

Riverview 
LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL

136 W. Seymour Street, Appleton, WI 54915



Growing in Faith and Sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ with all People

TODAY'S WORSHIP

Welcome! Thank you for joining us for worship today, whether in person or online. What a blessing to gather as God's people around his Word and Sacraments. In these gifts, God promises that his Holy Spirit is at work to bless us.

- ✘ **A virtual "Worship Card"** is available at www.RiverviewLutheran.org/onlineworship. We ask all who have joined us today, whether online or in person, to complete a card to leave a record of your worshipping with us today.
- ✘ **Precautions: Thank you for taking these steps out of love for those worshipping with you today.**
 - ✘ Please maintain social distancing (minimum of 6 feet) from those not in your household. A six-foot section at the center of each pew is marked with tape.
 - ✘ Avoid shaking hands or hugging.
 - ✘ Be sure to cover any and all coughs and sneezes.
 - ✘ Following worship, please keep visiting indoors to a minimum. Visiting can be done more safely outside.
 - ✘ Take your printed service folder home, since it will not be reused for other services.
- ✘ **The Offering** is an opportunity for us to thank the Lord for all his blessings to us by giving a portion of our income in support of his gospel ministry. If you are a guest today, you may participate in the offering. But please don't feel obligated. Those interested in giving an offering may do so in several ways:
 - ✘ Mail a check to Riverview (136 W Seymour St, Appleton, WI 54915)
 - ✘ Use the QR Code on the right or click on the giving link on our website to give a gift electronically (one-time or recurring).
 - ✘ Set up Bill Pay with your bank to have your gift mailed to Riverview.
 - ✘ In-person worshippers may leave their offering in one of the plates at the door.
- ✘ **Prayer before Worship:** Lord God, Your Son entered this world as the Light of the world and Savior of all nations. Lord Jesus, shine on us and through us with the message of salvation, that we, like the Magi, may worship You, offer You our gifts, and spread Your gospel message of peace to many others. Amen.



Riverview Evangelical Lutheran Church

136 W Seymour Street, Appleton, WI 54915
 (920) 733-3728 www.RiverviewLutheran.org
 (Home phone numbers are included for after office hours.)

Rev. Dennis Belter, Pastor	277-5914
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Rev. Timothy Wagner, Pastor.....	757-4535
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Mr. Seth Zimmermann, Principal	651-253-4531
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Mrs. Paula Krueger, School Administrative Assistant	733-3728
	email: school@riverviewlutheran.org
Mrs. Sandy Diersen, Bookkeeper	733-3728
	email: accountant@riverviewlutheran.org
WLCFS-Christian Family Solutions.....	800-438-1772
Hope Life Resource Center.....	739-0039

Riverview Lutheran School Teachers

Mr. Seth Zimmermann, Principal	5 th -8 th Grades
Mrs. Sandy Eggert	5 th -8 th Grades
Mrs. Jenise Nolte, School Music	5 th -8 th Grades
Mr. Benton Witte, Technology Director.....	5 th -8 th Grades
Miss Barb Arndt.....	3 rd -4 th Grades
Mrs. Amy Larson	1 st -2 nd Grades
Mrs. Melissa Nolte.....	Kindergarten
Mrs. Melissa Romberg.....	4K
Mrs. Melissa Brown.....	3K

Riverview Evangelical Lutheran Church is a congregation of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS). The WELS (www.wels.net) is a group of confessional Lutheran Christians walking together as individuals and congregations sharing a common bond of faith in Jesus articulated in the Lutheran Confessions.

SERVING TODAY

Preacher..... Pastor Dennis Belter
Presiding Minister..... Pastor Timothy Wagner
Organist..... Mrs. Rhoda Belter

Acknowledgments

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Order of Service for the Epiphany of our Lord SERVICE OF WORD AND SACRAMENT

✙ GATHERING ✙

Please stand.

GREETING¹

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

Congregation: **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.

All **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.**

¹ After the pastor speaks the apostolic greeting, the congregation returns the blessing (“And also with you”), expressing its unity with the pastor and recognizing their mutual need for God’s blessings at the beginning of corporate worship.

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 mercy.

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 mercy.

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 mercy.

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

C Amen.

O LORD, OUR LORD

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

C O Lord, our Lord, how glorious is your name in all the earth.

M Almighty God, merciful Father, you crown our life with your love.
You take away our sin; you comfort our spirit;
you make us pure and holy in your sight.
You did not spare your only Son, but gave him up for us all.

C O Lord, our Lord, how glorious is your name in all the earth.

M O Son of God, eternal Word of the Father, you came to live with us;
you made your Father known;
you washed us from our sins in your own blood.
You are the King of glory; you are the Lord!

C O Lord, our Lord, how glorious is your name in all the earth.

CLOSING HYMN

As with Gladness Men of Old

Christian Worship 83



1 As with glad - ness men of old Did the guid - ing
2 As with joy - ful steps they sped, Sav - ior, to your
3 As they of - fered gifts most rare At your cra - dle,
4 Ho - ly Je - sus, ev - 'ry day Keep us in the
5 In the heav'n - ly coun - try bright Need they no cre -



star be - hold, As with joy they hailed its light,
low - ly bed, There to bend the knee be - fore
rude and bare, So may we with ho - ly joy,
nar - row way; And, when earth - ly things are past,
a - ted light; You its light, its joy, its crown,



Lead - ing on - ward, beam - ing bright, So, most gra - cious
You whom heav'n and earth a - dore, So may we with
Pure and free from sin's al - loy, All our cost - liest
Bring our ran - somed souls at last Where they need no
You its sun which goes not down. There for - ev - er



Lord, may we Ev - er - more your fol - lowers be.
will - ing feet Ev - er seek your mer - cy seat.
treas - ures bring, Christ, to you, our heav'n - ly King.
star to guide, Where no clouds your glo - ry hide.
may we sing Al - le - lu - ias to our King!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

DISTRIBUTION

All confirmed members of Riverview or another WELS or ELS congregation are invited to approach the altar at the direction of the ushers to receive holy communion.

Instructions for Receiving the Sacrament

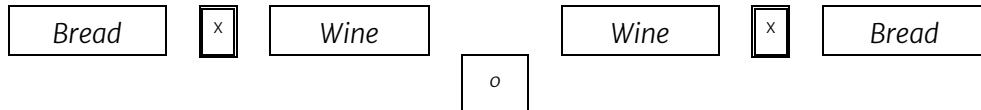
The left (pulpit) side of the congregation is ushered up first, then the right (font) side. Please maintain at least six feet between households as you approach the altar.

Holy Communion will be served by continuous distribution. First approach the table with the host (bread) and take a paper with the host in it (gluten-free wafers are also available and are marked as such). After pausing to receive the body of Christ, discard the paper in the receptacle next to the table.

Then approach the table with the individual cups and take a cup from the tray (white grape juice is also available). Please be careful not to touch cups other than the one you take. After pausing to receive the blood of Christ, discard the cup in the wooden receptacle in the center aisle, and return to your seat.

Communicants may choose to say “Amen” after receiving each of the elements.

The blessing follows the distribution.



CLOSING PRAYER

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 Amen.

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 Amen.

☩ THE WORD ☩

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M Let us pray.

Lord God, by the leading of a star you once made known to the nations your one and only Son. Guide us, also, who know him now by faith, to come at last to the perfect joy of your heavenly glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Please be seated.

FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 60:1-6

- ¹ “Arise, shine, for your light has come,
and the glory of the LORD rises upon you.
- ² See, darkness covers the earth
and thick darkness is over the peoples,
but the LORD rises upon you
and his glory appears over you.
- ³ Nations will come to your light,
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.
- ⁴ “Lift up your eyes and look about you:
All assemble and come to you;
your sons come from afar,
and your daughters are carried on the hip.
- ⁵ Then you will look and be radiant,
your heart will throb and swell with joy;
the wealth on the seas will be brought to you,
to you the riches of the nations will come.
- ⁶ Herds of camels will cover your land,
young camels of Midian and Ephah.
And all from Sheba will come,
bearing gold and incense
and proclaiming the praise of the LORD.”

SECOND LESSON

Ephesians 3:2-12

² Surely you have heard about the administration of God's grace that was given to me for you, ³ that is, the mystery made known to me by revelation, as I have already written briefly. ⁴ In reading this, then, you will be able to understand my insight into the mystery of Christ, ⁵ which was not made known to people in other generations as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to God's holy apostles and prophets. ⁶ This mystery is that through the gospel the Gentiles are heirs together with Israel, members together of one body, and sharers together in the promise in Christ Jesus.

⁷ I became a servant of this gospel by the gift of God's grace given me through the working of his power. ⁸ Although I am less than the least of all the Lord's people, this grace was given me: to preach to the Gentiles the boundless riches of Christ, ⁹ and to make plain to everyone the administration of this mystery, which for ages past was kept hidden in God, who created all things. ¹⁰ His intent was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms, ¹¹ according to his eternal purpose that he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord. ¹² In him and through faith in him we may approach God with freedom and confidence.

VERSE OF THE DAY

Matthew 2:2b

M Alleluia. We saw his star in the east and have come to worship him. Alleluia.

*Please stand.*²

² The congregation stands and speaks words of acclamation out of respect for the words of Christ, our King. As you boldly say, "Praise be to you, O Christ!," it is as if you are welcoming your victorious King back from battle and shouting, "Long live the King!"

O CHRIST, LAMB OF GOD⁵

☐ 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 world; grant us your peace. A - men.

Please be seated.

⁵ Jesus is God's Lamb of sacrifice, offered up for the sins of the world. We come to him, pleading for his mercy and peace.

✝ PRAYERS ✝

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

LORD'S PRAYER

AI 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 ✝

WORDS OF INSTITUTION⁴

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 Amen.

⁴ As he speaks the Words of Institution, the pastor both proclaims the words of Jesus to the congregation and sets apart the bread and wine for the Lord's use. The sign of the cross reminds us of Christ's death.

GOSPEL

Matthew 2:1-12

M The Gospel according to Matthew, chapter 2.

C Glory be to you, O Lord!

¹ After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem ² and asked, "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him."

³ When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. ⁴ When he had called together all the people's chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵ "In Bethlehem in Judea," they replied, "for this is what the prophet has written:

⁶ " 'But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for out of you will come a ruler
who will shepherd my people Israel.' "

⁷ Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. ⁸ He sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him."

⁹ After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰ When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. ¹¹ On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. ¹² And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.

M This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise be to you, O Christ!

Please be seated.

HYMN OF THE DAY

Angels from the Realms of Glory

Christian Worship 80



1 An - gels from the realms of glo - ry, Wing your flight o'er
2 Shep-herds, in the fields a - bid - ing, Watch - ing o'er your
3 Ma - gi, leave your con - tem - pla - tions; Brigh - ter vi - sions
4 Saints be - fore the al - tar bend - ing, Watch - ing long in



all the earth; Once you sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry;
flocks by night, God with us is now re - sid - ing—
beam a - far. Seek the great de - sire of na - tions;
hope and fear, Sud - den - ly the Lord, de - scend - ing,



Refrain

Now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth:
Yon - der shines the in - fant light. Come and wor - ship,
You have seen the Sav - ior's star.
In his tem - ple shall ap - pear.



come and wor - ship, Wor - ship Christ, the new - born King.

SERMON

Ephesians 3:2-12

"The Answer has been Revealed to You!"

- 1) A Mystery Made Known to You.
- 2) A Mystery to be Made Known by You.

Please stand.

NICENE CREED

All 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 Christian³ 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

Members of our congregation give offerings in thankful response to God's blessings and in support of our ministry and mission locally and around the world. Those who wish may place their offering in the plates near the exits or give using the alternate means described on page 1.

³ The original text here reads "catholic," a word meaning "universal." The Church consists of all believers in heaven and on earth, and of every time in history.