

## From the Pastor—"Waiting"

According to the calculations of such things, our fourth son Toby was *supposed* to be born on December 26, 2013. After two children born basically on their due dates and one a week early, we were looking forward to our Christmas baby. As Boxing Day and its kin fled, we came to understand more clearly that the so-called **"due date" is an estimate based on average gestation and is not to be counted on.** The end of the year approached, and despite reminders from my father-in-law the accountant, the tax benefits associated with another dependent to claim in 2013 were lost to us.

When Toby finally came on the twelfth day of Christmas (January 6), we had been waiting with increasing unease for an event that, while inevitable, seemed endlessly postponed. I believe it was **Christy who remarked that every day past the "due date" felt like another week.**

I imagine that Israel's waiting for the promised Messiah felt quite similar. As the years wore on, and the monarchy's prospects dimmed, then the exile eroded their tenuous grasp on the promised land, and the hopes of Israel were exceedingly faint. When John the Baptist came on the scene, few were **waiting in faith. The Sadducees' desire for worldly ease and political clout led them to compromise all but the most outward aspects of their faith for influence with the Romans; the Pharisees' passion for the law far exceeded their passion for God, and they had little use for a Messiah who didn't fit their paradigms; the Zealots saw armed revolt as their only hope of rescue; the Essenes saw the corruption of the religious landscape but despaired of the salvation of any but their own group, which they sought in the middle of the Judean wilderness; and the regular people had daily lives too difficult to worry about the religious disputes of the day and ancient promises that didn't put food on the table.**

The wild-looking bearded man who came from the Jordan River declaring of Jesus, **"This is the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world"** (John 1:29), was no less bizarre to his own people as he would seem to us. I fear that the promised return of Christ is greeted with the same attitude today—the ravings of a doomsday prophet untethered from sanity and the modern world. But this is not so.

Waiting has a purifying effect on us (Titus 2:11–14; 2 Peter 3:11–15). Faithfully waiting for an event that seems endlessly delayed is different from giving up and forgetting. Jesus said that the world is in birth pains before his coming (Matt 24:8)—the signs that precede a great event. Indeed, Christ is coming, as certainly as the onset of labor means a baby is on its way. In this new year, may we all rejoice to be another year closer to the return of Christ, and may that knowledge enrich our faith.

### *In this Issue:*

<a href="#">January Calendar</a>	2
<a href="#">Who to Contact</a>	3
<a href="#">Anniversaries/Birthdays</a>	3
<a href="#">Stewardship Summary</a>	3
<a href="#">Riverside Community</a>	4
<a href="#">Small Groups</a>	5
<a href="#">Missions Update</a>	5

# January 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Office Closed	2 6:30 am MBS (Perkins) 6:30 Helping Hands 6:30 Youth at R	3 9:00 WBS	4 9:00 MBS	5
6 9am Wor Team Prac 10 worship/communion 11:20 SS	7	8 5:45 Finance 6:30 Session 6:30 Deacons	9 6:30 am MBS (Perkins) Noon—RAYS 6:30 Youth at H	10 9:00 WBS	11 9:00 MBS	12
13 9am Wor Team Prac 10 worship 11:20 SS <b>Skatin' Place 5-7pm</b>	14	15	16 6:30 am MBS (Perkins) 6:30 Youth at R	17 9:00 WBS	18 9:00 MBS	19
20 9am Wor Team Prac 10 worship 11:20 SS	21	22 6:30 Family Ministry	23 6:30 am MBS (Perkins) 6:30 Youth at H	24 9:00 WBS	25 9:00 MBS	26
27 9am Wor Team Prac 10 worship <b>11:15 Annual Meeting</b> <i>(no Sunday School)</i>	28	29	30 6:30 am MBS (Perkins) 6:30 Youth at R	31 9:00 WBS		

Key: **Children's Ministry** MBS—Men's Bible Study WBS—Women's Bible Study Youth Ministry **Special Event**

**Riverside Church Skate Night**  
at Skatin' Place in St. Cloud  
January 13, 5:00-7:15  
Come for the fellowship even if you don't skate!

## Youth

Matthew Pennertz

Riverside Church Youth Director  
320-405-8212  
[matthew\\_pennertz@hotmail.com](mailto:matthew_pennertz@hotmail.com)  
[riversideepc.org](http://riversideepc.org)

Our Youth will continue to partner with Harvest Fellowship, alternating locations between Riverside and Harvest. The weeks we are at home, 5th grade on up is welcome, at Harvest it's 7th on up.

Committee Heads/Organization Secretaries  
End of year reports to be included in the Annual Report should be submitted to the office by January 22.

Deacons  
Building & Grounds  
Personnel  
Family Ministry  
Youth  
**Children's Church**  
Kingdom Kids

Helping Hands  
Missions  
We Care  
RAYS  
Special Events

### Who to Contact

Church Office 320-251-5801 Office Hours  
 Pastor Isaac Gould M, T, Th 9:00-4:00  
 W 12:00-4:00  
 320-428-5784 (cell)  
 Financial Sec.— Pam Dille Mon. 9:00–12:00  
 Secretary – Jane Borrón Tues.-Fri 9:00-1:00  
 Treasurer—Mark Johansen 253-0786  
 Custodians—ServiceMaster (contact office)  
 Prayer Line—Judy Swanson 320-240-9070

### January Birthdays

- 1 Tahnee Rudolph
- 2 Levi Markgraf
- 6 Toby Gould
- 9 Diane Beltinck
- 12 Mike Dille
- 12 Zachary Henry
- 12 Liz Rogers
- 13 Sara Moorlag
- 18 Jennifer Easterlund
- 18 Holli Zieske
- 27 Linda Paulson
- 28 Jessica Paulson
- 31 Ally Westlund



*If we missed your birthday or anniversary, or got it wrong, please call Jane at 251-5801 and let her know so we (hopefully) won't make the same error in the future! Thanks!*

### Stated Session Meeting- December 11, 2018

Minutes are available from the office on request.

### November 2018 Stewardship/Worship Summary

Sunday	Offering	Attendance
Nov 4	2,510.00	117
11	1,195.00	86
18	3,055.00	132
25	1316.00	115
Online	<u>2,955.87</u>	
<b>Month Total</b>	<b>11,031.87</b>	<b>Avg 113</b>

**General Fund** as of 11/30/18

REC Checking Acct (EOM)	43,195.78
Debit card account	432.38
Petty Cash	58.03
<b>TOTAL General Fund</b>	<b>43,686.09</b>

**Special Accounts**

General Savings Acct	84,096.84
Barnabus Acct	7,129.80
Development Fund	11,616.99
Haiti Fund	16,585.42
Projects/Memorial Account	16,550.05
Gordon Scholarship fund	40,439.65
<b>Total Special Accounts</b>	<b>176,418.75</b>
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>220,104.84</b>

Designated Giving - November  
 Dream Center 350.00

**Missions Disbursements—November 2018**

Pregnancy Resource Center	291.66
YFC—BRAID	166.67
JWM	100.00
EPC WO (Burdsall)	200.00
Church Plant - Chicago fund	2,500.00

### January Anniversaries

Luke & Hanna Henderson 1/1



### Your 2019 Elders/Deacons

**Elders:** (New Responsibility Areas not assigned yet for 2019)

Dave Jones (17-19)	(WC, N)	320-267-1054
Mark Olson (17-19)	(WC, P)	320-252-7242
Dennis Woggon (17-19)	(FM, A, N)	320-393-2709
Joe Newhouse (18-20)	(F, B)	320-469-1038
Rick Petersen (18-20)	(W, P)	320-774-5006
Matthew Pennertz (19-21)	(F, B)	320-492-1976
Linda Paulson (19-21)	(A, M)	320-252-7210
Patrick Farrell (19-21)		320-232-3643
<i>Tentative - needs vote in January</i>		
Deb Johansen (19-20)	(FM, W)	320-253-0786

Key: **A** Adult Ed/Small Group **B** Building/Grounds  
**FM** Family Ministry **F** Finance  
**M** Missions **N** Nominating Committee  
**P** Personnel **W** Worship  
**WC** We Care

**Deacons:** (New Responsibility Areas not assigned yet for 2019)

Scott Gallion (17-19)	(UG, CP)	320-202-9655
Cindy Glanzer (17-19)	(V, T)	320529-8636
Jay Blomquist (18-19)	(UG)	320-229-2766
Josh Mumme (18-20)	(CH, CP)	320-266-7101
Stephen Pennertz (18-20)	(S, H)	320-237-1445
Nadine Sagen (18-20)	(V)	320-980-9395
Mike Beltinck (19-21)		320-363-4238
Deanna Petersen (19-21)		320-774-5005
Gean Wiltgen (19-21)		320-290-2798

Key: **DL** Deacon Liaison (Head Deacon)  
**CH** Coffee Hour **CP** Communion Prep  
**CS** Corresponding Sec. **FS** Food Shelf  
**FL** Funeral Luncheons **H** Hospitality  
**MM** Meals Ministry **RS** Recording Sec.  
**S** Sanctuary **V** Visitations  
**UG** Ushers/Greeters **NC** Nominating Committee  
**T** Transportation

## Our Riverside Community

Can you volunteer your time? Use the link on our website to visit [SignupGenius.com](http://SignupGenius.com) or click here to volunteer as a [Sunday Servant!](#)



Sunday mornings provide some of our best fellowship opportunities each week. Can you help in one of the following ways?

### Ushers/Greeters

Come a little early and be a friendly face, providing bulletins to guests and regulars, pointing folks in the right direction when needed, and collecting the offering.

### Coffee Prep Team

Come early (once every 4-5 weeks) to make the coffee. Easy instructions. Call the office to be added to the rotation.

### Coffee Hour Hosts

Coffee hosts keep things running smoothly after worship. While hosts are responsible for both areas below, feel free to partner with friends, or contact a **deacon if you need help and can't find someone to team with.** (Adding a note that you'll need help on SignupGenius is an easy way to do that.)

### Responsibilities:

**Hosting-** set out juice, creamers, cups, napkins, treats, etc., and put away creamers, straighten up at the end of fellowship time including rinsing out the coffee airpots and wiping down the tables and counters.

**Treats-** bring treats (6-8 doz.—purchased or homemade) for fellowship time after worship.

*Coffee will already be made.  
Feel free to sign up with friends.*

See the signup sheet in the kitchen serving window or go to [SignupGenius.com](http://SignupGenius.com) to sign up. **Can't make a large treat commitment? Consider bringing** a dozen or two freezable cookies/bars in dated Ziploc bags (with your name, please) to keep on hand for **"forgotten treat emergencies"** or when the crowd is larger than expected. No need to sign up—just bring when convenient and put in the kitchen freezer. Thank you!

January/February Coffee Host signup is now happening. Use link above or on our website or sign up at the kitchen serving window if you can bless your Riverside family in this way.



## Bible Studies

(at the church unless noted)

### Wed. Morning Men's Bible Study

6:30 a.m. weekly—Sartell Perkins

### Thurs. Morning Women's Bible Study

9:00 a.m.—Sept-May

Current Study - "The Pleasures of God"  
by John Piper

### Fri. Morning Men's Bible Study

9:00 a.m.—Sept-May



## PRAYER CHAIN

If you, or a loved one, are in need of prayer,  
please contact

Judy Swanson, 320-240-9070 or

Ruth Tidd— 387-2980

to have your prayer request included on  
**Riverside's confidential prayer chain.**

### In-Home Communion offered

In-Home Communion will be offered for those who are homebound and unable to attend worship. Please contact Pastor Isaac to make arrangements for a visit.

Riverside's We Care team would appreciate your input on members or regulars that might need or appreciate a visit from one of our team members. Contact Mark Olson or one of the We Care team members: Ruth Tidd, Nadine Sagen, Dave Jones, Judith Loudon, MayBell Gordon.

## Ongoing Adult Fellowship Opportunities

### R A Y S

**R.A.Y.S.—Riverside Always Young Seniors—**  
**2nd Wednesday at Noon.** If you've retired (or just have your lunch hour free!) join us for a potluck lunch and fellowship each month. New members are always welcome!  
 Contact: Ruth Tidd (320) 387-2980.

### Couples or Singles

Riverside believes that small groups are a great way to grow lasting friendships, as well as grow in our relationship with God. We have several small groups that meet in members homes or at Riverside. If you're interested in joining a small group we'd be glad to work with you to either plug you into an existing group or begin the formation of a new one. Contact Pastor Isaac

### Men's Opportunities

**Wednesday Morning Study** - Currently about eight men are meeting at **6:30 AM** at Perkins in Sartell. We order breakfast, and go through various Christian studies while we eat. Sometimes we're in perfect agreement with one another, sometimes we couldn't disagree more, but we always get along.  
 Contact: Dave Jones (320) 267-1054.

**Friday Morning Study** - This study meets in the Fellowship Hall at **9:00 AM**. (Sept—May) Donuts and coffee are served as we study the Bible together. Men of all ages are welcome.  
 Contact: Rick Petersen (320) 774-5006.

### Women's Opportunities

**Thursday Bible Study** - On Thursdays at **9:00 AM** (September-May) several women meet here for a time of prayer and Bible study. This study is offered from fall through spring - all women are welcome. *Current study: "The Pleasures of God" by John Piper.*  
 Contact: Ruth Tidd (320) 387-2980.

**Helping Hands** meets the **1st Wednesday** of the month at 6:30pm. Treats provided. Women of all ages and life stages are welcome.  
 Contact: Beth Pennertz, (320) 405-8211

### EPC Mission Update from the Burdsalls

Merry Christmas!! This has been an interesting Christmas season for us this year. I love Christmas, and normally deck the halls from top to bottom, and start playing Christmas music since October. This year, we have one puny fake tree with no ornaments, and boxes all over the place instead of Christmas decorations.

Last week we moved from our home of fourteen years. This week Caleb graduates from high school and moves to his grandparents for a few months to work. This month has also been packed with events for all the kids at school- concerts, practices, early mornings and late nights. Emotions have been all over the place, and our sleep level has been minimal. Some days it feels like we are barely holding on, much less feeling any Christmas spirit. ...

Then, yesterday we went to a local church where Lillian was singing. The sermon was on Philippians 4:4-7. (Because of course, the week of advent that we are in is Joy!) **"Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near."** We can have joy, because the **Lord is near. God with us. ...**

So that is where we are right now. It's a bit raw, and a bit painful, but at the same time we are finding joy in new ways this year, and learning that Christmas means *God with us* more than it means anything else. Praying that you all will also be able to dwell in joy this Christmas season, and find rest along the way to let the beautiful story wash over you.

In His grace,  
 Colleen, for Scott and the kids

**The support raising facts:** We are at 80%. Praise God! We are still aiming for 100% as soon as possible in the new year so that we can get visas and also arrange housing before the move at the end of the school year.

As the end of the year rolls in, if any of you are thinking about year- end giving we would ask you to consider and pray about contributing to our ministry to reach out with God's love to those in Tower Hamlets. One -time giving is great, and monthly support is even more helpful. And if you pledge to give a significant amount annually, the amount can be spread out over each year and count toward our monthly support goal. We would love to talk with you about this if you have questions, ([cburdsall@serge.org](mailto:cburdsall@serge.org) 515-357-2175 Scott cell) or you can go to our Serge page [here](#) for both one-time and monthly support.

\*\*\*\*\*

Update from **George and Cynthia Pollett** - The Polletts, who have been serving in China and had hoped to be there several more years, have been removed from the country with only 72-hour notice in November. They are still missionaries with Pioneers and WO but are currently in Georgia for a few months while their next assignment is prayed about and clarified. Their letter to us is printed and posted on the bulletin board in the fellowship hall.

Ph. (320) 251-5801  
[office@RiversideEPC.org](mailto:office@RiversideEPC.org)

## Office Hours

Pastor—Isaac Gould      Mon., Tues., Thurs . 9:00-4:00  
320-428-5784 (cell)      Wed. 12:00-4:00  
[pastor@riversideepc.org](mailto:pastor@riversideepc.org)

Financial Secretary—Pam Dille  
Monday (except bank holidays) 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.  
Secretary (Jane Borron)      [office@RiversideEPC.org](mailto:office@RiversideEPC.org)  
Tuesday-Friday      9:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m.  
(additional hours possible with prior arrangement)

# Annual Congregational Meeting

## January 27 following Worship

### Riverside Vision Statement

Riverside Evangelical Church is called to build a community of saints empowered by the Holy Spirit. We exist to glorify God in all areas of life by proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

### Riverside Mission Statement

Our mission at Riverside Evangelical Church is to further the gospel of Jesus Christ by:

- Worshipping and celebrating the presence of God ..... Psalm 16:11
- Discipling that brings us to maturity in Christ ..... Matthew 28:19
- Equipping us to live our faith in every aspect of life ..... Eph. 4:12

Please contact the church office if you no longer wish to receive this newsletter or if your address is incorrect.

405 Riverside Ave. N., PO Box 139  
Sartell, MN 56377-0139

Join the Journey

The logo for Riverside Evangelical Church, featuring the word "Riverside" in a stylized font with a blue wave-like underline.