

The River View

Riverside

Join the Journey

www.RiversideEPC.org

February 2018

From the Pastor—

As I write for the Riverview, I often look back at the previous year's article to see what was going on at this time last year. In February of 2017 we were in the midst of having walls and doors repaired, scheduling an elevator retrofit, preparing for a Haiti trip, looking to fill a part-time staff position, and gearing up for Lent. **With the exception of the elevator, we've come full circle, and all those things are happening today!** Perhaps, as the Preacher of Ecclesiastes says, "There is nothing new under the sun"....

In this old building, there will always be more work to be done; the brokenness of our world will never put us beyond the need for missions work until Christ returns; **in God's faithfulness, it is necessary at different times to bring in new staff people to do the work of ministry;** and the need for spiritual renewal is constantly before us. This last matter is the focus of today's article.

The term "Lent" comes from the old Saxon word for "spring," and is obviously not a biblical institution, but it is traceable to the earliest centuries of church history. The church council in AD 325 that gave us the Nicene Creed also took longstanding church practices and unified them into a forty-day period of fasting before Easter. This was chiefly directed toward baptismal candidates, but the whole church was urged to join in. Participants focused on repenting of known sins and took one simple meal of vegetables daily. They would refrain from celebrations (excepting Sunday worship) and focus on acts of devotion, contrition, and charity.

The "Christianization" of the Roman empire led to some abuses in the practice of Lent, and by the time of the Protestant Reformation, the practice was widely condemned for promoting externalism in religion. Jesus, as you will recall, directed us to pursue charity, prayer, and fasting *in secret*, not to be seen (Matthew 6:1–18). The best sort of Lenten practice, I think, is a decidedly private one, in which we devote ourselves to self-examination, repentance, and a more deliberate pursuit of holiness.

I think of Lent not so much as a chance to prove (whether to others, ourselves, or God) that we're really serious about following Jesus, but a gentle call from the Savior to come and follow him where our path may have faltered or our progress stalled. The rhythm of fasting and feasting (which we see throughout Old Testament Israel's calendar) helps us see the "already" and "not yet" of the kingdom of Christ. As Aaron Damiani says in his book, *The Good of Giving Up*: "In Lent, we learn to confess our sins, practice self-denial, and take on the humility of Christ. In Easter, we learn to rejoice, exult, and feast in Christ's victory" (p. 91).

I pray that all of us may draw nearer to God in this season and that our celebration of Easter on the other side may be richer for it.

Pastor Isaac

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February 2018

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2 9:00 am MBS 9:00 am WBS	3
4 9am Wor Team Prac 10 worship/communion 11:20 SS 11:20 New Member Class	5	6 6:30 Deacons	7 6:30 am MBS (Perkins) 6:30 pm Helping Hands	8	9 9:00 am MBS 9:00 am WBS	10
11 9am Wor Team Prac 10 worship 11:20 SS 11:20 New Member Class 12:15 Haiti trip info meeting	12	13	14 6:30 am MBS (Perkins) Noon—RAYS ASH WEDNESDAY 6:00 Soup & Study	15	16 9:00 am MBS 9:00 am WBS KFF training—FH	17
18 9am Wor Team Prac 10 worship 11:20 SS 11:20 Parents meeting (see below) 7:00 pm Missions Comm.	19	20 (date change) 5:45 Finance 6:30 Session	21 6:30 am MBS (Perkins) 6:00 Soup & Study	22	23 9:00 am MBS 9:00 am WBS	24 9-3 Craft Day
25 9am Wor Team Prac 10 worship 11:20 SS 11:20 Nominating Comm	26	27 6:30 Family Ministry	28 6:30 am MBS (Perkins) 6:00 Soup & Study			

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

Lenten Soup & Study

Our Lenten study begins at 6pm on Ash Wednesday, **February 14th**, continues on Wednesday nights through March 21st and concludes on Maundy Thursday (March 29.)

If you can help by providing soup (homemade preferred but any tasty variety will be happily consumed) or a loaf of hearty bread, or one of the other items needed for one of the evenings please sign up on our [SignupGenius](#) site.

(Link also available on our website.)

Children and Youth

Parents, do you have children ready to take communion? Are you wondering when it's appropriate? Let's talk!

Come to a meeting during Sunday school on **February 18** and we'll talk about practical tips on getting your kids ready for communion and next steps.

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 Borron Tues.-Fri 9:00-1:00
 Treasurer—Mark Johansen (temp) 253-0786
 Custodians—ServiceMaster (contact office)
 Prayer Line—Judy Swanson 320-240-9070

Stated Session Meeting—January 9, 2018

Minutes are available from the office on request.

Dec. 2017 Stewardship/Worship Summary

Sunday	Offering	Attendance
Dec 3	3699.00	129
10	3631.00	91
17	8937.00	161
24 (am)	2512.00	68
24 (pm)	-	95
31	8167.00	78
Online	2998.73	
Month Total	29,944.73	Avg 105

General Fund as of 12/31/17

REC Checking Acct (EOM)	42,452.46
Debit card account	627.57
Petty Cash	58.03
TOTAL General Fund	43,138.06

Special Accounts

General Savings Acct	69,992.00
Barnabus Acct	7,426.81
Development Fund	11,605.37
Haiti Fund	14,206.88
Projects Account	18,898.16
Willing Workers (closed acct)	0
Gordon Scholarship fund	40,831.36
Total Special Accounts	162,960.58
Total Current Assets	206,098.64

Designated Gifts—December 2017

Gratitude Gift (EPC)	500.00
Gordon Scholarship	3000.00
Project Fund	3836.00
Haiti Projects	731.00
(Dollhouse raffle \$631.00 and \$100 donation)	

Missions Disbursements—December 2017

Pregnancy Resource Center	291.66
YFC—BRAID	166.67
JWM	100.00
St. Cloud Christian School	1500.00
Terebinth Refuge	1000.00
EPC Hurricane Relief	1800.00
Arrive Ministries	500.00
EPC WO missionaries (2 families)	4000.00

February Birthdays

- 1 Lenore Nelson
- 3 Rich Huls
- 5 Alison Moorlag
- 7 Wally Hitchcock
- 10 Andrea Mumme
- 11 Brenda Woggon
- 13 Molly Williamson
- 18 Brenna Zieske
- 18 Cayden Maturi
- 19 Shawn Gordon
- 20 Doug Easterlund
- 20 Adam Patterson
- 21 AJ Morris
- 21 Abby Williamson
- 23 Erlene Gallion
- 27 Tom Fletcher



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!



February Anniversaries

- *Roger & Pat Weihrach 2/5
- Dennis & Brenda Woggon 2/14
- Steven & Rose Johnson 2/17

**50 or more years*

Your 2018 Elders/Deacons

Elders:	Responsibility Areas
Matthew Pennertz (16-18)	(F, B) 320-492-1976
Linda Paulson (16-18)	(A, M) 320-252-7210
Deb Johansen (18)	(FM, W) 320-253-0786
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

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:

Deb Koltjes (16-18)	(RS,MM) 320-253-3763
Ruth Tidd (16-18)	(DL,FL,T) 320-387-2980
Jess Markgraf (18)	(CS) 320-291-3109
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

Key: **DL** Deacon Liaison (Head Deacon)
CH Coffee Hour **CP** Communion Prep
CS Corresponding Sec. **ES** 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 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 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!

February Coffee Host signup is now happening. Use link above 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

Fri. Morning Men's Bible Study

9:00 a.m.—Sept-May

Fri. Morning Women's Bible Study

9:00 a.m.—Sept-May

New study begins February 9—
"Future Grace" - John Piper
(RightNow Media series)



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.

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 pot-luck 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: Wally Hitchcock (320) 253-7724.

Women's Opportunities

Friday Bible Study - On Fridays 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.

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

Update on Missions

Note from Adger and Sandra McKay (WO missionaries)

Hello Linda and Riverside,

I hope the new year is bringing His love and life... even if the winter is not! How are you all doing? We are continuing to adjust and adapt as the refugee situation changes here in Germany. We are so thankful to you for your support and prayers for Engaging the Displaced. It is a joy and a privilege to be able to love the displaced with His love. Happy 2018 and may His peace prevail, Adger, Sandra, Samuel and Ian McKay



A mission team from Riverside will again be traveling to **Haiti** to work with Hope Orphanage in Fontamara. If you feel led to join the team this year, or need more details before making the commitment, there will be an informational meeting on **February 11 at 12:15.**

Hope Orphanage sponsorships: If you would like to sponsor one of the children at Hope Orphanage in Haiti:

1. Visit haiti-missions.com/sponsorship. Click the picture of the child you'd like to sponsor and follow the on-screen prompts.
2. You will be taken to a PayPal donation form. You do not need a PayPal account, only a credit card or bank account information. Fill out the rest of the required information.

Ph. (320) 251-5801
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

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

Lenten Soup & Study

Begins February 14th

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

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