



## Proclaiming God's Praises

Our worship together is just not the same with the precautions we have in place.

I miss singing different settings of Glory Be to God (*Gloria in Excelsis*), Holy, Holy, Holy (*Sanctus*), O Christ, Lamb of God (*Agnus Dei*), and the Song of Simeon (*Nunc Dimittis*). We have not eliminated these ancient songs entirely. We often speak them instead, which may sometimes help us focus on the words. But it still not the same.

I miss singing more hymns. We have a rich heritage of hymn to reinforce, rehearse, and respond to the Scriptural truths that are thematically arranged for each Sunday and Festival of the Christian church year. But we have generally limited our singing to about two hymns in each service. So many hymns are left unsung.

I miss singing the psalms. These ancient songs have enhanced the worship of God's people for thousands of years. With chant settings in Christian Worship or Christian Worship Supplement or other metrical or choral arrangements, the psalms can provide wonderful variety for us in worship. But we've mostly missed out on that.

Speaking through David and quoted in the book of Hebrews, Jesus said, "*I will declare your name to my brothers and sisters; in the assembly I will sing your praises*" (Hebrews 2:12; cf. Psalm 22:22). That is our privilege every time we gather for worship. We declare God's name to one another and praise him, whether our praises are sung or spoken. But throughout history, the people of God have recognized music as a wonderful blessing for teaching, learning, and proclaiming the marvelous mercy of our God.

As COVID-19 cases continue to decline, we look forward to using more and more of God's gifts in worship in the coming months. At the same time, we are beginning to introduce some new worship resources that will be included in the new *Christian Worship* hymnal, to be released in time for Advent 2021. Some settings of psalms, hymns, or liturgical songs will quickly become favorites. Others will grow to be loved over time. Others may not find a regular place in our worship at Riverview. All of them have been carefully reviewed and selected with the goal of giving God's people tools for proclaiming the truths of God's Word

and the praises of our God in this generation and the next.

Beyond its use in public worship, *Christian Worship* will be a gift for us to use at home and in school, in personal and family devotions, as we grow in faith and worship our God each day. Now and in the coming months, you can give gifts to purchase these new resources for our congregation. And you will soon be able to purchase your own copies of *Christian Worship* resources to use at home. May they be a blessing to your worship and walk of faith.



Meanwhile, as we continue our journey the cross of Christ and the empty tomb of Easter, may we cherish each chance we have to declare God's name together and sing his praises in word and song! Because of his death and resurrection, we so have much to sing about!

Yours in Christ,  
*Pastor Tim Wagner*

## Church News

### > School and Church Office Hours

Regular office hours for the school year are Mon – Fri 7:15 am-4:00 pm. During spring break (March 15-19), the church office will be open Monday-Thursday, 9:00-1:00; and closed on Friday, March 19.

### > Holy Week Worship Schedule 2021

#### Maundy Thursday, April 1

Worship with Holy Communion - 3:30 & 6:30 pm

#### Good Friday, April 2

Tre Ore Service (at St. Paul, Appleton)

12:00-3:00 pm

Good Friday Tenebrae Services

3:30 & 6:30 pm

#### Easter Sunday, April 4

Easter Festival Services 6:45, 8:00, 9:15, 10:30 am

### > Scrip Information.

Please email [accountant@riverviewlutheran.org](mailto:accountant@riverviewlutheran.org) or call 920.733.3728 to place your order.

## > Easter Egg Hunt

We invite your family to celebrate the joy of Easter with us. Children up to 3rd grade are invited to find eggs in an outdoor Easter egg hunt (weather permitting). There will also be socially distanced games, crafts, and more rain or shine. And it's all free! Stop by, and invite your friends and neighbors to join us, on Saturday, March 27, between 1:00 and 3:00 pm. See Mr. Witte for opportunities to volunteer for this event.



## > March Door Offering

Our March door offering will support mission projects selected by the Lutheran Women's Missionary Society (LWMS) (see below). Give your gifts in the door offering on March 21 or by indicating "LWMS" on the other line of your envelope or electronic offering throughout the month.

## > LWMS

The next meeting for LWMS at Riverview will be held at 9:30 am on Saturday, March 20. All ladies are invited. The spring LWMS rally will be hosted by Mt. Calvary & Bethel at Mt Calvary (N8728 Coop Rd, Menasha), on April 17, 2021. Mission projects on the ballot are listed below. Sign up to attend for more information:

### Home Mission Projects

1. First Public Service Assistance. Gifts will fund needed preparations for new mission congregations for their first worship service.
2. Cross-Cultural Mission Conferences & Training. Gifts will support various cross-cultural and people-group ministry training conferences.

### World Mission Projects

1. Hmong Outreach in Vietnam Project. Gifts will support the Hmong training and outreach in Vietnam and surrounding countries.
2. Africa Seminaries. Gifts will fund infrastructure improvements and pastoral training in Malawi, Zambia, Cameroon, & Nigeria.

## > Recent Membership Changes

Called to Glory: Audrey Koepsel (2/28)  
 Baptism and Confirmation: Gary Bahr (2/28)  
 Transfer In: Dave & Barb Meyer, from Emanuel, New London  
 Transfer Out: Craig & Bonnie Nushart, to St. John, Kaukauna  
 Jennifer Cole, to Emanuel, New London

## Meet Our New Members

Welcome! **Dave and Barb Meyer**, joining us from Emanuel Lutheran, New London. Dave retired after 42 years at Curwood and Barb left Radtke-Rhone Ins to join him in retirement. The Meyers have 4 married children and 6 grandchildren who are all members of

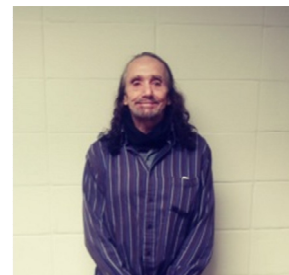


WELS churches in the area. Dave and Barb have moved to the valley and chosen RLC after visiting a few times. They appreciated the sermons, the music and the opportunity to join our

choir. Dave enjoys hunting and fishing, Barb enjoys knitting and crafts, and together they love camping and spending time with their family.

When the Meyers were asked what they would like their new church family to know about them, they said, "The Word of God is the most important part of our lives. We have been blessed way beyond what we deserve."

Welcome! **Gary Bahr**. Gary was baptized and confirmed Sunday, February 28, here at Riverview Lutheran Church. After having a troubled past he knew he needed a change in his life. Gary and Pastor Belter spent many hours together studying the bible. Gary was a butcher by trade and, due to health reasons, is retired. He enjoys any outdoor activities and loves volunteering.



## > Year to Date Offerings - 7/1/2020-1/31/2021

	Actual	Budget	Difference
General	\$343,177.15	\$369,612.81	-\$26,435.66
Building	\$66,635.88	\$77,271.74	-\$10,635.86
Synod	\$16,556.26	\$22,197.07	-\$5,640.81
FVL	\$9,685.09	\$13,914.32	-\$4,229.23
TOTAL	\$436,054.38	\$482,995.94	-\$46,941.56

## > Average Weekly Attendance

	Worship		Bible Study
	In Person	Online (worship cards)	
September	155	72	26
October	145	83	27
November	142	82	29
December	149	72	17
January	156	69	16
February	152	78	15