



Riverside

Join the Journey

www.RiversideEPC.org

December 2017

From the Pastor—COME, LORD JESUS

This period leading up to Christmas is a treasured time of preparing for the celebration of Jesus’ birth. I love that there are special things we bring out only at this time of the year—carols , greenery, lights, candles (gasp!), and the like. Though it’s enjoyable to celebrate with the familiar, some feel the pressure to put a new spin on things or present the well-known stories in a new light.

I’ve heard my fair share of advent sermons over the years, and some clever preachers have connected the time of advent to Christ’s *second* coming, not just his first. I considered this clever because it seems like a twist on the true intent of the season. Turns out, though, I was mistaken.

According to historians, it was in the sixth century AD that Western Christians began observing a period of forty days before Epiphany (January 6) explicitly tied to the coming of Christ. But the coming (Latin, *adventus*) the church was focusing on at this time was the future return of Christ, not his birth! Only in the medieval period did this come to be associated with the incarnation.

Of course, the Bible does not direct us to observe advent (or Christmas, for that matter), but it is a valuable opportunity for us to reflect and reorient. We remember that the birth in Bethlehem was not an isolated event designed to facilitate gift-giving and nostalgia. On the contrary, it is the first **stage in a divine plan that culminates in Jesus’ second coming**. In the prophecies of the Old Testament, both comings are part of one grand intervention by which God is rescuing and repairing all things that are broken in the world.

I have never thought of Charles Wesley’s hymn, “Love Divine, All Loves Excelling,” as an advent hymn, but it points us in exactly the right direction, so I leave you with a few of its lines. The first verse mentions the “joy of heav’n to earth come down,” the third verse pleads, “Come, Almighty, to deliver,” and the last verse yearns for the completion of this grand endeavor:

*Finish then Thy new creation; pure and spotless let us be.
Let us see Thy great salvation perfectly restored in Thee.
Changed from glory into glory, till in heav’n we take our place,
till we cast our crowns before Thee, lost in wonder, love, and praise.*

May this advent season find us longing for HIS great salvation!

Pastor Isaac

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December 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 9:00 am MBS 9:00 am WBS 4-8 Parent date nite	2 9-3 Ladies Craft Day
3 9am Wor Team Prac 10 worship/Comm. 11:20 SS (rehearsal)	4	5 6:30 Deacons	6 6:30 am MBS (Perkins) 6:30 SS prog rehearsal 6:30 p.m. Helping Hands	7	8 Kindred Family training 9:00 am MBS 9:00 am WBS	9
10 9 am Wor Team Prac 10 worship 11:20 SS (rehearsal)	11	12 5:45 Finance 6:30 Session	13 6:30 am MBS (Perkins) 12:00 RAYS 6:30 SS prog rehearsal	14	15 9:00 am MBS 9:00 am WBS	16 SS Prog rehearsal
17 9am Wor Team Prac 10 worship Christmas Program Christmas Dinner	18	19	20 6:30 am MBS (Perkins)	21	22 9:00 am MBS 9:00 am WBS	23
24 9 Wor Team Prac 10 worship 5:00 Christmas Eve Service	25	26 6:30 Family Ministry Comm	27 6:30 am MBS (Perkins)	28	29 9:00 am MBS 9:00 am WBS	30
31 9am Wor Team Prac 10 worship						

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

Craft and Chat Day

All ladies invited, all ages! December 2nd

Come join us here in the Fellowship Hall for a Craft and Chat Day from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Bring those incomplete projects, new ideas, Christmas decorating projects and a snack to share, or just come and enjoy some talking and laughter!
(Heat should be back on by then! :^)

Parents! - Family Ministry will offer a parent date

night on Friday, December 1st. You can drop kids off from 4-8 p.m. at church. Fun activities and pizza are planned while parents enjoy a free date night.

Please R.S.V.P. to Linda Paulson or to Jane in the church office by Thursday so we can plan food and staffing accordingly.

Annual Christmas Dinner—December 17th. (following the kids Christmas program!)

Riverside will provide the chicken and you provide sides and desserts!

Suggested: Last names A-H desserts, I-Z sides/salads, but anything you'd like to bring happily eaten!

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—November 14, 2017

Minutes are available from the office on request.

Oct 2017 Stewardship/Worship Summary

Sunday	Offering	Attendance
Oct 1	2,305.00	97
8	2,560.00	90
15	7,467.00	86
22	2,916.00	83
29	808.05	81
Online	2,993.75	
Month Total	19,049.80	Avg 87

General Fund as of 10/31/17

REC Checking Acct (EOM)	46,026.79
Debit card account	398.33
Petty Cash	62.95
TOTAL General Fund	46,488.07

Special Accounts

General Savings Acct	69,094.58
Barnabus Acct	8,224.75
Development Fund	11,605.37
Haiti Fund	13,848.60
Projects Account	33,094.55
Willing Workers	2,733.24
Gordon Scholarship fund	33,094.55
Scholarship CD—F&M	5,345.15
Scholarship CD—F&M	9,148.28
Scholarship CD (Lib)	5,950.83
Scholarship CD (Lib)	5,154.36
Scholarship Sav. Acct	12,728.52

Total Special Accounts 181,128.00

Total Current Assets 227,616.07

Designated Gifts—October 2017

Missions Disbursements—October 2017

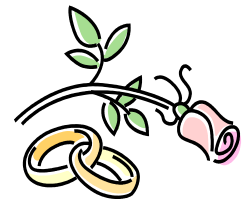
Pregnancy Resource Center	291.66
YFC—BRAID	166.63
JWM	100.00

December Birthdays

- 3 Lillian DuMonceaux
- 4 Elizabeth Petersen
- 7 Mitchell Koopmeiners
- 7 Jana Nyholm
- 12 Mark Rogers
- 13 Steve Johnson
- 17 Isaac Gould
- 20 Juno Gerber
- 24 Jackie Burton
- 25 Deb Koltes
- 26 Kaitlyn Myra
- 26 Matt Westlund
- 28 Kathy Gabrelcik
- 28 Leanne Skudlarek
- 30 Megan Zieske



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!



December Anniversaries

- Josh & Andrea Mumme 12/10
- Mark & MaryLou Olson 12/18
- Isaac & Christy Gould 12/22

Your 2017 Elders/Deacons

Elders:	Responsibility Areas	
Lydia Hoffman (15-17)	(W, M)	320-761-0326
Mark Johansen (15-17)	(FM, F)	320-253-0786
Garrity Gerber (15-17)	(F, W)	320-761-7936
Matthew Pennertz (16-18)	(A, N)	320-492-1976
Linda Paulson (16-18)	(M)	320-252-7210
Dave Jones (17-19)	(A, WC)	320-267-1054
Mark Olson (17-19)	(WC, P)	320-252-7242
Dennis Woggon (17-19)	(FM, N)	320-393-2709
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:		
Jill DuMonceaux (15-17)	(UG,MM)	320-251-7673
Stephen Pennertz (15-17)	(S,H)	320-237-1445
Andrea Mumme (16-17)	(CS)	320-492-6080
Deb Koltes (16-18)	(RS,MM)	320-253-3763
Ruth Tidd (16-18)	(DL,FL,CH)	320-387-2980
Scott Gallion (17-19)	(UG,CP)	320-202-9655
Cindy Glanzer (17-19)	(V, T)	320529-8636
Key: DL Deacon Liaison (Head Deacon)	CP Communion Prep	
CH Coffee Hour	ES Food Shelf	
CS Corresponding Sec.	H Hospitality	
FL Funeral Luncheons	RS Recording Sec.	
MM Meals Ministry	V Visitations	
S Sanctuary	NC Nominating Committee	
UG Ushers/Greeters	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!](#)

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 Dec 1—

“1st, 2nd and 3rd Books of John” -

Tony Evans (RightNow Media series)



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.



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!

December Coffee Host signup happening. Use link above or sign up at the kitchen serving window if you can bless your Riverside family in this way.

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: 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

Children and Youth

Sunday School Christmas Program

"The Bethlehem Project"

10am December 17th (during worship)

All Sunday school age kids (3yrs to grade 8) are invited to participate!



Rehearsals will be during Sunday school time on Nov 26, Dec 3, Dec 10, and on Saturday Dec 16 from 9:30-Noon.

Those with speaking parts will have additional rehearsals on Dec 6 and 13 from 6-7:15.

Our Larger Community

Good Shepherd Community

Good Shepherd is hosting a *Homespun Holiday* (public) event on Wednesday, December 6th in the Good Shepherd Lutheran Home Event Center, 1115 4th Avenue N, Sauk Rapids.

They are seeking donations of home baked goods for their bake sale that is part of this great event. Pick up of baked goods within the St. Cloud area is possible at local churches. Donations are requested by Tuesday 12/5 at 4:00 pm.

The bake sale will be held from 10:00-11:30 am during this event (while quantities last).

The proceeds from the sale go to the **Walk to End Alzheimer's** in September (they fundraise early).

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)

ADVENT/CHRISTMAS Schedule overview

Nov 26—Decorate the sanctuary after worship
Dec 1—Parents Date Night 4-8 pm
Dec 2—Ladies Craft Day
Dec 3—SS kids sing at church
Dec 6, 13—SS prog rehearsal for speaking parts only
Dec 10—SS prog rehearsal (during SS hour)
Dec 16—SS Program dress rehearsal 9:30-Noon
Dec 17—SS Program presented,
Chick Dinner afterwards
Dec 24—Christmas Eve Service, 5 pm

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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