

# November 2020 Riverview Report

Mission Statement:  
Growing in faith and  
sharing the Gospel of  
Jesus Christ with  
all people.



QR Giving Code



## ***I Told You So***

A child (or an adult) insists that they are right and the other person is wrong. In time, the facts or outcome are confirmed. And the one who was right says, “I told you so!”

Do we ever insist that we are right because we don’t really want to take time to listen to what God says about something? If we do, he would have every right to throw it back in our face and say, “I told you so!” But those words don’t always have to have that shaming connotation.

As Jesus neared the end of his ministry, he told his disciples a number of horrible things that would happen in the days between his ascension and his return on the Last Day. Read through Matthew 24-25, Mark 13, and Luke 21, and you’ll hear Jesus describe things that sound remarkably current: wars, fighting, division, natural disasters, disease, false teachers, believers falling away, persecution.

On the one hand, this might scare us. Why would anyone want to live in a world like that? Why would anyone want to be a Christian facing those things? And maybe we are asking some of those questions of ourselves right now. There is a lot of disheartening and frightening stuff going on in our country and world these days.



But as you read through those chapters, you will also find words of encouragement. Jesus says, “See, I have told you ahead of time” (Matthew 24:25). Jesus says, “I told you so!” Not to shame us or to scare us, but to prepare us and encourage us.

We are living in the end times. The troubles are real. The struggles are significant. And, my friends, no matter when COVID-19 stops wreaking havoc our lives, no matter who is elected on November 3 or in any other election, the difficulties will continue.

But Jesus knew it would happen in this way. It is no surprise to him, and it shouldn’t be a surprise to us. He is still reigning on his heavenly throne for the good of his Church. And he still works through Word and Sacrament to rule on the throne of our hearts.

With the assurance that he saw all of this coming, Jesus also says that these troubles “are the beginning of birth pains” (Matthew 24:8). A real struggle lies ahead, but the joy to follow the struggle is incredible. One day soon, all people on earth will “see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven, with power and great glory” (Matthew 24:30). On that day, he will say to us and all the faithful, “Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world” (Matthew 25:34).

And, if we are ever tempted to think that God has changed his mind and forgotten about our world, Jesus assures us, “Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away” (Matthew 24:35).

This month, we observe the season of End Time. And that is followed by the season of Advent, when we watch for Jesus’ coming again. With the signs of the end all around us, let’s meditate on that unchanging Word of our loving and all-knowing Savior. And then let’s live our lives in the peace, urgency, and anticipation that his Word gives to our lives.

Yours in Christ,

*Pastor Tim Wagner*

## **Church News**

### **> School and Church Office Hours**

Office hours for the school year are Mon – Fri  
7:15 am-4:00pm (Non school days 9:00 am-1:00pm).

### **> Cancelled Events**

Due to Covid-19, our Veteran’s/Grandparents Day celebration is cancelled this year.

➤ **Scrip Information.**

We are selling scrip on Sundays after the 8:00 am service. Pre-orders are still welcome and can be picked up in the office. 920-733-3728/  
accountant@riverviewlutheran.org

➤ **Fall Bible Studies**

Living Out Our Lutheran Identity

Pastor Wagner is leading a discussion about how to live out our calling and mission in today’s world at **6:30 pm on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of each month.**

Participants view a video online before attending and then come to discuss, dig deeper, and apply what we learn. Each session’s video is previewed and a link provided in the weekly email and on our website.

Civil Government: God’s Other Kingdom

Pastor Belter is leading a study of our God-given role in government on **Mondays at 1:00 pm and Thursdays at 6:30 pm.**

*More details: [www.RiverviewLutheran.org/biblestudy](http://www.RiverviewLutheran.org/biblestudy)*

➤ **End Times Sermon Series**

During the season of End Times, we will reflect on the appointed Psalms for each week. As we do, we will be prepared and even excited for life in the last days. On Reformation Sunday (Nov. 1), we will remember the importance of being firmly rooted in Scripture. On Last Judgment Sunday (Nov. 8), we will be encouraged to “number our days aright,” all while knowing that, in Christ, we are fully prepared for the final judgement. Saints Triumphant Sunday (Nov. 15) draws us to the house of the Lord for a small taste of eternal joy waiting for us in heaven. On Christ the King Sunday (Nov. 22), we will sing and shout for joy that Christ, the King of the universe, is still in control! Join us for this special sermon series, “Psalms for the Season of End Times.”

➤ **Midweek Advent Worship**

Advent means “coming.” It is a four-week season of anticipation of the Savior’s comings (his birth, his coming in his Word, his return on the Last Day). We set aside extra time in God’s Word during this season to prepare to receive our Savior when he comes. Our midweek Advent services will be Wednesdays, December 2, 9, and 16, at 3:30 pm and 6:30 pm. This year’s theme is “Children of the Promise,” focusing on children whom God used in a special way in his plan of salvation or to prepare people for the Savior. Make time to be with us for worship.

➤ **The Light of Christmas**

This Christmas season the Riverview Board of Evangelism is hosting a Lighted Christmas tree display to share the light of Christmas with our community. We are looking for individuals or families that would like to decorate one or more of the trees. These will be live trees outside on our property so please plan accordingly. Riverview will supply the trees and electricity all you need to do is bring the lights and decorations. Trees will be on display from December 4th through Christmas. Decorate your tree at your own pace the first week of December. If you are interested in “hosting” a tree please contact Mr. Witte.

➤ **Holiday Worship Schedule**

The following is the planned schedule for our holiday worship services. *(These times are subject to change, based on conditions.)*

- Thanksgiving: November 25 - 6:30 pm; November 26 - 9:00 am
- Midweek Advent: December 2, 9, 16 - 3:30 & 6:30 pm (no meals)
- RLS Virtual Christmas Service: December 18 - 6:30 pm
- Christmas Eve: December 24 - 3:30, 5:00, & 6:30 pm
- Christmas Day: December 25 - 9:30 am
- Sunday, December 27: 8:00 & 9:15 am (no 10:30 service) with communion
- New Year’s Eve: December 31 - 3:30 pm (with communion)

➤ **1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Offerings - 7/1/2020-9/30/2020**

	Actual	Budget	Difference
General	\$139,877.77	\$158,405.49	-\$18,527.72
Building	\$21,638.44	\$33,116.46	-\$11,478.02
Synod	\$7,593.51	\$9,513.02	-\$1919.52
FVL	\$3923.10	\$5963.19	- \$2040.09
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$173,032.82</b>	<b>\$206,998.17</b>	<b>-\$33,965.35</b>

➤ **Average Weekly Attendance**

	Worship		Bible Study
	In Person	Online (worship cards)	
July	156	62	
August	160	82	
September	155	72	26
October	145	83	27