

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

A Devotional Thought A Mother's Love

"I prayed for this child, and the LORD has granted me what I asked of him. So now I give him to the LORD. For his whole life he will be given over to the LORD." (1 Samuel 1:27-28a)

One of the most heart-breaking private battles I've seen people fight is the struggle with infertility. A man and woman want children, but they haven't been blessed with any. Every child they see in the store or at church reminds them of what they are missing. Every statistic about abortion breaks their hearts – people just throw babies away, when they would give anything to have one of their own!

Imagine being Hannah. She spent years praying for a child, but it seemed that God wasn't listening. Then, one year, her prayer was answered. She had a son and named him "Samuel" (which means, "God hears"). But then she gave him up! While he was still a young boy, she brought him to the temple to live and serve the Lord. Can you imagine?

And yet, that is what God calls all mothers and fathers to do. No, we aren't asked to put our kids in a church boarding school beginning in Kindergarten. But we are called to bring our children to the Lord. To lead them to know and serve their Savior. To help their lives be shaped by God's priorities – their eternal salvation and the salvation of the whole world.

We bring them to Jesus when we pray for them daily. We bring them to Jesus when we explore the Scriptures with them in our homes. We bring them to Jesus when we bring them to baptism and worship. We bring them to Jesus when we model and encourage a life lived completely for the Lord. For some, that means encouraging them to serve full time in God's church in the public ministry.

It is not easy to be a parent today. It's not easy to give your children to the Lord. So many things stand in the way. So pray for and encourage the mothers and fathers you know. And remind them of the One who gave up his Son for us, to forgive our parenting fails and assure us that we and our children will never be separated from our Father's love.



In Jesus, *Pastor Tim Wagner*

Membership News

Membership Changes

- ✦ Received by Adult Confirmation
 - Justin & Abby Brown (London & Lincoln)
 - Lisa VandenHogen
 - Jason Bilek
- ✦ Received by Child Baptism
 - Layla Thomas (daughter of Lisa VandenHogen)
- ✦ Released from Membership
 - Erik Olson, no church know
- ✦ Non-Member Baptisms
 - Aiden Fietzer
 - Camden Wettern

Ministry News

Confirmation 2024

Twelve young adults will be confirmed in the Christian faith on Sunday, May 5, at the 10:30 am service. Please keep these confirmands in prayer. God's Blessings to the 2024 Confirmation Class: Grace Dumke, Andrea Inniger, Gwendolyn Inniger, Gideon Jaeger, Blayke Katalinick, Chloe Kirk, Alaina Schmidt, Evan Seroy, Chloe Smith, Tyler Smith, Frank Vadala, Anna Wagner.

Welcome Liz Dietz to Riverview

Please help us welcome Liz Dietz to the Riverview Lutheran Church & School office. Liz is the wife of Riverview member, Chris Dietz and the mother of Tazio (RLS grade 3), and Beryl (RLS Preschool 2024-2025 school year). The family enjoys spending time with their dogs, vintage motorsports, and learning new things. Liz will be a great addition to the business office and a blessing to Riverview.



Ascension Worship

On Thursday, May 9, at 6:30 pm, our congregation will join with Bethany, Eternal Love, St. Matthew, and St. Paul for a Festival Worship Service for the Ascension of our Lord at St. Paul Lutheran Church, 302 Morrison St, Appleton. Pastor Ryan Kolander, from Riverview, will preach. Pastor Matt Holtz, from St. Paul, will preside. The service will feature holy communion, joint children's and adult choirs, and instrumental ensemble. Dessert fellowship will follow the service. Come join your fellow Christians to celebrate our risen and ascended Lord!

May Door Offering

The May door offering will be for Campus Ministry. Over 40 congregations receive funding from WELS Campus Ministry for their ministry on college campuses every year. With your financial support, WELS Campus Ministry will continue to help grow and support campus ministry programs for years to come. Two needs that have been identified include seed money for new campus ministry programs and a new Campus Ministry mission counselor.

Gifts may be given in the door offering on May 19 or by indicating "Campus Ministry" on your electronic gift or offering envelope throughout the month. Thank you for your support!

Congregational Meeting

All members are encouraged to attend a congregational meeting at about 11:45 on Sunday, May 19. This meeting will include updates on our ministry, presentation of ministry plans for the coming year, election of board members and officers for 2024-25, and approval of the 2024-25 fiscal year budget.

Riverview Summer Camps

Riverview is excited to host three outreach camps this year. All three camps will be held July 22-25, from 9:00 am - 11:30 am. SCUBA Bible camp for kids entering 4K - 2nd grade; a STEM Camp (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) and Art Camp will be offered for those entering Grades 3-6. Sign up at www.riverviewlutheran.org/camps. We are in need of Bible Camp Scuba Instructors; please contact Melissa Nolte at mnolte@riverviewlutheran.org to volunteer.

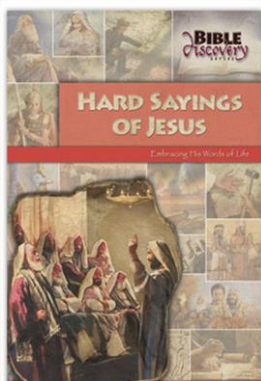
Summer Worship Times

This summer, our Sunday services will continue to be held at 8:00 and 10:30 am, with Monday evening services at Eternal Love at 6:30 pm (no services Memorial Day or Labor Day). A cross-generational bible study will be held from 9:20-10:10 every week (except for Memorial Day and Labor Day weekends).

Library Corner

The culture of the Bible seems foreign to many Christians. A different time. A different place. Different people. How does it all fit together? What's the connection to Jesus? How does this help me in my faith life today? The *Bible Discovery Series* helps fill in the background and connect the dots to deepen your understanding of the fascinating truths that God records for us in the Bible. Stop in today, or browse our selections at www.librarything.com/catalog/RLC-Appleton.

Contact Linda Zwieg with questions or suggestions.



Summer Office Hours

Summer office hours, beginning May 26, are Monday-Thursday, 9:00 am – 1:00 pm. If you need to enter the building at another time, please call the office first (920-733-3728) to make sure someone is here to let you in.

Summer Play Dates in the Park

Play Dates in the Park are scheduled for four Thursdays this summer from 9:30 -11am. Caregivers can connect while children play. Children will gather for devotion, songs, and snack time mid-morning. Activities are geared for ages PK - 2nd grade. All ages are welcome. Come when you can and invite your friends!

June 13- Pierce Park (1035 W. Prospect Avenue)

June 27 - Telulah Park (1300 E Newberry St, Appleton, WI 54915)

July 11 - Pierce Park

August 8 - Telulah Park

CPTO Rummage

The Christian Parent Teacher Organization (CPTO) is planning to host a rummage sale fundraiser again this summer. The rummage sale will take place in the RLS gym on June 14 (8 am to 4 pm) & 15th (8 am to 2 pm). All you can fit in a bag for \$5.00. The CPTO is looking for many volunteers to make this fundraiser a success. If you have items to donate to this sale, Great! Details will be posted in the near future regarding drop off days and times. Please contact Amber Kirk (amber.kirk1025@gmail.com) with questions.

Board Updates

Board of Lay Ministry Notes

- Several members will be attending the WELS National Conference on Worship, Music, and the Arts this summer.
- Thank you to all of the people that dedicated their time and talents to help with our services during Holy Week. So many people helped out and lots of compliments were heard.

Board of Education Notes

- Faculty Handbook is being updated.
- Twelve RLS 8th graders will be graduating.
- Began the budget process for the 2024-2025 school year.

Board of Spiritual Growth Notes

- There are still a few copies of “Grace Moments” and “Meditations” on the counter - If you have not taken advantage of these wonderful daily devotionals in the past, give one a try. You will not be disappointed.
- We are looking for two men to join our board. Please contact David Spielbauer with interest.
- Thanks to all who gave gifts to help our youth attend this summer’s WELS International Youth Rally.

Board of Stewardship Notes

- Welcome Elizabeth Dietz as a new part time bookkeeper starting May 1st.
- Approved CPTO rummage sale.
- Reviewed outsourcing of payroll, so far transition is going smooth.
- Started review of Congregational Budget.

Board of Church Properties Notes

- We’re looking for more volunteers to fill the lawn mowing and church cleaning schedules. If you’re able to help in these ways please reach out to Adam Germain.
agermain21@outlook.com
- We continue to work on security upgrades including additional security cameras and additional lighting near the storage building on the Oneida Street property.

Board of Evangelism Notes

- VBS, Art and STEM camp July 22-24. Volunteers are needed.
- Purchased a church software called Breeze to try out.
- Our spring Bible Basics classes have 15 students enrolled.

Riverview School Calendar Highlights

Upcoming Events

- + May 3 – 17 iReady Testing
- + May 3 RLS Chapel (8:10 am)
- + May 5 Confirmation at 10:30 Worship
- + May 6 – 10 Teacher Appreciation Week
- + May 10 RLS Chapel (8:10 am)
- + May 10 Middle School (Grades 5-8) Dance (6:30 pm)
- + May 12 FVL/FVL Schools Band Concert at FVL (2:00 pm)
- + May 13 FVL/FVL Schools Jazz Band Concert at FVL (7:00 pm)
- + May 17 RLS Chapel (8:10 am)
- + May 22 RLS Graduation Service in the Gym (6:30 pm)
- + May 23 Last Day of School Picnic at Fritsch Park 9:00 am to 12:00 pm

Congratulations to the Riverview Lutheran School Class of 2024

Grace Dumke	Andrea Inniger	Gwendolyn Inniger
Gideon Jaeger	Blayke Katalinick	Chloe Kirk
Alaina Schmidt	Nadia Stadler	Addison Thurman
Frank Vadala	Anna Wagner	Joel Witthuhn

Have a safe and fun summer.
See you at worship on Sundays.



Stewardship of God's Blessings

Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it. (1 Cor 12:27)

Average Weekly Attendance

	Sun/Mon Worship		Bible Study	Sunday School
	In Person	Online		
February	257	19	96	21
March	329	17	93	19
April	296	20	94	21

Year to Date Offerings (July 1 – April 30)

	Actual	Budget	Difference
General	\$572,724.44	\$583,333.33	-\$10,608.29
FVL	\$11,898.00	\$12,500.00	-\$602.00
WELS	\$19,325.00	\$20,833.33	-\$1,508.33
TOTAL	\$603,947.44	\$616,666.66	-\$12,719.22

Church Cleaning:

May 2-4 Aragon, Proctor, Schewe
 May 9-11 Behm/Winsor
 May 16 - 18 Seth/Peter Crew
 May 23 - 24 Wundrow Crew
 May 30 – 1 Wagner/Nottling

Ushers:

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

10:30 – Dave & Barb Meyer, Amy Voights, Spencer Brooks, Rick Volkman

Serving in May

<i>Date</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Greeters</i>	<i>Powerpoint Assistant</i>	<i>Communion Assistant</i>	<i>Altar Guild</i>
May 5	8:00	Winsor Family	Caden W		
	10:30	Zimmermann Family	Silas W.		
May 12	8:00	Inniger Family	Annie I.	Jim V	Steph K.
	10:30	Doran Family	Talian D	Todd B	Janell B.
May 19	8:00	Katalinick Family	Declan K		
	10:30		Evan S		
May 26	8:00	Vandenberg Family	Lauren F.	Dave S.	Deb S.
	10:30	Kienitz Family	Stella K.	Seth Z.	Jill M.

WELS Night at the Brewers

Back for 2024 and growing in popularity, join thousands of WELS members from around the Midwest for an evening of fellowship, fun, and baseball at the annual WELS Night at the Brewers on Friday, July 12th! The Brewers take on the Washington Nationals for a 7:10pm gametime. WELS members will receive discounted tickets and be seated together within each seating category offered. Individual tickets can be purchased online at wels.net/brewers2024

FVL Spring Concert

The FVL and FVL Schools Bands will be performing their Spring Band Concert on Sunday, May 12 at 2 PM, and their Jazz Concert on Monday, May 13 at 7 PM. The FVL Choirs and Choraliars will be performing their Spring Concert on Sunday, May 19, at 2:00 pm. Many Riverview members are involved in these groups. Let's support their hard work and enjoy the music.

May 2024 Issue of Forward In Christ

The May issue of Forward in Christ is now available in the entryway and online. Here's a preview of some of what's inside:

- God's church continues to grow. President Mark Schroeder shares more about WELS' connection with sister churches around the world (p. 6)
- How can parents and the church work together to equip young adults? This month's "Free in Christ" examines confirmation practices (p. 10)
- The next generation is ready to serve now. Read about young people serving their congregations, schools, and communities. (p.18)

