

September 2020 Riverview Report

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



QR Giving Code



Your Will Be Done

There is a swirl of activity at Riverview right now that has not been the case for over five months. As I write this, we are less than 24 hours away from welcoming students into our building for classes for the first time since mid-March. It is a refreshing change. But there is still so much that we don't know. Will we be able to keep our doors open? What other new challenges will we face?

The truth is, it is really like any other year, any other day. We use God's gift of reason to plan and think and imagine and prepare. But we don't know what today or tomorrow has in store for us. And that can be a rather uneasy feeling.

It is not a sin to plan. The Scriptures many times encourage careful, prayerful planning (Psalm 20:4; Proverbs 16:3; Isaiah 32:8; etc.). But we don't control all things.

The writer James gives us an important perspective on our plans, when he writes: *"Now listen, you who say, 'Today or tomorrow we will go to this or that city, spend a year there, carry on business and make money.' Why, you do not even know what will happen tomorrow. What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes. Instead, you ought to say, 'If it is the Lord's will, we will live and do this or that'"* (4:13-15).

I can't remember a time in my life when so many things seemed so uncertain as they do now. But they were never uncertain to our God. He counted out our days and made plans to bless them before one of them came to be. He knew the challenges we would face, how we would handle them, and how he would use them to bless us.

And while he gives us the freedom, ability, and encouragement to plan, he wants us to do that with a spirit of humility, trusting that he will redirect our steps in ways that are best for us and for his Church on earth.

We don't know all of God's plans. And God doesn't promise to tell us his plans in any other way than through his Word. And there, in his Word, we see a plan for the world centered on Jesus, God's Son, our

Savior. Before the creation of the world, God chose his Son to take our place on the cross to pay the price for our foolish lack of planning, our arrogant, selfish planning, and our refusal to accept God's plans. And though the devil tried to derail that plan, Jesus carried it out to perfection. He submitted himself perfectly to his Father's will, even in the hour of his deepest suffering (Luke 22:42). He bore the burden of our sins. He won our freedom. He secured our place at his side. Praise God for executing such a perfect plan!

We are not only beginning a new school year and rolling out tentative plans for what our ministry will look like this fall. We are also in the midst of a Space Needs Study that has us thinking and planning for the future of the Lord's ministry at Riverview. And each of you has things in your life that you are planning and preparing for. As we make plans, let's listen carefully to God's Word, so that our plans line up with what God has revealed about his will. And then, whether the plans we make seem clear or cloudy, God grant us a spirit of humility, trusting that his plans are best.

Lord, teach us to say, "Your will be done."

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Tim Wagner

Church News

> Worshipping Together Safely

We continue to strive to provide safe opportunities to gather for worship. Services continue at 8:00, 9:15, and 10:30 on Sundays, and 6:30 pm on Mondays. Please sign up to attend on our website. Masks are required for all who don't have medical exceptions. The 8:00 service will continue to be livestreamed on our YouTube page. Plans will be re-evaluated and adjusted as the situation continues to develop.

> School and Church Office Hours

Office hours for the school year will be Mon – Fri 7:15 am-4:00pm (Non school days 9:00 am-1:00pm). Please feel free to email Jo Theimer church@riverviewlutheran.org with any inquiries.

> **Virtual Sunday School**

Riverview's Sunday School is going virtual for the fall of 2020! Video lessons will be recorded by experienced WELS teachers. Then, parents will have lesson materials to work through with their children. Student lessons will be sent to families who sign up. Visit our Sunday School page for more information and to sign up by September 1.

> **Fall Bible Studies**

Living Out Our Lutheran Identity

What does it mean to live as a confessional Lutheran in today's world? How do we live out our calling and mission in an increasingly post-Christian culture? What should a Christ-centered ministry look like today? These questions are some that were addressed in a series of thought-provoking presentations at the 2020 WELS National Conference on Lutheran Leadership. Pastor Wagner will be leading a discussion of several of these presentations in a Bible study called "*Living Out Our Lutheran Identity*." Participants will be asked to view the video online before attending and then come to discuss, dig deeper, and apply what we learn. Come for one, several, or all of the weeks. This study will be held at **6:30 pm on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of each month, beginning September 15**. Each session's video will be previewed and a link provided in the weekly email and on our website. Bring a friend and join us.

Civil Government: God's Other Kingdom

Election year, Civil unrest, Pandemic: What better time to discuss the God-given role of government? Our study is *Civil Government: God's Other Kingdom*. Pastor Belter will lead this study on **Mondays at 1:00 pm** (in the church library) and **Thursdays at 6:30 pm** (in the church entryway), beginning September 21. Sign up information will be coming. (Classes will last 60 min.)

> **Ministry Anniversary**

On Sunday, September 27, a special worship emphasis will celebrate Pastor Wagner's 15th Anniversary in the pastoral ministry. Each fall we celebrate special years of service for our called staff. Give thanks to the Lord for he is good.

> **Congregational Annual Meeting**

All members are encouraged to attend the voters meeting after the 10:30 service on Sunday, September 27. In addition to year-end ministry and financial reports, important updates will be shared about our annual and quarterly ministry goals, Space Needs study, COVID responses, and more. Options for attending the meeting virtually will also be made available.

> **LWMS Fall Mission Rally**

Sign up to attend the fall rally at Riverview on Saturday, Oct. 24. Registration & refreshments begin at 8:00. Mission speakers will highlight work in Russia (10:00) and UW-Stevens Point (11:10). A lunch will be served at 12:30 pm. If you would like to donate to the mission projects (to be announced after the rally), there will be a door collection on Sunday, Sept. 20/21, or use your offering envelope (write LWMS by "Other.") Assistance is needed for registration, courtesy, and serving at breakfast and lunch. Contact Cheryl Theimer by October 12 to attend or help with the rally: 920-734-4379, text-920-840-1188, crtheimer@gmail.com.

> **75th Anniversary Celebration UPDATE**

The final 75th Anniversary Celebration service is currently scheduled for Sunday, October 4. Our guest preacher will be Pastor Charlie Vannieuwenhoven. Services will be 8:00, 9:15 and 10:30 am. There will not be a meal.

> **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. Online purchasing options are also available. We now have Chic-fil-A and Visa cards. Scrip is gift cards for a wide variety of merchants. For every card purchased, Riverview receives a percentage of the purchase price, which applies to mortgage debt reduction, school fees, and tuition assistance. Please call, text, or email Mrs. Diersen with orders or questions (school 920-733-3728, cell 920-279-0204, email accountant@riverviewlutheran.org).

> **Space Needs**

The Space Needs Committee formed to work with the engineering firm that has been engaged to provide a site master plan is looking for your input. If you would like to fill out a survey about our ministry needs, please click on the link in the email or call the office to have a survey mailed to you. We ask that these surveys be returned to Paula Krueger at the school office (or electronically at school@riverviewlutheran.org) by September 11.

RLS News

> **2020-2021 School Year**

The school year began on August 26th with an enrollment of 14 in preschool and 103 in K-8. We appreciate prayers for a safe and healthy school year. Riverview Lutheran School will livestream chapel each week on the last day of school at 8:10 am.