

The River View

Riverside

Join the Journey

www.RiversideEPC.org

April 2020

From the Pastor—

My how things have changed since I sat down to write for last month's newsletter! We now have thousands more cases of COVID-19 *in the United States* than there were *worldwide* at the end of February. Our gathered worship is suspended, we are under a statewide stay-at-home order, and fellow Americans in large cities are facing diminishing health care resources as infection rates spike. Minnesota has seen its first deaths from the coronavirus. Lord, have mercy.

At least until April 10, the church building will not be in use, as required by **Governor Walz's executive order**. Any business should be addressed to church staff by email or to my cell phone. We will continue to provide online access to worship services at riversideepc.org/sunday, and videos will be posted to the [church website](#) and [Facebook page](#). We still rely on offerings to keep operations going, so please continue giving through our online system or by mailing checks.

In last month's article and in my March 22 sermon, I addressed how we should view this crisis as purposeful in God's providence and an important occasion for loving our neighbors. Today I simply want to provide a metaphor to frame our experience as a church in the coronavirus era: the wilderness.

Israel spent forty years in the wilderness, deprived of comforts, learning to trust God, and miraculously provided for in the unlikeliest of circumstances. They were tested, challenged, and stretched to the breaking point. God remained true to his promises though the people seldom kept faith.

Jesus re-lived and redeemed this experience through his forty days of fasting in the wilderness. It was a time of battling temptation and readying himself for the next phase of ministry. He was *driven out* into the wilderness by the Holy Spirit—a rather forceful expression in the Greek (Mark 1:12). He succeeded where Israel failed and left us an example of what it looks like to pass through the wilderness faithfully.

Though we did not choose it, we are in a spiritual wilderness experience. We are deprived of Christian fellowship, without the sacraments and corporate prayer. Preaching is coming over poor-quality video through computer screens. We are like David, “in a dry and weary land where there is no water” (Ps 63:1), remembering how we “used to go with the multitude ... to the house of God” (Ps 42:4). We are being tested, stretched, and facing situations we never anticipated.

I pray that this wilderness time causes us to “yearn, even faint for the courts of the LORD” (Ps 84:2), confessing, “Better is one day in your courts than a thousand elsewhere” (Ps 84:10). A day is coming when all of this will be done, and how sweet will be our fellowship! Let's stay faithful, prayerful, and see this wilderness made a place of springs (Ps 84:6).

- *In this Issue:*
- [April Calendar](#) 2
- [Who to Contact](#) 3
- [Anniversaries/Birthdays](#) 3
- [Stewardship Summary](#) 3
- [Riverside Community](#) 4
- [Small Groups](#) 5
- [Our Larger World](#) 5

April 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 6pm Lenten study online	2	3	4
Worship online	6	7	8	9	10 EPC Day of Prayer and	11
12 EASTER 9am PrTeam 10 Worship	13	14 5:45 Finance 6:30 Session	15 6:30 am Men's Study	16 9:00 Women's Study	17 9:00 am Men's Study	18
19 9am PrTeam 10 Worship	20	21	22 6:30 am Men's Study	23 9:00 Women's Study	24 9:00 am Men's Study	25
26 9am PrTeam 10 Worship	27	28	29 6:30 am Men's Study	30 9:00 Women's Study		

Activities cancelled

Stay tuned!

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

Day of Prayer and Fasting—April 10

In this extraordinary season of challenge and opportunity, the EPC is joining with the [Presbyterian Church in America](#) (PCA) and the [Anglican Church in North America](#) (ACNA) for a Day of Prayer and Fasting on Good Friday, April 10. Each of these **denomination's congregations**—whose total membership is more than 550,000—are invited to participate

More information will follow as available.

Watch for updates. A decision has not yet been made on keeping, postponing or cancelling VBS for this June.



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

April Birthdays

- 2 Elijah Pennertz
- 3 Rosie Johnson
- 3 Jacob Markgraf
- 16 Mike Beltinck
- 17 Christine Morris
- 19 Matthew Pennertz
- 21 Arianna Morris
- 25 Christy Gould



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—February: 86

Budget Summary - as of Feb 29, 2020

	Actual	Budgeted
Feb. Income	12,393.15	14,309.00
Feb. Expenses	23,646.51	17,732.66
YTD Income	24,006.36	28,018.00
YTD Expenses	38,985.21	35,255.33
YTD Net Income (loss)	(7,237.33)	

April Anniversaries



- Mike & Diane Beltinck 4/17
- Keith & Deb Koltes 4/20

Riverside Planned Mission Support - 2020

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 320-290-6818

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
- S** Sanctuary
- UG** Ushers/Greeters
- T** Transportation
- CP** Communion Prep
- FS** Food Shelf
- H** Hospitality
- RS** Recording Sec.
- V** Visitations
- NC** Nominating Committee

Our Larger Community

Good Shepherd Community

March 26, 2020

Dear Friends in Christ,

At Good Shepherd we continue to care for the loved ones entrusted to us and have set a very high priority for their safety. So, as we all get used to a routine of screening employees, finding new ways to entertain here, and making sure we adhere to all current regulations, we think of you often. We miss everyone! So many of you make an impact with us regularly and lift us up to meet the tasks ahead. We are in this with YOU! Our prayers hold deep appreciation for the support, love, and commitment from our faith family. Working together we hope to smooth the road ahead!

For those that wish to continue assisting from the comfort of your seclusion, we are asking any groups or individuals that sew to join us in a project we like to call **"MASKED WARRIORS"** for our staff at Good Shepherd. Cotton or flannel fabric can be used for any of the face mask patterns that are currently online. We have been collecting fabric and can bring some to churches that would like to participate in this project. Elastic is rare in the stores, but we have found that hair binders, non-latex 3-1/2" rubber bands, seam binding or even shoelaces can substitute. We are not fussy! No need to wash the fabric – that will be done here upon completion. If you can be a part of this "sewing brigade" and have any completed warrior masks for our nursing staff, please call us! Make some for yourself too!

Need more information? Please call Janette 258-8661, Teri 259-3496, or Jodi 258-9364

Thank you for protecting our MASKED WARRIORS!



Bible Studies

(at the church unless noted)

Wed. Morning Men's Bible Study

6:30 a.m. weekly—
tell Perkins

Sar-

Thurs. Morn- en's Bible 9:00

ing Wom- Study

a.m.—Sept-May
Current Study—"Psalm 23"

On hold for the time being—watch for updates

Fri. Morning Men's Bible



P R A Y E R C H A I N

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.