

The River View

Riverside

Join the Journey

www.RiversideEPC.org

October 2020

From the Pastor—

I was thinking recently about the metaphors the Bible uses to describe the church and how different they are from what we tend to think of when we hear the word “church.” In normal usage “church” is almost exclusively a location or activity. Yet the Bible calls us a people, a temple, a bride, a family, a *body*.

To me, that last image is a most extraordinary one. It speaks of interconnectedness, diversity, necessity, cooperation. Paul uses this metaphor several times, but I read it most recently in Romans 12:4–5:

Just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others.
(NIV)

Think for a moment about what it means to *belong* to the body. You rarely think of your ears or feet as *belonging* to your body—they are simply part of it! You can't imagine your body without those parts. Your function as a person would be diminished if you lost those parts.

We ought to view our belonging to the church in the same way. (And I would argue that this metaphor is not referring to the universal church but the local outpost where God has us for this time.) Each of us is not an add-on to the body but essential to it. We *belong* to each other and together make up this thing called a church. Each has a function, value, and belonging.

This is a radical notion. I don't think most churches operate this way. We need to value each other as much as we value our fingers and noses. We need to take seriously what our functions are in the body. We need to live into this reality.

The two implications Paul brings from this in Romans 12 are (1) don't think of yourself more highly than you ought, and (2) use your gifts for the body. A body where only a few parts are functional is diseased. A body where only one part predominates is a monstrosity. I think it no accident that Paul brings this up immediately after urging the church not to “conform any longer to the pattern of this world” (12:2). The church ought to be a bold protest against our bent toward hyper-individuality and self-reliance.

May God grant us his help to be the living sacrifices he requires (12:1) and to live out his will as a grace-empowered body.

Pastor Isaac

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October 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 9:00 Women's Study	2 9:00 Men's Study	3
4 9am PrTeam 10 Worship/ Communion	5	6 6:30 Deacons	7 6:30 am Men's Study	8 9:00 Women's Study	9 9:00 Men's Study	10
11 9am PrTeam 10 Worship <i>Pennertz family gathering</i>	12	13 5:45 Finance 6:30 Session	14 6:30 am Men's Study	15 9:00 Women's Study	16 9:00 Men's Study	17
18 9am PrTeam 10 Worship	19	20	21 6:30 am Men's Study	22 9:00 Women's Study	23 9:00 Men's Study	24
25 9am PrTeam 10 Worship 11 Congregational meeting	26	27	28 6:30 am Men's Study 6:30 Youth	29 9:00 Women's Study	30 9:00 Men's Study	31

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

October 25th—BRIEF Called Congregational Meeting

following worship to elect deacons and elders for three-year terms beginning January 1, 2021. Nominee testimonies are included in the October Newsletter on pages 5 and 6.

Elder Nominees:

Ruth Tidd
Matt Zieske
Rick Petersen (serving a second term)

Deacon Nominees:

Angelina Holte
Julie Pennertz
Josh Mumme (serving a second term)

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 – Janelle Daniel Tues.- Fri 9:00-12:00
 Treasurer—Mark Johansen 253-0786
 Custodians—ServiceMaster (contact office)
 Prayer Line—Judy Swanson 320-240-9070

September 8 Session report

Session minutes are available from the office

Avg August Attendance—39

Budget Summary - as of August 31, 2020

	Actual	Budgeted
August Income	13,217.02	11,909.00
August Expenses	14,238.59	17,686.65
YTD Income	136,460.60	147,172.00
YTD Expenses	128,661.76	151,425.43

YTD Net Income (loss) 7,798.84

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
 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

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

October Birthdays

- 5 Calvin Gould
- 5 Chet Johnson
- 6 Deb Johansen
- 6 Bob Koopmeiners
- 9 Frank Gabrelcik
- 11 Matthew Pennertz Jr
- 12 Dave Grundahl
- 15 Sue Easterlund
- 16 Judy Hitchcock
- 19 Mary Grundahl
- 23 Kiera Westlund
- 25 Elaine Rogers
- 30 Mark Johansen



If we missed your birthday or anniversary, or got it wrong, please call Janelle at 251-5801 and let her know so we (hopefully) won't make the same error in the future! Thanks!



October Anniversaries

Matt & Ally Westlund 10/1
 Adam & Ashley Patterson 10/9
 Frank & Kathy Gabrelcik 10/23

Our Riverside Community

If you are still uncomfortable joining us in person, you can join us on Sunday mornings at riversideepc.org/sunday or on our [Youtube channel](#) to view our worship in a live stream format.

If you are unable to view our service online the audio portion of the sermon will be available on our website, usually by the following Tuesday. We can also provide CDs (audio only) or DVDs (audio/video) of the sermon. Let us know if you need a copy and which format works for you.

Volunteers are needed! We need volunteer ushers, sound techs, and projection/streaming techs for this fall. Training is available for tech jobs. Please sign up for a Sunday you can help on our SignupGenius [Sunday Servants](#) page. Blessings to you!

Enjoy the Convenience of Electronic Giving

Riverside wants to remind you that we offer electronic giving as a way to automate your regular weekly offering. Electronic giving offers convenience for individual congregation members and provides much-needed donation consistency for our congregation.

[Online Giving](#) lets you go to RiversideEPC.org at any time to set up an automatic donation plan, change your donation plan, make a one-time donation or view your online donation history.

As you contemplate future contributions, please consider electronic giving. Authorization forms and additional information are available from the church office.

Mail Giving—If you prefer to mail your contributions to the church, or use your bank's Bill Pay option, please use our PO Box number rather than the street address:

*Riverside Church
PO Box 139
Sartell, MN 56377-0139*



Bible Studies

(at the church unless noted)

Wed. Morning Men's Bible Study

6:30 a.m. weekly
Meets in Fellowship Hall

Thurs. Morning Women's Bible Study

9:00 a.m.—Sept-May

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.

Hello! My name is Janelle Daniel, and I am the new Office Assistant here at Riverside! I am excited to start in this new position! I know Jane has treated the church so well over the years, and I hope to fill her shoes well. Please let me know if there is anything I can help with. The office phone number and email will be the same.

Feel free to stop in and say Hello!

Janelle

Candidate Testimonies

Elder Candidates:

Ruth Tidd:

I always knew there was a God, but not about Jesus until I came to the end of myself. I was on my knees knowing that I could not handle the situation on my own. God answered by placing people in my path to lead me to Jesus. A special mentor nurtured me in my growth. Many blessings followed. I am so thankful to have Jesus at my side all the time. Psalm 40:1-3 and Psalm 121 carried me through.

Matt Zieske:

As a short introduction, my name is Matt Zieske, and along with my wife, Holli, and our four children, I have been a member of Riverside Evangelical Church for about 10 years since we moved to Sartell. I have served one term in the past as a ruling elder at Riverside.

Since I was raised by faithful Christian parents, my testimony begins before I can remember. My parents made the Christian faith part of our daily family life through prayer, Bible study, participating in church, volunteering, giving, and fellowship with others, so I **was exposed to God's Word and how it should guide my life throughout my childhood.** One of the earliest **outward signs of God's work in my life that I can remember** is praying with my mom to accept Jesus as my Savior when I was about 4 years old. While I may not have understood what that meant at that time, I can look back now and know that God was directing my heart even then. My childhood was filled with many opportunities to grow in my relationship with Jesus through attending and participating in church, fellowship with Christian friends and family, and Bible study in church and at home.

My faith distinctly deepened when I began attending college, and I was introduced to Reformed theology as it helped me understand more fully who I am and who God is. I can remember three things that impacted me deeply during that time and ever since. The first was the first question and answer from the Heidelberg Catechism **which begins, "What is your only comfort in life and death? That I am not my own, but belong – body and soul, in life and death – to my faithful Savior Jesus Christ."** The second was **Ephesians 2:8-10, "For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith – and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God – not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do."** Through these things and others, I began to more fully understand my sinful nature, God's holiness, and the necessity of the work and grace of my Savior Jesus Christ, and to respond in obedience and grateful praise. Knowing that all good

things, all the good works I have done, and even my faith are a gift from God has driven me (even though I fail at times) to be humble and grateful when times seem good, and patient and forgiving when times **are difficult; always assured of God's providence.** This leads to the third thing that impacted me during that time, which was a sign hanging prominently on **the pipe organ in the college chapel, "Soli Deo Gloria"** – to God alone be the glory, reminding me **of humankind's chief purpose to glorify God alone in all things.**

Since that time, God has blessed me with a wife who has regularly encouraged me to grow in my faith, to live our faith in our household even in difficult times, to participate more fully in the church, and to share my beliefs with others through words and actions. God has also blessed me and my family with many people in our church family who have rejoiced with us in good times and grieved with us and supported us during times of great difficulty. It is my hope and prayer that I can continue to serve all of you through the good works that God has planned to His glory.

Deacon Candidates:

Julie Pennertz:

I was born and raised in a Christian home. My mom is a Catholic and my dad is a Lutheran. They agreed to raise my sisters and me Catholic. I went to a private Catholic school until I was in 6th grade. Even though my parents went to different churches we still went to church as a family on the holidays. On the weekends that my mom had to work we would go to church with my dad. Even with being raised in a Christian home, I was never taught about how to have an intimate relationship with Christ. I felt like **something was missing, but for a long time I didn't know what that was.**

It wasn't until I met Stephen in college, that I came to see what a personal relationship with Christ looked like. We made it a priority to choose a church and denomination that we both agreed on, so that we could be a family that went to church together. This was very important to me. It took us trying a few different churches before we found Riverside in December of 2011. We have loved our church family here at Riverside and have felt like this is where we belong. I really learned to put my faith in Christ when we had a rough year after our daughter was born. I can say that my faith has continued to grow since our time at Riverside and I look forward to what is yet to come.

Continued on next page

Candidate Testimonies

Deacon Candidates Cont.

Angelina Holte:

I was born in Portland Oregon in 1985, to Vic and Debbie Jones. I grew up as the oldest of 4 kids. My parents were both followers of Jesus, and I grew up going to church regularly and hearing about Jesus from as far back as I can remember. I was a very social little girl, and loved to engage with people. I loved to create, and I loved to talk with others about the things that were important to me, such as Jesus. I have many fun memories of quality time with my siblings and parents as a young child, playing tickle monster, having family dance time in the living room, and going on many **outdoor adventures and "field trips."** When I was in 7th or 8th grade, I began to struggle with a lot of questions, that were mostly fear based. They began to dominate **my very being....running through my mind constantly.** I would answer one, and another would arise. I tried to process them as they came at first and I became so overwhelmed that I eventually shut down. This cycle would happen repeatedly over the next years. It appeared to many who were invested in me, and I came to believe this as well that I was going through normal faith development that often happens in teenagers. My **internal world continued to be very chaotic...throughout** this time period, I found myself spending hours crying out to God, as I wrestled with my brain. There were many people that Jesus put in my life who mentored me very intentionally and journeyed alongside me in my struggles. Becca. Kristen. Marilyn. Clark. Patrick. Tricia. Jen. These are a few of the people, although there were many others as well. When I graduated from high school, I wanted to be like the people who had mentored me, and I wanted to invest in the lives of teenagers. As I was still young (18), I had to start with middle schoolers, with my intention being to move to high school when I was a little older. However, I found my sweet spot amidst this age group, and while I often get to work with high schoolers and really appreciate a lot of things about that age group, time with middle schoolers **always feels like I'm coming home.**

I began to pursue a degree in Biblical Studies and Youth ministry at a Bible college in Portland Oregon. It was while I was in college that two unexpected things happened that would drastically change my life. #1) I was diagnosed with OCD, a specific form of OCD called scrupulosity, that involves obsessive compulsive thoughts that center around faith and God. Through this process, I

began to receive therapy, medication, and very much began to see a return to the exuberance and joy of my pre-7th grade self. The 2nd thing that happened was that I met my husband Scott, and we began dating near the end of our senior year. After graduation and a short period of long distance, I moved out to Minnesota, and shortly afterwards we began attending Riverside together. We got married the following June, and God has used Scott in my life to bless me and push me to grow.

I began working at the St. Cloud school district as a paraprofessional, and later providing behavior support. I began to make many connections with students in the area as well as teachers in the district. In 2016, God provided an opportunity to begin working at Central MN Youth for Christ, running a ministry site for teenage girls called Braid. I took this part time position and also began to work in the district as a substitute teacher. In this role, I began to see fruit from many years of previous investment. Even as recently as this week, I run into former middle school students, that I was once only able to invest in while we were in the school building. Now, I love being able to connect these kids to adults who love Jesus, and I marvel at how He is and has been working within my relationships over the past 10 years.

Being a part of a community of people (both at YFC and at Riverside) who were reading scripture and praying together intentionally began to shape me in a new way. My faith in who God is, and in his faithfulness has grown as I have watched Him work in the lives of students and adults around me.

A little over a year and half ago, our daughter Marian Rose entered the world, and we are very thankful for the gift she is to us. Sometimes that gift involves much **sanctification that I'm not necessarily excited about....but a gift nonetheless.** I have found myself consistently humbled as I recognize how limited my perspective on children was without having embarked on the journey of raising one myself.

Over the last 10 years, I have continued to wrestle with OCD, and its effects on my life. It tends to go in seasons, and often I find myself again, in the place I was as a high schooler, crying out to God to sustain me. Its not a fun place to be, but it is good. To constantly see my need for divine intervention and to be pushed to find my hope in Him.

Our Larger Community



Do You Sew? We Need YOU!

Currently looking for sewers & crafters for:

**Mondays at 10:30AM-Noon
&
Thursdays at 7-8:30PM**

Sharing the love of Jesus as we build friendships through teaching sewing and crafting projects to women from refugee backgrounds.



Homework Helpers Needed

Many families are facing big challenges this school year, especially our refugee neighbors. As students embark on hybrid learning, will you demonstrate the love of Christ by coming alongside a family & helping kids with schoolwork?

We are looking for volunteers:

**Tues and/or Thurs 4:30-6PM
The Community OutPost
&
Fridays 10AM-12:15PM
Westwood Community Church**

[Sign up to Volunteer](#)

Drive-Up Communion at Riverside— October 4, 12:00-1:00

Are you participating in our live stream worship and interested in taking communion? The EPC Book of Worship states that communion must be administered "in conjunction with the reading and preaching of the Word, with the prayers of the people accompanied with hymns of praise" (W.3-3F). In recognition of the complexity of the present time, the Session has decided to offer communion to live stream participants in the parking lot after worship.

From 12:00-1:00pm on October 4, those who have joined the worship service live stream may receive communion at their vehicle with health precautions taken. Pull in from 1st Ave N, and head over toward the church where Pastor Isaac or an elder will meet you with the elements.



If you prefer to participate in real time, we invite you to park close to the church building and use a device to stream the service on the church's WiFi (password: riversideepc). **Let us know in advance that you'll be out there**, turn on your headlights, and we'll send an elder to your vehicle with the elements.

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

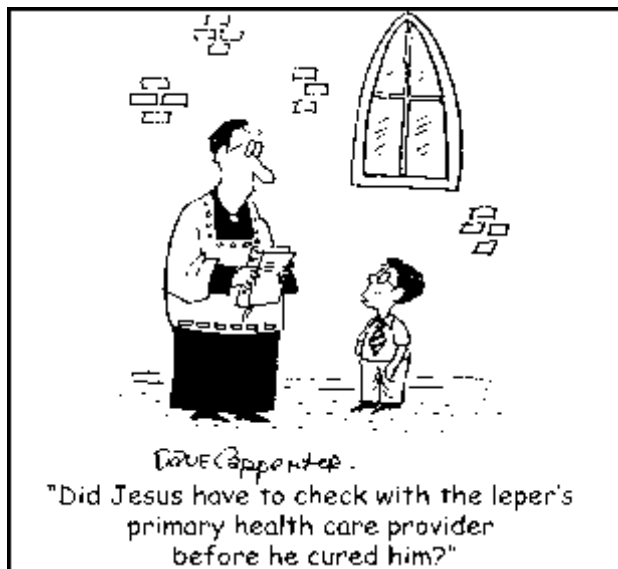
Financial Secretary—Pam Dille

Monday (working from home) 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Secretary—Janelle Daniel office@RiversideEPC.org

Tuesday - Friday 9:00 a.m.—12:00 p.m.

(additional hours possible with prior arrangement)



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.

Sartell, MN 56377-0139

405 Riverside Ave. N., PO Box 139

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