

December 2020 Riverview Report

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



QR Giving Code



Prince of Peace: I Can't Wait

“For to us a child is born, to us a Son is given and the government will be on his shoulders And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.” (Isaiah 9:6) There is a secular Christmas song entitled, “We need a Little Christmas”. While we certainly feel that way in light of all that has gone down in 2020 that song only focuses on Santa, snow, and the outward decorations of a secular holiday. What we need is the Prince of Peace, the first and best gift of the first Christmas. That gift was the long awaited Savior, the Messiah, born to a virgin, and in fulfillment of Isaiah’s prophecy above. He would be and IS Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. In this year of disease, economic uncertainty, and shutdowns of every sort, we need the true and lasting meaning of Christmas. A Savior for all has come and taken all our sins and worries away. He is Christ the Lord, born in Bethlehem, but also the everlasting Son of God. He gives us peace here and now, and for eternity. It does not end when the calendar turns to January, and it does not disappear when we take the Christmas decorations down. Jesus is the real source of peace, and unending joy. May He be the center of our Advent preparations and our Christmas celebrations? That is the Peace I pray you will have as we enter the month of December

Yours in Christ our Prince of Peace,

Pastor Dennis Belter

Church News

> **School and Church Office Hours**

Regular office hours for the school year are Mon – Fri 7:15 am-4:00 pm.

Offices hours December 21-23 and December 28-30 are 9:00 am-1:00 pm. Someone may be available at other times, but please call first to confirm availability. The office will be closed December 24, 25, 31, and January 1. If you need to contact pastors or other staff members, please reach out to them by cell phone or email.

> **Scam Alert**

Several members have recently received text messages from someone claiming to be Pastor Belter or other members of our staff and requesting gift cards or other assistance. These are not legitimate. Our pastors, teachers, and staff will not make any such requests by text or email. If you are ever in doubt, please contact the pastor, teacher, or staff member directly.

> **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. **Wanting Scrip for the Holidays? We need your order by: Monday December 14th @ 10:00 am.** 920-733-3728
accountant@riverviewlutheran.org

> **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.

New Monday Bible Study: The Songs of Christmas

You are invited to a new bible study on Monday afternoons at 1:00 pm, beginning December 7. Learn about the songs sung by Mary, Zechariah and others at the first Christmas, and take a look at some Christmas hymns and carols that bring joy and hope to our hearts today.

More details: www.RiverviewLutheran.org/biblestudy

> **Midweek Advent Worship**

During Advent, we set aside extra time in God’s Word to prepare to receive our Savior when he comes. Our midweek Advent services are Wednesdays through December 16, at 3:30 pm (also livestreamed) and 6:30 pm. Make time to be with us for worship.

➤ **Riverview Christmas Tree Display**

This Christmas season the Riverview Board of Evangelism is hosting a Lighted Christmas tree display to share the light of Christmas with our community. Thank you to all who have volunteered to decorate trees. We still have a few trees left; contact Pastor Wagner for more details. Riverview will supply the trees and electricity; all you need to do is bring the lights and decorations. These will be live trees outside on our property so please plan accordingly. Trees will be on display from December 11th through Christmas. We have set aside one evening, during which we will also be handing out special gifts and have music and other special features, while friends and neighbors visit our light display. Invite others to drive or walk through on December 19, from 6:00-8:00 pm.

➤ **Riverview Mission Tree**

With the approach of the Christmas season, the Riverview Mission tree in the church entryway will offer two choices for sharing our blessings: New Beginnings Home for Mothers in Milwaukee and the Hope Center located at St. Matthew Lutheran Church here in Appleton.

New Beginnings offers a loving and supportive home to single mothers looking to start a new life. Here each mom can raise their baby in a caring environment, live away from negative cultural influences, break the generational cycle of dependency, become educated with skills to earn a self-sustaining wage without government assistance, and establish or restore a relationship with God. Moms can stay here up to six years.

The Hope Center provides spiritual, physical, and emotional support to needy area families. Once a month a family can receive hygiene and cleaning supplies and this is also the distribution center for the Fox Valley Diaper Bank. The cause is solely supported by WELS members.

Pray that these two missions be provided with the necessary supplies and resources so that they may continue to serve.

➤ **December Door Offerings**

Door offerings for the month of December will support the ministry of the Hope Center, which is described above. Those who wish may write "Hope Center" in the other line of their envelope or electronic gift throughout the month or may place their gift in the door offering on December 20.

➤ **Holiday Worship Schedule**

The following is the planned schedule for our holiday worship services.

- Midweek Advent: December 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)

➤ **Year to Date Offerings - 7/1/2020-10/31/2020**

	Actual	Budget	Difference
General	\$181,752.61	\$21,1207.32	-29,454.71
Building	\$32,713.49	\$44,155.28	-11,441.79
Synod	\$9,536.07	\$12,684.04	-3,147.97
FVL	\$5,425.37	\$7,950.92	-2,525.55
TOTAL	\$22,9427.54	\$275,997.56	-46,570.02

➤ **Average Weekly Attendance**

	Worship		Bible Study
	In Person	Online (worship cards)	
September	155	72	26
October	145	83	27
November	142	82	29

School News

➤ **Christmas Service Project**

Riverview Lutheran School will be participating in a community service project this Christmas season and we would like to invite the congregation to join us in the effort. We are looking for donations of hats and gloves for residents of Century Oaks Assisted Living Facility here in Appleton. Those donations can be brought to school/church through December 15. The children will also be making cards for the residents during the school day. The global pandemic has been very difficult on the populations of our nursing homes. Most are allowed no visitors and get very little interaction, even with each other. We're hoping that these small gestures will bring them some Christmas joy.

