

## From the Pastor—"A Winter of Endurance"

As November draws to a close, the river is freezing, and signs of life are disappearing as the outdoors become increasingly hostile. I tend to view the frozen months of Minnesota winter as an endurance challenge, a time to toughen up and brave whatever comes our way. This is, we all hope, a character-building endeavor!

There are among us people who claim to enjoy winter, some who call it their **favorite season (myself included)**. I think it's fair to challenge the honesty of such claims in most cases. Yes, there are plenty of unique things about winter (snow, ice fishing, hearth fires, etc.), but I doubt that anyone truly appreciates the need to protect their skin from exposure to subzero degree air or a tense drive on snow-covered roadways with zero visibility. Unlike every other animal that survives in northern climates, humans lack the physical traits to survive freezing temperatures. Much of winter is simply to be endured, though long familiarity and good planning certainly reduce our discomfort and allow us to appreciate its charms.

The New Testament has a great deal to say about endurance. Half of the verses mentioning **endurance (or patience, in some translations) occur in Paul's writings, and one of my favorites is Romans 15:4, "For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through endurance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope."** The relationship between instruction, endurance, encouragement, and hope is profound. Scripture instructs us with examples of patient endurance (or the consequences of its absence). These examples encourage us to endure hardship (cf. Hebrews 12:1–3) **and connect us to the hope of God's people. Paul draws a straight line from the Bible to hope, passing through endurance.**

I do enjoy winter, but I doubt I would say so if it were always winter. As much as I enjoy freshly fallen snow, I do not mourn when it eventually melts in April (May?). The hope of new and better things sustains us as we endure uncomfortable present realities. In this way, winter is a metaphor for the Christian life. Things are not as we would like them to be—we struggle with temptation, we sin and are sinned against, our progress in faith and obedience is hindered and opposed in countless ways. **We are holding on until a new creation dawns, "waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells" (2 Peter 3:13 ESV).**

I pray that you may find hope through the encouragement God's Word to endure whatever "winters" you are facing at this time of the year. Hold on: a new creation is coming!

Pastor Isaac

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# December 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 9am Wor Team Prac 10 worship/ communion 11:20 SS	3	4  6:30 Deacons	5 6:30 am MBS (Perkins) 6:00 Christmas Prog rehearsal 6:30 pm Helping Hands	6 9:00 am WBS	7 9:00 am MBS	8 9:00-Noon Christmas Program rehearsal
9 9am Wor Team Prac 10 worship SS Program Christmas Dinner	10	11  5:45 Finance 6:30 Session	12 6:30 am MBS (Perkins)  Noon—RAYS 6:30 Youth TBD	13 9:00 am WBS	14 9:00 am MBS	15
16 9am Wor Team Prac 10 worship	17	18	19 6:30 am MBS (Perkins)  6:30 Youth TBD	20 9:00 am WBS	21 9:00 am MBS	22
23 9am Wor Team Prac 10 worship	24 5:00 pm Christmas Eve Service	25 Christmas  <i>Office closed</i>	26 6:30 am MBS (Perkins)  Office hours may be irregular - call before stopping in	27	28	29
30 9am Wor Team Prac 10 worship	31					

## 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.

### Christmas at Riverside

Riverside's Sunday School children will present "The Light Has Come" on December 9th during the worship service.

After the service, join us for our annual Christmas Chicken dinner! We'll provide the chicken, beverages and place settings, you bring side dishes or desserts to share!  
Suggested: last names A-P side dishes, R-Z desserts

Christmas Eve service December 24, 5PM

### 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

### December Birthdays

- 3 Lillian DuMonceaux
- 4 Elizabeth Petersen
- 7 Mitchell Koopmeiners
- 7 Jana Nyholm
- 12 Mark Rogers
- 13 Steve Johnson
- 17 Isaac Gould
- 20 Celyn Henry
- 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!*

### Stated Session Meeting—October 9, 2018

Minutes are available from the office on request.

### October, 2018 Stewardship/Worship Summary

Sunday	Offering	Attendance
Oct 7	2,421.06	108
14	3,424.00	94
21	1,059.00	91
28	2,198.00,	109
Online	3,800.37	
<b>Month Total</b>	<b>12,902.43</b>	<b>Avg 100</b>

### General Fund as of 10/31/18

REC Checking Acct (EOM)	50,189.58
Debit card account	491.31
Petty Cash	58.03
<b>TOTAL General Fund</b>	<b>50,738.92</b>

### Special Accounts

General Savings Acct	84,017.56
Barnabus Acct	6,904.80
Development Fund	11,616.99
Haiti Fund	16,476.28
Projects/Memorial Account	16,547.24
Gordon Scholarship fund	40,439.65

**Total Special Accounts 176,002.52**

**Total Current Assets 226,741.44**

### Missions Disbursements—October 2018

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

### December Anniversaries

Josh & Andrea Mumme	12/10
Mark & MaryLou Olson	12/18
Isaac & Christy Gould	12/22
Patrick & Linda Farrell	12/31



### 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 Koltes (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!

December/January 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

### Wed. Evening Nehemiah Study

6:30 pm. Through Nov. 7  
Childcare available

### Thurs. Morning Women's Bible Study

9:00 a.m.—Sept-May  
Current Study - "The Lord's Prayer"  
by Albert Mohler



## 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. *A new study begins December 6th: "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

EPC WO missionaries Scott & Colleen report that their "sending" date has been pushed back from January to the end of the school year. This presents both blessings and problems for them. Below are some of the prayer requests listed in their November newsletter. (Edited for security)

Some specific areas of prayer:

**"We need a place to live after Dec.** We have a generous offer of a place here in Little Rock, but we also are looking in George, where the high school is located, as that makes sense for a few reasons. Pray for wisdom in knowing what is best, and for a rental to open up in **George quickly if that's what God is wanting for us.**

We still are needing the last 25% of our monthly support to come in. **We're still hoping to see 80% by the end of this month** (which is another \$690 in monthly support), and 100% as close to the new year as possible.

The kids are dealing with all of this transition and timing well, but they are also aware of the big goodbyes to come. Caleb is graduating in December and is looking at some of these changes already. **Be praying for all our kids and for us to parent well and with wisdom.**

**Pray for our hearts.** We want, especially at this time of thanksgiving and Christmas, to be people of joy. We have the most amazing gift of Jesus, and the ability to share that gift with others. We want to live daily as people who are amazed and joyful because of that gift.

**Pray for the ministry of support raising.** Support raising and living in transition is long. But we have been increasingly aware that support raising is ministry as well. We have been blessed by the church body at work, and we also are praying that sharing our testimony and our leading would be a blessing to the churches we talk with and visit as well.

Thankyou again, and as always, we would love to hear from you if you have thoughts or questions. Wishing you all a very wonderful and blessed Thanksgiving.

In His Grace,  
 Colleen and Scott and the kids

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)

December 9, 10:00 a.m.  
Sunday School Christmas Program  
Followed by our  
Annual Christmas Dinner at 11:30

December 24th, 5:00 p.m.  
Christmas Eve Candle lighting service.

### 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

**Riverside**