

The River View

Riverside

Join the Journey

www.RiversideEPC.org

November 2020

From the Pastor—

One of the questions I'm glad no one has ever asked me in ministry is, "Pastor, how should I vote?" I'd probably answer by making a lame joke about filling in the bubble next to the candidate's name and then nervously decline to provide any actual guidance. However, we ought to be able to consider what it means to vote as *Christian citizens of the United States*.

The Bible, unsurprisingly, says nothing at all about voting. Israel's first government consisted of a king appointed by God. No vote there. Once the monarchy fell, Israel was a subject people with even less power, living under Babylonian, Persian, Syrian, and ultimately Roman rule. The New Testament is written to people in the Roman Empire, where normal people had no say at all in their governance, apart from possibly electing municipal offices. The idea of deciding who would govern the nation would have been a totally foreign notion to Paul or Daniel.

I would argue that the ability to elect our leaders actually puts us in the biblical category of kings! Who else but a king can determine how the nation should be ruled? As such, we can legitimately apply what Scripture says about kings to our own electoral involvement.

One place to look is Deuteronomy 17:14–20. **Moses instructs Israel's future king to avoid acquiring** horses, wives, and wealth (vv. 16–17). These encumbrances represent the need to trust God rather than looking to military strength, political alliances, and economic security. Most importantly, kings are to **learn God's word, read it, and revere the LORD (vv. 18–19)**. As "kings" of our nation, we need to be **governed first by God's word and devoted to his rule above our own "kingdom."** This is also reflected in Psalm 2:10–12, where the kings of earth are summoned to subject their rule to that of the Messiah. We must vote in subjection to Christ.

The book of Proverbs speaks directly to the office of the king at several points. In 29:4, we're told, "By justice a king gives a country stability, but one who is greedy for bribes tears it down" (NIV). The way we ought to "rule" through our votes is by seeking justice over inequity, mutual benefit over the interests of the few.

Proverbs 31:1–9 has some interesting things to say about making "uninfluenced" decisions (vv. 4–5), relieving the suffering of others (vv. 6–7), and speaking up for the voiceless in society (vv. 8–9). In our own context, that would certainly include the unborn, but should we not also include refugees and racial minorities who feel underrepresented?

How then should we vote? We must vote as those guided by submission to Christ whose decisions will determine whether or not justice is done in our land. It is a weighty responsibility. May God direct us all!

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November 2020



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 9am Praise Team 10 Worship/ Communion 12-1 Drive Through Communion	2	3 6:30 Deacons	4 6:30 am Men's Study 7 pm Helping Hands?	5 9:00 Women's Study	6 9:00 am Men's Study	7
8 9am Praise Team 10 Worship	9	10 5:45 Finance 6:30 Session	11 6:30 am Men's Study 6:30 Youth	12 9:00 Women's Study	13 9:00 am Men's Study	14
15 9am Praise Team 10 Worship	16	17	18 6:30 am Men's Study	19 9:00 Women's Study	20 9:00 am Men's Study	21
22 9am Praise Team 10 Worship	23	24	25 6:30 am Men's Study 6:30 Youth	26 <i>Happy Thanksgiving</i>	27 9:00 am Men's Study ?	28
29 9am Praise Team 10 Worship	30					

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

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

October 13th Session report

Session minutes are available from the office

Avg September Attendance—48

Budget Summary - as of September 30, 2020

	Actual	Budgeted
Sept. Income	7,407.07	13,009.00
Sept. Expenses	18,372.58	16,173.42
YTD Income	144,005.53	160,181.00
YTD Expenses	147,298.17	167,598.85

YTD Net Income (loss) (\$3,292.64)

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

November Birthdays

November

- 4 Sarah Justin
- 11 Acacia Pennertz
- 14 Roger Weihrauch
- 15 Bruce Glanzer
- 15 Owen Gould
- 23 Linda Farrell
- 24 Jane Borrón
- 24 Scott Holte
- 25 Noah Nyholm
- 30 Mark Olson



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!

November Anniversaries

No anniversaries this month



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

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

You are welcome to join us in person at 10am on Sundays or you can join us online 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— 320-387-2980

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.

Hope Orphanage sponsorships:

Are you interested in supporting our ministry partners in Fontamara, Haiti? Riverside is now processing donations for Hope Orphanage. Monthly gifts and one-time gifts of any amount are now being accepted. Money given to the church may be designated for "Hope Orphanage" or sent through our [online giving portal](#). Special thanks to our faithful supporters of this work!

Our Larger Community

Sartell Schools Winter Clothing Drive

Our school district has reached out to local churches asking for help with children's winter clothing. Got anything you might be able to contribute? We will collect any donated clothing at the church and make sure it gets to people in need. See the email below from a social worker at Pine Meadow for more info.

"We have many families this year (more than previous years) who are not in the financial situation to get their children winter clothes. It got cold so fast this year that we are doing a little scrambling to meet their needs. I have asked teachers to consider donating winter gear they have at their home they no longer need.

We would take new or used, for ages 4-14. (The need is a little more difficult to access for our older students, due to their current learning model.)

Thank you (all of you!) as always for your generosity and willingness to help the students and families in our community!

Stacy Boom, LSW
School Social Worker, Pine Meadow Primary School

Dream Center Christmas Donations

The Dream Center is a local ministry that provides shelter, food and training for men who are at risk of being homeless. Beginning November 8, in preparation for delivery during the Christmas season, Riverside will be collecting items that the Dream Center will distribute to the residents through their **"Shoeboxes of Love" program**. Items we are collecting include: hygiene products (deodorant, toothbrush, toothpaste, shaving cream, razor, comb, soap and shampoo), hats, socks, gloves, underwear, towels, washcloths, devotion books and empty shoeboxes. The youth group will then pack the shoeboxes and deliver them to the Dream Center. Please grab a reminder tag from the Christmas tree in the foyer and consider how you can help this ministry and the men they serve this Christmas season. Donations can be dropped off in the foyer by December 6.

Drive-Up Communion at Riverside— November 1st, 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 November 1st**, 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)



*Have a
wonderful
Thanksgiving!*
GLITTERSDREAM.COM

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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