

# The River View

## Riverside

Join the Journey

[www.RiversideEPC.org](http://www.RiversideEPC.org)

February 2020

### From the Pastor—

We are going countercultural in 3 ... 2 ... 1 ... [weeks]!

One of the reasons I am a huge advocate of expository preaching through books of the Bible is that it forces preachers to preach texts they would rather avoid. Full disclosure: When I began our current sermon series in Exodus three(!) years ago, I consoled myself with the knowledge that the Ten Commandments were a *long* way off. Why the hesitancy? Two reasons.

First, in my own journey into Reformed theology, I struggled the most with the **Reformed understanding of God's law. I was not born into Presbyterianism. My parents attended Lutheran and non-denominational churches before we ended up in a generically evangelical PC(USA) mega-church where most of my Sunday school teachers and youth leaders were Baptists. When I came across Reformed theology at Moody Bible Institute, it was generally from a dismissive standpoint. Being a nerdy, rule-following youth, my adolescent angst bypassed traditional forms of rebellion against authority and seized on theological nonconformity. I looked for errors in my professors' teachings and ended up strangely attracted to the sovereignty of God and the doctrines of grace ("five points of Calvinism"). I began attending conservative Presbyterian churches, and eventually grew to love infant baptism and the Westminster Standards. The last domino to fall was the Reformed view of the law, which wobbled uneasily throughout my ordination studies, due entirely to the Fourth Commandment.**

That brings me to my second point. Reformed theology maintains that the Ten Commandments represent *God's moral will for everyone*, and that includes the Sabbath command. This is an intensely countercultural message. For most of our neighbors, Sundays are a handy day off work for doing all sorts of things that couldn't get done during the work week. For plenty of others in our 24/7 world, it's just another workday. Even in the church, we have widely differing opinions about what it means to "Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy." I have not been eager that I may have to tell everyone—myself included—that perhaps God has a different way for us to live than we have learned.

**I think we're all on board with the Ten Commandments in principle. Most of the commands seem reasonable and worthwhile, if difficult to observe. But when it comes to the Sabbath command, if we're honest, we'd really prefer it didn't apply. It complicates matters. It has a potentially awkward, countercultural trajectory.**

**Let's take a deep breath and take this plunge together. Pray for me as I prepare and for yourself as you come to hear God's word. I'd love to hear your feedback and questions. May the Holy Spirit direct our hearts into all truth.**

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# February 2020

Sun	Mo	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 9am PrTeam 10 Worship/ Communion 11:20 SS/Coffee	3	4  6:30 Deacons	5 6:30 am Men's Study (Perkins)  6:30 Youth (H) 6:30 Helping Hands	6 9:00 Women's Study	7 9:00 am Men's Study	8
9 9am PrTeam 10 Worship 11:20 SS/Coffee	10	11  5:45 Finance 6:30 Session	12 6:30 am Men's Study (Perkins)  Noon—RAYS 6:30 Youth (R)	13 9:00 Women's Study	14 9:00 am Men's Study	15
16 9am PrTeam 10 Worship 11:20 SS/Coffee <i>(Baby Bottles due back)</i>	17	18	19 6:30 am Men's Study (Perkins)  6:30 Youth (H)	20 9:00 Women's Study	21 9:00 am Men's Study	22 9-3 Craft Day
23 9am PrTeam 10 Worship 11:20 SS/Coffee 11:20 Haiti Sponsorship meeting	24	25	26 6:30 am Men's Study (Perkins) 6:00pm Ash Wednesday Soup Supper 6:30 Youth (R)	27 9:00 Women's Study	28 9:00 am Men's Study	29

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

Baby Bottle Campaign for Pregnancy Resource Center continues. Please return your baby bottle (empty, full or in between) to the church by February 16th.



## Save the Date!

Our “Rocky Railway” VBS will run June 8-12 for kids age 4 to 5th grade.

Volunteers are now boarding!

Contact Linda Paulson at 320-420-2921 or

[llpaulson@hotmail.com](mailto:llpaulson@hotmail.com) if you can help with this adventure.

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

### Session Meeting January 14, 2020

Minutes are available from the office on request.

Avg Attendance—December: 92

Budget Summary - as of Dec. 31, 2019

	Actual	Budgeted (through 12/31)
Dec Income	22,119.05	18,718.00
Dec Expenses	19,617.43	40,315.11
YTD Income	194,595.35	213,765.00
YTD Expenses	233,135.88	231,411.24
YTD Net Income (loss)	(16,410.38)	1,071.76

### Riverside Planned Mission Support - 2019

Pregnancy Resource Center

YFC—BRAID

Haiti - Fontamara Orphanage

JWM (Haiti orphanage salary support)

EPC WO (Burdshall, Hamd, McKay)

Chicago 720

Arrive Ministries SENT

Terebinth Refuge

Place of Hope

St. Cloud Christian School

### Your 2020 Elders/Deacons

#### Elders

Rick Petersen (18-20) P, B 320-774-5006  
 Deb Johansen (19-20) W, CE 320-253-0786  
 Matthew Pennertz (19-21) F, WC 320-405-8212  
 Linda Paulson (19-21) M, N 320-420-2921  
 Patrick Farrell (19-21) B, W 320-232-3643  
 Dave Jones (20-22) N, CE 320-267-1054  
 Mark Olson (20-22) P, WC 320-252-7242  
 Bruce Glanzer (20-22) F, M 320-529-8636

Key:

**B** Building/Grounds

**CE** Family Ministry

**M** Missions/Outreach

**P** Personnel

**WC** We Care

**F** Finance

**N** Nominating Committee

**W** Worship

#### Deacons:

Josh Mumme (18-20) DL, CH 320-266-7101  
 Stephen Pennertz (18-20) S, H 320-237-1445  
 Nadine Sagen (18-20) FL, V 320-980-9395  
 Mike Beltinck (19-21) UG, CP 320-363-4238  
 Deanna Petersen (19-21) CP, FS 320-774-5005  
 Gean Wiltgen (19-21) CS, T, MM 320-290-2798  
 Jay Blomquist (20-22) FL, V 320-229-2766  
 Dave Markgraf (20-22) S, H 320-493-2720  
 Christine Morris (20-22) RS,UG 320-292-7022

Key: **DL** Deacon Liaison (Head Deacon)

**CH** Coffee Hour

**CS** Corresponding Sec.

**FL** Funeral Luncheons

**MM** Meals Ministry

**S** Sanctuary

**UG** Ushers/Greeters

**T** Transportation

**CP** Communion Prep

**FS** Food Shelf

**H** Hospitality

**RS** Recording Sec.

**V** Visitations

**NC** Nominating Committee

### February Birthdays

3 Rich Huls  
 5 Alison Moorlag  
 5 Glorya Stockinger  
 8 Hanna Henderson  
 10 Andrea Mumme  
 11 Brenda Woggon  
 18 Brenna Zieske  
 18 Cayden Maturi  
 19 Shawn Gordon  
 20 Doug Easterlund  
 20 Adam Patterson  
 21 AJ Morris  
 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



Dennis & Brenda Woggon 2/14  
 Steven & Rose Johnson 2/17  
 Doug & Glorya Stockinger 2/25

## 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!](#)



## 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—"Psalm 23"

### Fri. Morning Men's Bible Study

9:00 a.m.—Sept-May



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.

## rightnow MEDIA

Our church subscription to the studies on Rightnow Media continues to be available for all of you to use. There are hundreds of studies and children's content on RightNowMedia.

As part of Riverside's membership, anyone in our congregation is eligible for a free account.

If you haven't signed up for your free account yet, and would like to do so, please contact Pastor Isaac or the office to get the required invitation link sent to you.



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!

February-April 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.

## Our Larger Community

### Coming up in March

Riverside will host a 4-week **Grief and Healing group** on Tuesday afternoons in March, led by Greg Spofford, former pastoral support for St. Croix Hospice and now working with homeless shelter in Little Falls. **Classes begin March 10th from 4:00-5:30.** The goal is to explain grief stages and provide tools to process grief. Grief can be experienced with any loss in our life, such as death, divorce, or job loss. This class will be open to the community so please feel free to invite anyone you feel would benefit from this healing process.

### Hope Orphanage Sponsorship Update

Many thanks to those who have been faithfully giving to Hope Orphanage through our partners, Jesus Way Ministries (JWM). Due to changes initiated by the board of JWM, they will no longer be processing regular donations to Hope Orphanage starting in April. Rest assured that the Missions Committee is committed to continuing our support of the work in Fontamara. Future donations will be directed to Riverside and wired to Haiti through our trusted partner at Hope Orphanage, Michel Brunard. Information to follow!

Those who are currently giving will be contacted in the coming weeks and invited to a meeting about this transition to be held after the worship service on **February 23** and **March 8**. (You only need to come once.) We expect this to be a simple transition and want to make sure everyone participating is able to continue their support.

Pastor Isaac

## Ongoing Adult Fellowship Opportunities

**RAYS—Riverside Always Young Seniors—2nd Wednesday at Noon, September-May.** New participants always welcome! Come for a pot-luck lunch and fellowship with other retirees (or anyone over 55 who has their lunchtime free!)  
**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 plug you into an existing group or begin the formation of a new one.** **Contact Pastor Isaac**

### Men's Opportunities

**Wednesday Morning Study** - 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 Men's Study** -Fellowship Hall at **9:00 AM.** (Sept—May) Join us for coffee, donuts and Bible study! New Study begins in February.  
**Contact: Rick Petersen (320) 774-5006.**

### Women's Opportunities

**Thursday Bible Study** - Thursdays at **9:00 AM** (Sept-May) Current Study: *Psalms 23* by Matt Chandler. New members are welcome!  
**Contact: Ruth Tidd (320) 387-2980.**

**Helping Hands** meets the **1st Wednesday** of the month (September-May) at 6:30pm.  
**Contact: Beth Pennertz, (320) 405-8211**

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.—12:00 p.m.  
(additional hours possible with prior arrangement)

Lenten Soup/Suppers  
begin Ash Wednesday,  
February 26,  
At 6:00 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

Join the Journey

**Riverside**