

Riverside Reader

...a Biblically-based, cost-compassionate, small-camp experience

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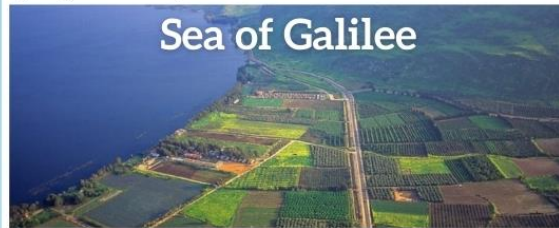
TOP 10 most wanted

Thank you to everyone who has helped meet a need found on our Top 10 Most Wanted list! This past year, Riverside has been gifted several items including a riding lawn mower, air hockey table, pool table, DVD player, measuring wheel, plastic folding tables, and more! If you're looking to re-home an item and you think it might be beneficial to camp, please call or email the office. Even if it isn't on our Top Ten list, someone will get back to you and let you know if we could use it! For a current list of Riverside's most wanted items, turn to page seven.



Sister Seas

by Elyse Erdahl, Administrative Assistant



Sea of Galilee

As we live out our faith in Jesus, it's critical that we recognize the importance of not only making sure we are being spiritually fed, but ensuring that we are sharing that wisdom with others. God gives us a great example of this with the Sea of Galilee and the Dead Sea.

These neighboring seas in Israel are both fed from the same freshwater source, the Jordan River. Each even has underground, freshwater springs feeding it through its seabed. Though located "next door" to each other, these two locations are notably dissimilar.

The Sea of Galilee is teeming with life. Home to over 25 species of fish, bordered by lush green farmlands, and surrounded by vibrant cities and towns, this body of water is a symbol of life and growth.

Its sister to the south, however, boasts no signs of life. No fish make their homes within the waters of the Dead Sea. No plants line its bed or naturally grow along its shores. An aerial view of this vast lake reveals barren land surrounding its borders, all life choked out by its excessive salt content.

So how can these two seas (technically lakes), so similarly formed, be so completely different?

While both lakes are fed by the same freshwater source, only the Sea of Galilee remains a freshwater lake. The Dead Sea is a saltwater lake and currently ranks as the fourth saltiest body of water in the world.

Why?

The Jordan River enters the north side of the Sea of Galilee carrying salt and other minerals and flows all the way through, leaving the southern shore and meeting its end in the Dead Sea.

The Dead Sea has no outlet. All of the salt, sediment, and other minerals carried by the Jordan River are deposited into it and left with



Dead Sea

no place to go. As the water evaporates, these minerals and salt become more and more concentrated, resulting in an environment that is hostile to life and growth.

I think this is a beautiful and tangible illustration of what the Christian life should look like. Going to church, reading the Bible, and having an active prayer life are all important, but it would be easy to become like the Dead Sea if we let our faith end there. Knowing the truth of the Gospel and doing nothing with it is not God's design for His children. Like the Sea of Galilee, we should be taking the spiritual nourishment we receive from our source, the Word, and sharing it with others around us. After all, "faith without works is dead."

At Riverside, it is our joy to do this every summer, all summer long. Week after week, our staff and volunteers pour into the campers attending summer programs. Every child who attends a summer camp at Riverside hears the Gospel before they leave. For some, this is the only place they will hear the Bible taught all year. For others, Riverside has become a safe place to ask the tough questions that result in spiritual growth and maturity. And for more yet, the fellowship found at Riverside provides the encouragement needed for campers to feel brave and bold in their faith outside of camp.

As you continue to read about the 2024 Summer Camp season at Riverside, I encourage you to begin praying for 2025. Pray for the campers who will attend, the volunteers who will serve, and the staff who will plan it all. Pray that the truths we learn and study all year will be poured out to those whom God will bring to camp next year. Pray that we take our cue from the Sea of Galilee, consistently being spiritually fed and feeding others. ■

Thank You! | VBS



We simply cannot do what we do here at Riverside without dedicated volunteers like you. From the bottom of our hearts, we thank you all for another incredible summer camp season. Thank you for your time, your talents, and your love for Jesus, so evidently shown by your selfless service this summer.



Diving into Summer

By Elyse Erdahl, Administrative Assistant

The 2024 Summer Camp season kicked off with a Scuba-themed week of VBS! This year, Riverside was blessed to partner with Faith Community Church (FCC) of Waupaca to put on this free week of day camp for students entering kindergarten through completed sixth grade. Each morning was filled with musical worship, Bible study, a thoughtful craft, and fun games. After lunch, day campers enjoyed camp activities like games on the ball field, swimming, farm visits, hexball, and more!

Every year, the VBS kids are challenged to bring in donations for the orphanage/school in Haiti that Riverside helps support. This year, the school in Haiti was able to construct the shell of a church building and was in need of funds for the construction of the roof. The VBS campers were given a goal of \$3,500 for the week. By Friday morning, they had brought in over \$3,900! These funds will go a long way in helping our friends in Haiti complete the church building for their weekly worship gatherings.

We had 146 campers registered for VBS this year. An army of volunteers, the support of FCC, and a dedicated staff made this a perfect way to start the summer. There's something contagious about the energy we see at VBS and there is nothing better than hearing a hundred small voices loudly praising God with songs in the Chapel.

We are already excited for VBS 2025 and we hope to see you all there! ■



Family Fun Night

by Elyse Erdahl, Administrative Assistant

The end of VBS week means it's time for one of Riverside's favorite events, Family Fun Night! Amherst Bible Church partners with Riverside to put on an entire evening of free food, carnival games, bounce houses, face painting, a petting zoo, prizes, and more. One of the most well-attended Family Fun Night's in Riverside's history, over 500 people came out to enjoy the festivities.

Mr. Steve, "The Master Facilitator of Fun," made a special appearance during the evening and entertained the children with jokes, silly songs, balloon animals, prizes, and laughter.

While it is an absolute joy to be able to provide a family-friendly, free evening of entertainment to our community every year, the greatest part of Family Fun Night is always when the VBS campers get to showcase the songs they learned during the week. The Gospel was shared with all who witnessed the performance and the children's joy was on full display. Praise God for this wonderful event and all of the hard-working volunteers who make it possible! ■



Adventure Camp

by Lori Clapham, Volunteer

Adventure Camp 2024 was three days filled with laughter, learning about God, and lasting memories. We had a total of 18 campers who kept us busy. The theme verse this year was Ephesians 4:4-6. One body, one Spirit, one hope, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all. We looked at a few more verses in the Bible which helped us discover the call for unity and a bond of peace.

Children participated in numerous hands-on activities so that they could fully grasp the concepts that were being presented.

A few key points discovered included:

- Standing together makes us stronger
- God helps us live in unity and harmony together
- The importance of patience for others, God, and ourselves
- Working together gets the job done quicker
- Three strands are stronger than one
- Putting our faith in Jesus doesn't mean we lose our identity

Aside from the teaching times, children enjoyed teambuilding games, a farm visit which included holding baby chicks and riding ponies, delicious meals and snacks, swimming, water games and so much more. Looking forward to seeing all the campers again next summer! ■



Summer Camp Season

Summer Camp

by Lucero Olson, Programming Director

Senior High Camp this year was completely packed with 94 campers ready to have fun, make friends, worship the Lord, and grow in their faith! As always, God provided some fantastic cabin leaders that gave all their physical, emotional, and spiritual energy to support, encourage, and care for their campers. Our speaker, Nicholas Hindes, really challenged campers to personally connect with God and gave them practical instruction on how to do that. Campers were given time to specifically go off on their own and pray, read their Bibles, or connect with God in some other way. Many campers found this time to be very impactful, and it encouraged them to form new habits of spending time alone with God outside of camp. Another special time during Sr. High week was Mantastic Man Night and Girls' Night. This is an entire evening and overnight experience for the boys and girls separately. Both groups enjoyed a dinner outside, fun games and activities, and a night sleeping in the trees and under the stars. There was also a time where leaders and campers alike shared testimonies, prayed together, asked for advice, and worshipped God through song. This evening gave campers opportunities to open up to each other and their leaders about things they were struggling with, or to ask important questions about God and faith in Him. These conversations continued throughout the rest of the week and led to some incredible growth in faith and friendship.

Junior and Junior High week were both quite full as well with 65 and 70 campers, respectively. These campers enjoyed a week full of fun activities including swimming, tubing, team building games, and a scavenger hunt! They also spent time memorizing some of the book of Ephesians - where our theme, "One," was drawn from. Our theme verses for this year came from Eph. 4:4-6, which reads:

"There is one body and one Spirit - just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call - one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all."

Kids in both of these camps are often so curious and hungry for the Gospel, and it was incredible to see kids who had never even heard of the Gospel before camp leave with a new knowledge of who Jesus is. A highlight of the week for many of these campers is always the talent show that we hold at the end of the week, which gives them a chance to step out into the spotlight and have some fun! The acts ranged from funny skits, to singing worship songs, to cabin leader impersonations, and so much more!

We are so thankful for all the campers that came out this summer and will continue to pray that they grow in their faith, that they have good spiritual mentors, and that they would be able to come back to Riverside again next summer! We're also incredibly grateful for all of the volunteers in the cabins, the kitchen, and everywhere in between - it sets a wonderful example for all the campers to see people serving God and others with joy in their hearts and smiles on their faces. ■



Zarephath Taking Shape

Expanding to the north side of the road is a very exciting way to celebrate Riverside's 90th year of ministry. It's amazing to think about the impact 10 families had on this quiet piece of land by the river all those years ago. Many of you have been praying faithfully and giving sacrificially toward the construction of Zarephath. Thank you for being a part of this effort so far.

Completed So Far:

Design/permitting	Completed
Excavation	Completed
Foundation	Completed
Well	Completed
Shell	Completed
Roof	Completed
Ext. Door/windows	Completed
Siding	Paid for

Still Needed:

Septic	\$20,000	Interior	
HVAC	\$45,000	-Flooring	\$13,000
Electrical	\$25,000	-fixtures	\$10,000
Drywall	\$25,000	-Insulation	\$17,000
Fire Suppression	\$15,000	-Doors/Trim	\$25,000
(required by building code)			

Total Cost So Far: \$283,595
Funds Still Needed: \$195,000

Please consider helping us complete Zarephath by giving toward any of the remaining need.

Total Projected Cost: \$478, 595



Equal Partners

by Mickey Kaufman, Director of Stewardship Ministries

In I Sam 30, David made a new statute and ordinance for Israel. He decreed that those who stayed with the supplies during the battle against the Amalekites would share the spoils of battle equally with those who had fought in the battle. "As his share is who goes down to the battle, so shall his share be who stays by the supplies; they shall share alike," declared David. In the New Testament, Paul and John both point out that we are all "fellow workers" in the task of sharing the Good News – those who pray, those who give, those who go. Without those who support the "battlefront" ministries, those in the "battle" would be unable to do their jobs.

Without those in the "battle," there would be no one to do the task. Everyone is an equal partner in the work of the Lord. What part do you have in Kingdom work? Are you fulfilling your role? ■

Sustaining Riverside Financial Report

Fiscal Year: May 1, 2024 - April 30, 2025

	<u>Year to Date</u>	<u>Budget</u>
General Fund Income:	\$ 71,873	\$ 175,000
General Fund Expense:	\$ 87,105	\$ 175,000
Current Surplus/(Deficit): <small>as of Aug. 2024</small>	(\$ 15,232)	



*"A generous person will prosper; whoever refreshes others will be refreshed."
Proverbs 11:25*

What does God say?

Reflect on I Sam. 30:16-25, III John 5-8, Matt. 10:41-42, I Cor. 3:5-9

THERE ARE MANY WAYS TO SUPPORT RIVERSIDE:

- "Donate" Tab on our Website
- Mail a Check
- Use the MyWell Giving App
- Volunteer
- Text "riverside" to 40101
- Join our Prayer Team
- List Riverside in Your Will or Estate Planning
- Give Equipment or Property (Gift-in-Kind)

Upcoming Events



Harvest family camp

October 4-6, 2024

CRAFT CAMP

October 18-20, 2024



A weekend of crafting for women of all ages



LUMBERJACK DAY

October 19, 2024 | 9am-4pm



FREE LUNCH @ NOON



Christmas Open House

December 5, 2024
6pm-8pm

2024-2025 Schedule

October

- 4-6 Harvest Family Camp
- 18-20 Craft Camp
- 19 Lumberjack Day

December

- 5 Christmas Open House
- 31 New Year's Eve Party

January

- 3-5 Elevate

February

- 7-9 Infuse
- 21-23 Ignite
- 25 Marriage Café

TOP 10 most wanted



Looking for more information about one of our events?
Go to riversidebiblecamp.org/programs

In-kind donations are a wonderful blessing to Riverside's ministry. Please let us know if you would like to donate an item listed below or if you would like to provide the funds needed to purchase it.

- Wooden Bench Swings
- Soccer Cones
- iPad (Camp Store & Registration)
- Funds for Rocking Chairs
- Sturdy Wooden Bunkbeds
- Funds for River Tubes
- 6ft Plastic Tables (Folding Legs)
- 2-4 Seat UTV
- Funds for Van Roof Rack
- Cross Country Ski Poles



The iconic Blue Bird bus served camp faithfully for many years and earned its retirement at the beginning of the summer. Praise the Lord, Riverside was able to purchase two 12-passenger vans before camp season began. Those two vans spent their first summer at Riverside hauling RSI students and LIFT staff wherever they needed to be, as well as taking two trips to the Upper Peninsula of Michigan for our TREK Adventure Programs. We look forward to putting many miles on these needed vans as our programming schedule expands!

b) Garage - Fun fact, the same garage that was remodeled and dedicated to Roma Twist, was built by Mr. Twist some 20 years prior!



6355 Cty Rd DD | Amherst, WI | 54406
715.824.3198 | riversidebiblecamp.org

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Permit #3

2024 Scholarship Recipient

"...Camp never fails to connect me with new friends and most importantly a closer relationship with God. It shows and proves to me how many people truly care about me and I get to have so much fun doing it! I would recommend it to anyone and everyone, I've brought so many people with me over the years, all in which would say the same thing with no doubt: camp is beyond amazing, and it can put a smile on anyone's face!"

Trivia

Did you know the Prayer Chapel wasn't always a prayer chapel? Built in the 1950's for a different purpose, it wasn't until 1972 that it was remodeled and dedicated to the memory of Reverend Roma Twist. Rev. Twist served as Riverside's Director for over 20 years before his passing in 1971. He desired a place for all to be able to quietly commune with the Lord, and thus, the Prayer Chapel came to be.

What was it before it was converted?

- a) Ice House b) Garage
- c) Cook's Cabin d) Infirmary

Find the answer on the bottom of page 7!



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riversidebiblecamp



office@riversidebiblecamp.org



riversidebiblecamp.org



(715) 824-3198