

June 2020 Riverview Report

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



QR Giving Code



They Will Know Us... by Our Love

Are you excited about coming back to church this weekend? Some of you are, and understandably so. As Christians, we not only hunger and thirst for God's Word and Sacrament that we've had to consume in different ways for the past 10 weeks. But we also crave the blessing of fellowship with other Christians, which has been even more difficult to enjoy in this time.

Others of you have indicated that, while you appreciate and crave those blessings too, you won't be coming back – not yet, that is. And understandably so. Health authorities continue to urge caution, especially for those whose health or age puts them at increased risk of contracting this virus and the potentially fatal outcomes it could bring.

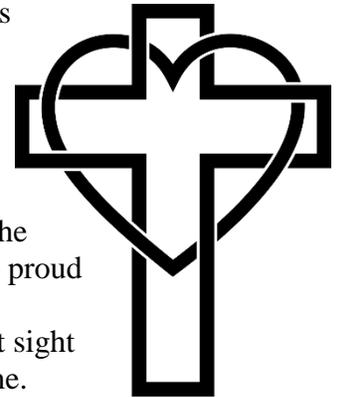
My prayer is that we can all see the devil at work here. The devil is at work to tempt Christians:

- to use this time as an excuse not to hear God's Word regularly,
- to disrespect those in authority,
- to stop trusting in God in the face of danger,
- to boldly use our freedom to test God's willingness to protect us,
- to look down on other Christians for their boldness or timidity,
- to base our actions on what we *can* do (our rights) instead of what we are *called* to do (our responsibility to love those around us),
- to put our own interests and opinions ahead of the interests of others,
- to see those who might have a different perspective than we do as enemies,
- to lose sight of the mission that God has given to his Church,
- to lose sight of God's promise to work out *all things* for the good of his Church,
- and on and on.

The devil wants nothing more than to destroy the Church and the faith of the Christians in it. He prowls around like a roaring lion, looking to devour us any way he can! Beware!

I doubt any of us can honestly say that we haven't fallen prey to one or more of these lies of the devil. As we come together again, let's come together with this common prayer on our hearts, "Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner."

Then, let's look to the cross. Jesus, who could have insisted on his rights as an innocent man, instead willingly sacrificed everything for the sake of sinners. Jesus cared for the needs of his mother and his friend in his own hour of great need. Jesus trusted his heavenly Father, even in the face of the torments of hell. Jesus shed his blood to wash away the sins of disciples who were too proud and self-centered to wash one another's feet. Jesus never lost sight of his mission – for you and me.



Because of that, we are free – free from sin, free from guilt, free from fear, free to live, free to love. Jesus said, "Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends" (John 15:13). Jesus loved us enough to lay down his life for us. And that incredible love moves us to love one another.

Love is the mark of a Christian. Jesus said, "As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another" (John 13:34-35).

Now is a time for love! Love that patiently listens. Love that sacrifices personal preference for the good of others. Love that prays and encourages. Love that seeks to build up. Love that forgives.

While we struggle through current realities and look forward to an unknown future, let's be and be known as a people who love. Let's let our words and actions show that we are disciples of the One whom embodied love for all.

Lord, as you have loved us, so may we love one another.

Your fellow child loved by Jesus,

Pastor Tim Wagner

Church News

> **“Together Again” for Worship**

Our Leadership Team has developed a plan to resume public gatherings for worship on Sunday, May 31. At this time, four services will be held each weekend:

- Sunday 8:00 am (masks required) – service livestreamed on YouTube
- Sunday 9:15 am (masks encouraged)
- Sunday 10:30 am (masks encouraged)
- Monday 6:30 pm (masks encouraged)

Worshippers are asked to arrive not sooner than 15 minutes prior to the service they attend.

Due to social distancing practices, space is limited in each service. Worshippers should pre-register on our website or at <https://signup.com/go/YkkaYmg> (Those without internet may call the church office to register.).

Those who have any symptoms of COVID-19 are expected to worship at home. Those who are not comfortable gathering for worship at this time may also continue to worship from home.

Communion will be offered beginning June 7-8 (specific schedule still to be determined).

Bible study options for the whole family are still being developed.

More details are available at <https://mailchi.mp/c7f08e5a115a/together-again-plan>. Please contact the pastors or other members of the Leadership Team (Mark Raschka, Tim Schmidt, Seth Zimmermann) with any questions or concerns. Plans will be re-evaluated and adjusted as the situation continues to develop.

> **Communion by request**

Private communion continues to be available by appointment. If you would like to receive communion, call the church office to speak to a pastor and schedule an appointment.

> **75th Anniversary Celebration UPDATE**

The 75th Anniversary service originally scheduled for June 7th has been POSTPONED until fall. The Committee will meet soon to set a date that will accommodate the schedule of our guest preacher, Pastor Charlie Vannieuwenhoven. Watch for details.

> **Summer Office Hours**

Office hours for the summer will be Mon – Thurs, 9am-1pm. There is often someone in the building outside of these hours, but please call ahead to be sure.

Welcome to our new Church Administrative Assistant, Jo Theimer! Jo will begin work on June 1.

> **Supporting Our Ministry**

As the Lord moves you to give, please continue to support our ministry financially by one of the following:

- Mailing a check to Riverview. Consider saving postage and check fees by combining offerings for several weeks into one check.
- Using your bank's "Bill Pay" service to set up one-time or recurring payments to Riverview (many banks offer this as a free service).
- Using our E-giving page (see code above) to set up one-time or recurring electronic giving.
- Placing your offering in the plates at the door if attending one of our in-person services.

Thank you for your gifts of love. Please contact Sandy Diersen or one of the pastors with any questions. If you have special needs at this time, your congregation is here to help as well. Please contact the pastors.

> **Confirmation**

Confirmation will take place on Sunday, June 7. To accommodate family members, guests, and other Riverview members, we are dividing the class in two groups. Both services will be livestreamed on our YouTube channel for all who cannot attend in person. RLS students will be confirmed in a 9:15 am service. Public school students will be confirmed in a 10:45 am service.

> **YMCA in building**

The Appleton YMCA has reached out looking for space to host 40-50 elementary age kids for childcare needs. This request is due to not being able to utilize the Appleton school buildings as they have for many years. After prayerful consideration, the boards have decided to allow the YMCA to use a portion of Riverview's facilities for this purpose. They will be using the fellowship hall and some outdoor spaces from 6:00am to 6:30pm each weekday from June 8th - July 3rd. Cleaning and sanitizing arrangements have been made and multiple health and safety procedures will be implemented.

We are glad to be able to provide this assistance to our community during this trying time.

> **VBS Cancelled**

After careful thought and prayerful deliberation, we have decided to cancel our 2020 Vacation Bible School. The pastors and Spiritual Growth Board will be seeking other ways to serve the families of our congregation, and the Evangelism Board is making other plans to reach out to the families of our community. We look forward to hosting VBS again in 2021.

> **Meditations**

Copies of the *Meditations* daily devotions are available in the church entryway. Stop and pick up your copy. Devotions for this issue begin May 31. NPH is also offering free digital copies. Download yours at online.nph.net/free-meditations-form.

> **Forward in Christ**

Forward in Christ, the monthly devotional and news magazine of the WELS, is available as a free download for the month of June. Download yours at online.nph.net/fic-free-issue-form.

RLS News

> **Graduation**

8th grade graduation for Riverview Lutheran School will be held on June 5th at 6:30 pm for immediate family only. The service will be livestreamed (and recorded for later viewing) for the rest of the school and church families. Congratulations to the RLS class of 2020: Macey Block, Hannah Gagnon, Robbie Kienetz, Isabelle LaLuzerne, Christian Mikolajczak, Annalise Patchett, and Gianna Strahm!

FVL News

> **FVL Tuition Help**

FVL Tuition Assistance applications for families struggling with COVID-related needs are being accepted until June 15. Go to the FVL Tuition Assistance page online or contact President Jeff Loberger at jloberger@fvlhs.org.

> **Run for Lives**

The original Run for Lives event hosted by an FVL student group to raise funds for Children's Wisconsin scheduled for May 9th has been transitioned to a virtual event to be held on June 6th. Visit <https://runsignup.com/Race/WI/Appleton/RunForLives> for registration details and other information.

> **General Board Meeting**

The FVL General Board will meet June 22 at 7 PM. More details will be shared as plans are put in place.

> **Annual Golf Outing**

FVL's Annual Golf Outing is being planned for Friday, July 10 at High Cliff Golf Course in Sherwood. Golfers can register online at www.fvlhs.org/golf. Event details are online. Shotgun start at 8:30 with event wrapping up by 3 PM.

> **Host Families Needed**

A handful of host families are still needed for FVL's International program. Applications have been received and acceptance depends on housing being available. Contact Monica Uhlenbrauck with questions at muhlenbrauck@fvlhs.org. A stipend of \$6500 is available to offset expenses.