

The River View

Riverside

Join the Journey

www.RiversideEPC.org

March 2020

From the Pastor—

Like most of the world, I have been following the spread of COVID-19, the Wuhan coronavirus, that has currently infected over 80,000 people worldwide. Now that the United States has seen its first case with an uncertain connection to the outbreak in China, officials suspect it is merely a matter of time before infection rates increase domestically. Although COVID-19 infections have been small in comparison to something like seasonal flu, there is considerably greater anxiety and news coverage for the coronavirus. How should we think about this as Christians?

We must start with the sovereignty and love of God. People panic when they feel themselves in peril with diminishing resources. If God is our Father, Christ is our Savior, and the Holy Spirit is within assuring us we are God's children, we are not helpless. "Our help is in the name of the LORD, the Maker of heaven and earth" (Ps 124:8). The promise of Psalm 46:1 is unchanged by viruses: "God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble." The logical response is in the next verse: "Therefore we will not fear." Psalm 91 directly addresses the threat of epidemic: "You will not fear the terror of night ... nor the pestilence that stalks in the darkness, nor the plague that destroys at midday" (vv. 5–6). Why? Because we "dwell in the shelter of the Most High ... in the shadow of the Almighty" (v. 1). Feel free to include COVID-19 in the list of things in Romans 8:35–39 that *cannot* separate us from God's love.

But let's be practical too. Loving our neighbors as ourselves (Lev 19:18) surely includes taking rational steps to prevent illness, such as regular hand-washing, covering while coughing and sneezing, avoiding contact with our eyes, nose, and mouth, and staying out of public when potentially infectious. There is no need to refrain from gathering for worship or from taking communion, but the reminder to **keep things clean and sanitary is an important way to seek God's best for one another.**

This is also a time to be especially gracious to our fellow Christians and faithful in our service to Christ. Quarantine measures enacted in China have been terribly disruptive and isolating. (My own brother-in-law is marooned in Thailand unable to return to Wuxi, China where he teaches at an English school.) When I think of all the Apostle Paul was able to accomplish for Christ while languishing in a Roman prison, I see no impediment to the work of the church that COVID-19 poses. **As he wrote Timothy, "I am suffering even to the point of being chained like a criminal. But God's word is not chained" (2 Tim 2:8–9).**

And let's remember to pray for those directly affected by this virus, the many healthcare workers involved, and for the many who are fearful.

● In this Issue:	
● March Calendar	2
● Who to Contact	3
● Anniversaries/Birthdays	3
● Stewardship Summary	3
● Riverside Community	4
● Small Groups	5
● Our Larger World	5

March 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 9am PrTeam 10 Worship/ Communion 11:20 SS/Coffee	2	3 6:30 Deacons	4 6:30 am Men's Study (Perkins) 6 pm Lenten Supper 7 pm Helping Hands (No Youth—Spring break)	5 9:00 Women's Study	6 9:00 am Men's Study	7
8 9am PrTeam 10 Worship 11:20 SS/Coffee 11:20 Haiti Meeting	9	10 5:45 Finance 6:30 Session	11 6:30 am Men's Study (Perkins) Noon RAYS 6pm Lenten Supper 6:30 Youth (R)	12 9:00 Women's Study	13 9:00 am Men's Study	14 Daddy Daughter Date night
15 9am PrTeam 10 Worship 11:20 SS/Coffee	16	17	18 6:30 am Men's Study (Perkins) 6pm Lenten Supper 6:30 Youth (H)	19 9:00 Women's Study	20 9:00 am Men's Study	21
22 9am PrTeam 10 Worship 11:20 SS/Coffee	23	24	25 6:30 am Men's Study (Perkins) 6pm Lenten Supper 6:30 Youth (R)	26 9:00 Women's Study	27 9:00 am Men's Study	28
29 9am PrTeam 10 Worship 11:20 SS/Coffee	30	31				

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

We are in need of an additional **Sunday School teacher** for our 3rd -4th grade class to share teaching duties with Mark Olson (2 Sundays/month) for the rest of this school year. Teachers need to be members of Riverside and have passed a background check. (Provided free if not already in our file.) Contact the office if interested.



Save the Date!

Our “Rocky Railway” VBS will run June 8-12 for kids age 4 to 5th grade. **Volunteers are now boarding!** (Child registration coming soon!) Contact Linda Paulson at 320-420-2921 or lpaulson@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 Borrón Tues.-Fri 9:00-1:00
 Treasurer—Mark Johansen 253-0786
 Custodians—ServiceMaster (contact office)
 Prayer Line—Judy Swanson 320-240-9070

March Birthdays

- 13 Julie Pennertz
- 21 Randy Rakke
- 24 Dave Christiansen
- 27 Wyatt Nyholm



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!

Session Meeting February 11, 2020

Minutes are available from the office on request.

Avg Attendance—January: 85

Budget Summary - as of Jan. 31, 2020

	Actual	Budgeted
Jan. Income	11613.21	(not yet entered in software)
Jan Expenses	15314.70	
YTD Income	11613.21	
YTD Expenses	15317.70	
YTD Net Income (loss)	(3589.38)	

March Anniversaries



None on File

Riverside Planned Mission Support - 2019

Pregnancy Resource Center

YFC—BRAID

Haiti - Hope Orphanage

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

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!](#)



Hospitality Ministry

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!

March/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.



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
Current Study—"Nine Attributes of a Man"



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.

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.

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 or **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! Current Study: **"Nine Attributes of a Man"**
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

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

Lenten Soup/Study
Wednesday evenings
At 6:00 pm
(childcare available)

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