



## Blessed

“Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and obey it.” Luke 11: 28.

When my Dad died in 2014, my Mom made sure I inherited his Bible. I was glad to see it was well worn and had many markings. He spent a lot of time in the Psalms, having marked and underlined in 38 of the 150. He had several marks in Psalm 130, one of my favorites. A quick look told me he spent a lot of time reading the gospels, St. Paul’s epistles, and the prophet Isaiah.

My father was blessed richly by the Lord with a strong faith and he showed it in his faithfulness at worship and serving at our church. That comes by spending time in the Word. It is a wonderful legacy he left me, and part of the reason I became a pastor.

Some of the psalms he underlined spoke of worship at the Lord’s Temple. In his last years, Dad was a shut-in and then lived in a nursing home. He was not able to get to worship in person and he missed it greatly.

Friend, this month we are celebrating a special day of worship, August 22, when we want as many of our church family as possible to come together in person for worship. Holy Communion will be celebrated, and a church picnic held after the 10 am service. I ask you to return. The joy of gathering for worship was a privilege my Dad did not have in his last years. I hope you will come and encourage me and others by your presence at God’s house. Remember, Blessed are those who hear that word. Come hear it in person on August 22 and every Sunday / Monday afterwards.

“I was glad when they said to me, let us go into the house of the Lord.”

Pastor Dennis Belter

## Ministry News

### ➤ Monday Services Resume August 2

Monday evening services will resume on August 2 at 6:30 pm. If you are unable to join us on Sundays due to work, vacations, or other commitments, we hope you will worship with us on Monday evenings



Celebration Sunday is almost here! We are so excited to gather together again as a church family. The pandemic made us realize how God blesses us when we gather, and how much we miss it when we can’t. On August 22-23, we are going to celebrate as a church family and praise God in a very special way as we re-gather after time apart. In addition to worshipping together, refreshments will be served after the 8:00 and Monday services, and a church family picnic will follow the 10:00 service. Sign up now in the entryway or on our website (RiverviewLutheran.org/celebrate) to attend to help with planning.

What can you do?

- Pray for God to bless our gathering on celebration Sunday.
- Personally invite others to Celebration Sunday. It could be fellow members that you miss worshipping and serving with. It could also be relatives, friends, neighbors, and co-workers—anyone who would benefit from hearing the gospel message.
- Praise God for leading us through the pandemic and allowing us to gather again.

Welcome back!

### ➤ Board of Spiritual Growth Notes

- Bible studies are now offered Monday afternoons, Thursday evenings, and Sunday mornings. A second Sunday bible study will be offered in the fall.
- Several Riverview members attended Camp Bird, and one participated in Lutheran Girl Pioneer International Camp this summer.
- Planning is beginning for a ministry to families with children with special needs and a women’s bible study.

➤ **Board of Evangelism Notes**

- We hosted a Vacation Bible School, S.T.E.M. Camp, and Art Camp this summer.
- Mentors are being assigned to all new member families.
- New marketing materials are being produced.

➤ **Board of Lay Ministry Notes**

- The board approved plans for a gradual return to normal worship activities.
- A “God’s People Gather” Celebration Sunday will be held on August 22-23. All members are encouraged to attend.
- Training and planning for reaching out to inactive members continues.

➤ **Board of Church Properties Notes**

- The concrete in front of the school entryway was replaced.
- Mulch was spread in all of the beds around the church & school buildings.
- Floor waxing is being done by Jack’s Maintenance.
- Rooms are being re-aligned and furnished for additional offices and classrooms.

➤ **VBS & Summer Camps Recap**

Several members have been surprised by lower-than-normal participation in our VBS, so we thought an explanation would be helpful. Due to COVID, we were seeking to spread out participation, and we decided to offer a Vacation Bible School for younger children (age 3-grade 2) and S.T.E.M. and Art Camps for older children (grades 3-6). Between the three events, 99 children attended. We suspect that a later start to our promotion (due to COVID uncertainty) and the busier summer for many families (with fewer restrictions than 2020) led to some decline in participation. We also are intentionally shifting our focus to make these events more outreach-focused, seeking to connect with more unchurched people. This meant less promotion among area WELS churches. This year, of the 99 who attended, 16 were unchurched. (In 2019, only 18 of the 173 who attended were unchurched.) The Evangelism Board will discuss the changes we made this year, as we make plans for reaching out in 2022 and beyond!

➤ **Bible Studies**

Join us for these faith-building studies:

- Sundays 9:15-9:45 – Idols We Never Knew We Had
- Mondays 1:00 pm – Zephaniah
- Thursdays 6:30 pm – How to Interpret the Bible

➤ **September 12<sup>th</sup> Mission Festival Sunday**

On Sunday, September 12, Riverview will be hosting former missionary and Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary Professor Brad Wordell as our guest speaker. Professor Wordell is the son of congregation members Dave & Marlys Wordell. The students and choir will be singing at both services (8:00 & 10:30). Riverview’s Lutheran Women’s Missionary Society will sponsor a coffee hour between services and a noon meal. Chicken and dessert will be provided. Everyone is invited to come. Please bring a dish to pass that will serve 10-12 people. Sign-up sheets are on the blue counter in the narthex. May we all enjoy the blessing of gathering together.

➤ **LWMS Offerings Support Missions**

The LWMS June door offering resulted in \$450, which was sent to our AZ Apache mission. In addition, \$250, from our own LWMS fund was sent to the missionary at this site for his personal use. Thank you for your support.

➤ **R.O.M.E.O.’s Meeting Again**

On the last Friday of each month, a group of Riverview’s Retired Old Men Eating Out is once again gathering for breakfast at **8 am**. They will meet on **July 30<sup>th</sup> and August 27<sup>th</sup>**. This breakfast will be held at Angel’s Restaurant (140 E John St, Appleton). Let’s get together, it’s been awhile.

➤ **Membership Changes**

- Called to Eternal Glory: Sandy Gunther
- Received by Transfer from St. John, Waterloo, WI: Brian & Krystal Hildebrandt (Henry, Lillian)

➤ **Average Weekly Attendance**

	Worship		Bible Study
	In Person	Online (worship cards)	
February	152	78	15
March	180	56	11
April	255	40	14
May	235	33	11
June	200	29	15
July	188	27	48