

# The River View

Join the Journey  
[www.RiversideEPC.org](http://www.RiversideEPC.org)

March 2018

## From the Pastor—

There is something inspirational about watching the Olympics. Maybe it's the pageantry of nations parading in. Maybe it's the excitement of seeing American athletes competing for the glory of our nation. Maybe it's the sheer artistry of watching competitors at the very top of their respective fields do things so far beyond what we could ever hope to do. Maybe it's the fascinating back stories that humanize these amazing individuals.

I am amazed as I contemplate the level of dedication these athletes have given to their sports. When reading an article about doping allegations surrounding a member of the Russian curling team, I found the author sympathetic to the question all his readers were probably asking: "Curling?! Who needs performance-enhancing drugs for a sport where you slide stones across ice?" The author then went on to explain that there is actually a high degree of athleticism involved in the precise control the sport requires, not to mention the requirements of rapidly "scrubbing" the ice over and over across a lengthy match. The point is, even in this seemingly low-key sport, the demands on the athletes are high enough to tempt some toward breaking the rules to gain an advantage.

I cannot imagine how much of their lives these athletes have devoted to their sports. No one competes in the Olympics on raw talent alone. Each competition, however brief, is preceded by thousands of hours of training and conditioning. The level of commitment these athletes have shown is truly staggering. Though our modern day Olympics are a revival of the ancient Greek contests, they are similar in many ways. The Apostle Paul had probably witnessed some of the regional games in his day, and he uses them as a metaphor for the Christian life.

*Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize. Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last; but we do it to get a crown that will last forever. Therefore I do not run like a man running aimlessly; I do not fight like a man beating the air. No, I beat my body and make it my slave so that after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified for the prize.*

*(1 Corinthians 9:24-27 NIV)*

An Olympic gold medal, for all the accolades, privileges, and advertising contracts that come with it, is still "a crown that will not last." Compared to seeing our savior and hearing his voice cheering us on past the heavenly finish line, Olympic medals are worthless trinkets. How are you running today? How is your spiritual training regimen going? May the Holy Spirit grant us the self-control of Olympic athletes as we strive to run our race.

Pastor Isaac

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# March 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	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	5	6  6:30 Deacons	7 6:30 am MBS (Perkins)  6:00 Soup & Study 7:15 Helping Hands (brief meeting)	8	9 9:00 am MBS 9:00 am WBS	10  4-7 FH Open- house for Borgelts
11 9am Wor Team Prac 10 worship 11:20 SS	12	13  5:45 Finance 6:30 Session	14 6:30 am MBS (Perkins)  Noon—RAYS  6:00 Soup & Study	15	16 9:00 am MBS 9:00 am WBS	17
18 9am Wor Team Prac 10 worship 11:20 SS	19	20	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	26	27  6:30 Family Ministry	28 6:30 am MBS (Perkins)	29  Maundy Thursday Service Time TBA	30  12:15 Good Friday Service	31

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

## Lenten Soup & Study

Our Lenten study continues at 6pm 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.)*

## Riverside-Borgelt Reunion

The Borgelt family will be visting Minnesota March 10-14. To help friends from Riverside get a chance to catch up with them and meet their newest family members, Noah and Judah, we are hosting a get together on Saturday, March 10 from 4-7pm in the fellowship hall at church. Please feel free to come and go as you are able. During this time, we will plan for a pizza/potluck to be held at 5:30. If you would like to be a part of the meal, please consider bringing something to share such as drinks, veggies, fruit, salads, desserts and/or contributing to the cost of the pizza. We will be placing a pizza order at 5pm, so please be present at that time or call/text Holli Zieske ([320-249-5203](tel:320-249-5203)) by 5pm with the amount of pizza needed for you/your family.

### 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 (temp)	253-0786	
Custodians—ServiceMaster	(contact office)	
Prayer Line—Judy Swanson	320-240-9070	

### March Birthdays

- 13 Julie Pennertz
- 14 Carole Miller
- 21 Randy Rakke
- 22 Tony Petersen
- 24 Dave Christiansen
- 27 Wyatt Nyholm
- 29 Todd Myra



*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—February 20, 2018

Minutes are available from the office on request.

### January 2018 Stewardship/Worship Summary

Sunday	Offering	Attendance
Jan 7	2,542.00	88
14	3,315.00	75
21	2,709.00	91
28	2,659.00	107
Online	3,613.07	
Month Total	14,838.07	Avg 90

**General Fund** as of 1/31/18

REC Checking Acct (EOM)	20,781.79
Debit card account	364.40
Petty Cash	58.03
Gen Acct other	2,772.00
<b>TOTAL General Fund</b>	<b>23,976.22</b>

**Special Accounts**

General Savings Acct	84,674.58
Barnabus Acct	7,553.76
Development Fund	11,605.37
Haiti Fund	14,282.78
Projects Account	13,857.18
Willing Workers (int. posted after closing)	.13
<b>Gordon Scholarship fund</b>	<b>40,836.30</b>
<b>Total Special Accounts</b>	<b>177,028.83</b>
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>201,005.05</b>

**Missions Disbursements—January 2018**

Pregnancy Resource Center	291.66
YFC—BRAID	166.67
JWM	100.00
EPC WO missionaries (Burdasall)	200.00

### March Anniversaries

None on file



### 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.    **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!

March-April 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.

### Hope Orphanage sponsorships:

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

1. Visit [haiti-missions.com/sponsorship](http://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.

Ongoing Adult Fellowship OpportunitiesR 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 to All,

This is Sandra taking over this month's update. As some of you might already be experiencing some signs of spring, we are still in winter here in Southern Germany. Many of the refugees are hoping for some good news on whether they will be able to stay or be reunited with their loved ones. Many though, still live with an uncertain future.

Adger and I continue to take part in a **refugee cafe** that meets once a week in one of the group homes. Some of the refugees that attend already have an apartment but enjoy the opportunity to meet other friends or practice their German language skills.

There are occasions when we all wonder or have doubts as to whether we are really making a difference in people's lives. As I was contemplating that idea or thought one day, one of my M. friends texted me back in response to a message I had sent her earlier saying not to give up hope. It was as if the Lord had refuted my idea of not feeling useful. In her message she said 'as long as I have you I have hope'. That was a great encouragement to me as I do trust that she actually saw Jesus in that hope and not myself. Many times we do not see the immediate effect of our relationships. So I want to encourage someone reading this... wherever your field and sphere of influence might be.

One of the doors that the Lord has opened for me, involves ministry to women. Their lives are often hard with little social status and bearing the brunt of the home-related work.

Recently I was able to take my believing Syrian friend to another M. friend's house. They immediately connected as they spoke in their own language. We will continue to cultivate the relationship trusting that K. will come to know the love and freedom in Jesus.

Praise and prayer:

- Praise for continued favor with refugees
- Praise for renewal of our visa/permit for another year!
- Prayer for new open doors to meet more refugees and wisdom about which ones to invest in
- Prayer for our weekly meetings with our Syrian couple to add more to the group
- Prayer for a continuing opportunity to meet with Afghan students for English

Thank you for joining us in Engaging the Displaced!

Much love,

The McKays

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.

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)

## Holy Week Schedule

Palm Sunday—March 25, 10 a.m.

Maundy Thursday—March 29, time TBA

Good Friday—March 30, 12:15 p.m.

Easter—April 1, 10 a.m.

### 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.

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Join the Journey

**Riverside**