete this Summer. Open to Members and Friends of Members 18 years old and up. Seasons start in May. Kickball games will be Wednesday nights at Appleton Memorial Park, and Softball games will be Sundays at Menasha Jefferson Park. For details or to sign up, contact BJ Witte (bwitte@riverviewlutheran.org). Men's Softball plays Wednesday nights at Appleton Memorial Park and is open to members and friends 18 years old and up. Contact Jeff Dobrunz (jdobrunz@sbcglobal.net) for information.

A Holy Week

“Holiday” is simply short for “holy day.” Throughout the course of a year, there are certain days we set apart as special: to commemorate extraordinary events, to celebrate influential individuals. While there are many holy days, there is but one holy week. The final week of Lent marks the most pivotal week in human history. In the four gospels—biographies of Jesus Christ's thirty-three-year life—this single week consumes nearly a third of the ink. The Holy Spirit considered the events of this week that important.

On a holy day, the relentless march of time slows down. We set aside our usual routines to call attention to whatever or whoever makes that day special. Likewise, believers slow down this entire week to ponder all that Christ did for them, from his humble entrance into Jerusalem... to his sacrificial death on the cross... to the victory of Easter morning.

We invite you to slow down and join us for worship this holy week at the times listed below. We have much to reflect on and rejoice over!

PASSION SUNDAY

Sunday, April 10
8:00 & 10:30 am

GOOD FRIDAY

Friday, April 15
3:30 & 6:30 pm



W E E K

HOLY THURSDAY

Thursday, April 14
3:30 & 6:30 pm

EASTER SUNDAY

Sunday, April 17
6:30, 8:30,
& 10:30 am

continental breakfast
7:30-10:00 am

Board Updates

Board of Lay Ministry Notes

- Discussion to make changes to health insurance for 2023.
- Discussed straying members and the best way to reach them.

Board of Spiritual Growth Notes

- WELS summer camp programs for children and families are available at Camp Bird (campbird.org) and Camp Phillip (campphillip.com).
- We are seeking individuals to assist with planning of spiritual growth opportunities for all ages. Contact Nathan Nolte or Pastor Wagner.

Board of Education Notes

- Reviewed standardized testing programs and selected iReady for the 2022-2023 school year.
- Approved purchase of enVision Math for the 2022-23 school year.
- Discussed classroom arrangements for the 2022-23 school year.

Board of Evangelism Notes

- 65 members participated in the Everyone Outreach workshop.
- Easter for Kids will be April 9, from 1:00-3:00 pm. We are seeking volunteers and donations of candy.
- Whom will you invite to join you for worship this Holy Week?

Board of Stewardship

- Endowment Committee is developing an information brochure on our four funds for those planning legacy gifts.
- Beginning budget plans for 2022-23, including a review of health benefits, and support staff wages and benefits, compared to sister congregations.
- Members who have not completed a Time & Talents form are encouraged to do so and turn it in to the church office. Forms are available at the usher stand in the back of church.

Board of Church Properties Notes

- Currently looking for volunteers to mow the lawn. If you are willing to help call Jo Theimer 920 733 3728

Riverview School Calendar April Highlights

- April 1 – RLS Chapel (8:10 am)
- April 1 – Middle School Dance 7 pm-10 pm
- April 6 – RLS Grades 5-8 sing in church (3:30pm)
- April 8 – RLS Chapel (8:10 am)
- April 12 – Forensics meet at Riverview
- April 14 – RLS Chapel (8:10 am)
- April 15 – RLS Grades 5-8 sing @ St. Paul's (12:00 pm)
- April 15 – NO SCHOOL
- April 18 – NO SCHOOL
- April 21 – Choice Application Deadline
- April 21 – CPTO Meeting 6:30 Fellowship Hall
- April 22 – RLS Chapel (8:10 am)
- April 24 – RLS Grades 3-4 sing (8:00 am)
- April 25 – Future Freshman Night at FVL
- April 27 – Forensics meet at Neenah Lutheran
- April 29 – RLS Chapel (8:10 am)
- May 1 – Confirmation (10:30 service)
- May 6 – Grades K-4 plays at 6:30 pm

Visit the calendar on our website for the latest dates and events.



Stewardship of God's Blessings

Average Weekly Attendance

| | Worship | | Bible Study | Sunday School |
|----------|-----------|--------|-------------|---------------|
| | In Person | Online | | |
| December | 208 | 33 | 66 | 19 |
| January | 194 | 55 | 64 | 19 |
| February | 245 | 30 | 70 | 20 |
| March | 220 | 27 | 73 | 21 |

Year to Date Offerings (Jul 1–Feb 28)

| | Actual | Budget | Difference |
|----------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| General | \$422,527.41 | \$400,000.00 | +\$22,527.41 |
| Building | \$88,347.28 | \$80,000.00 | +\$8,347.28 |
| Synod | \$31,594.50 | \$22,000.00 | +\$9,594.50 |
| FVL | \$14,594.30 | \$14,000.00 | +\$594.30 |
| TOTAL | \$557,063.49 | \$516,000.00 | +\$41,063.49 |

April Door Offering

The April Door offering will be received on April 10 to avoid Easter Sunday. The offering will be for Riverview members preparing for the public ministry at Martin Luther College and Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary. These gifts will supplement scholarships from the Thierfelder Fund, so that we are able to offer students a tuition gift equal to the \$1200 amount matched at Martin Luther College through Congregational Partner Grant Program. Consider giving to support these students whom God will use to fill the great need for pastors, teachers, and staff ministers in our church body. Gifts may be given in the door offering on April 10 or by indicating "MLC/WLS students" on your electronic gift or offering envelope.

Serving in April

Communion Assistants:

April 10 –
 8:00 – Terry Wing
 10:30 – Mike Melso

April 14–
 3:30 – Kevin Wundrow
 6:30 – Warren Bartels

April 24–
 8:00 – Dave Spielbauer
 10:30 – Benton Witte

Ushers:

8:00 – Kevin Wundrow team
 10:30 – Chad Krueger team

Powerpoint Assistants:

April 3 – 8:00 – Anna Wagner
 10:30 – Riley Lindell

April 10 – 8:00 – Pete Wolfgramm
 10:30 – Tailan Doran

April 14 – 3:30 –
 6:30 –

April 15 – 3:30 –
 6:30 –

April 17 – 6:30 –
 8:30 –
 10:30 – Walker family

April 24 - 8:00 – Rachel Somers
 10:30 – Grace Dumke

May 1 – 8:00 – Gideon Jaeger
 10:30 – Ethan Toshner

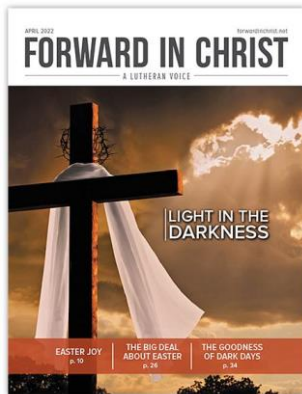
Taste Of Missions

Join your brothers and sisters in Christ from around the world for Taste of Missions, a hybrid event that will be held on Saturday, June 11, 2022, at Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary in Mequon, Wis. Join us in person OR online to get a "taste of missions" no matter where you might be around the world.

Registration is \$15 per person, with children 13 and under attending for free. Those attending in person will receive food tickets to sample ethnic food and will have the ability to purchase additional food from the food trucks. Or attend virtually for free! Learn more at tasteofmissions.com.

Forward in Christ

The April 2022 issue of FIC is now available in the church entryway. Pick up your copy and take one for a friend. Here are a few highlights:



- Several articles highlight Jesus' appearance to his followers after his resurrection, including outside the tomb, on the road to Emmaus, and on the shore of the Sea of Galilee. In his Q& A, David Scharf explains why those appearances are so important. (p.14)
- What's the big deal about Easter? Dan Leyrer shares how Easter affects your faith, your life, your forever. (p. 26)

WELS Night With the Brewers

We are excited to announce that WELS Night at the Brewers is back for 2022. Mark your calendars and plan to join thousands of WELS members for an evening at the ballpark on Friday, July 8, to watch the Brewers take on the Pirates. Tickets for WELS members and guests are discounted up to 50% and are reserved all together in a block. Tickets can be purchased online at brewers.com/wels. Order your tickets now!

Connecting WELS Members

Connection is more important now than ever. The Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod offers many ways for members to connect through social media. Join the WELS online community at facebook.com/welslutherans, instagram.com/welslutherans, and vimeo.com/wels.