

The River View

Riverside

Join the Journey

www.RiversideEPC.org

December 2020

From the Pastor—

The combination of colder weather and time off for the holidays makes this season an especially good one for reconnecting with loved ones. Add to that the unavailability of movie theaters, indoor dining, etc., thanks to COVID, and there should be ample opportunities for quality time with family in the coming weeks.

In the church calendar, the time before Christmas is a thoughtful, reflective time. The sudden, meteoric appearance of the Messiah makes such an impact on life **and history that we can't absorb it all in one reading, one song, or one sermon.** We do our best to use all the tools at our disposal to reflect and remember as we renew our appreciation for what God has done in sending his son.

This year, I would commend to you three practices that I think will bear fruit in your celebration of **Christ's advent.**

First is corporate worship. There is nothing like regular, faithful participation in the worship of the church to reorient us. Every Sunday is an opportunity to reacquaint ourselves with the promises of God and to celebrate his goodness. As COVID numbers surge, this is a good time for many to stay **home. I'm so encouraged to hear from our magnificent Sunday tech crew of the numerous live stream connections we have.** Thank you for prioritizing our digital gatherings! And to those with us physically, thank you for your faithful presence and loving caution for other members.

This season, our Advent candle readings will come from folks who are with us in spirit but not in **person. I hope it will be a beautiful reminder of the unity of our body despite circumstances.** Let's also remember to pray for one another.

Second, please consider contributing needed items to the Dream Center shoe box drive **by December 6.** I have preached at the Dream Center monthly for a few years now, and I am so thankful for this local ministry to men coming out of prison and homelessness. I hope we can all find **the joy of imitating God's own generosity in Christ to use our abundance to bless those in need (2 Cor 8:9).**

Finally, I have a new venture for the month of December: **Every day at 7:00pm, I will be hosting a brief family-oriented devotion on YouTube Live.** Those livestreaming our worship service will be familiar with this format, but I would like to invite everyone to subscribe to our [YouTube page](#) (search on YouTube for Riverside EPC) to get emailed updates when streams are happening. We will walk our way through the Christmas story verse by verse with some special activities for kids and a number of Christmas carols around the Gould piano. Parents with kids who want to participate **should buy a small posterboard. I'm hopeful we'll be able to interact through comments on the livestream, so be ready....**

Come join us as we journey together toward Bethlehem!

Pastor Isaac

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December 2020



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 6:30 Deacons	2 6:30 am Men's Study	3 9:00 Women's Study	4 9:00 am Men's Study	5
6 9am Praise Team 10 Worship/ Communion 12-1 Drive up Communion	7	8 5:45 Finance 6:30 Session	9 6:30 am Men's Study 6:30 Youth	10 9:00 Women's Study	11 9:00 am Men's Study	12
13 9am Praise Team 10 Worship	14	15	16 6:30 am Men's Study	17 9:00 Women's Study	18 9:00 am Men's Study	19
20 9am Praise Team 10 Worship	21	22	23 6:30 am Men's Study 6:30 Youth?	24 5pm Christmas Eve Service	25 Christmas 	26
27 9am Praise Team 10 Worship	28	29	30 6:30 am Men's Study	31		

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 9:00-1:00
 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 October Attendance—52

Budget Summary - as of October 31, 2020

	Actual	Budgeted
October Income	18,695.49	23,809.00
Oct. Expenses	20,223.59	17,133.31
YTD Income	165,802.88	183,990.00
YTD Expenses	167,495.93	184,732.16

YTD Net Income (loss) (\$1,693.05)

Riverside Planned Mission Support - 2020

- Pregnancy Resource Center
- YFC—BRAID
- Haiti - Hope Orphanage
- EPC WO (Burdsall, Hamd, McKay)
- Chicago 720
- Arrive Ministries SENT
- Terebinth Refuge
- Place of Hope

December Birthdays

- 3 Lillian DuMonceaux
- 4 Elizabeth Petersen
- 7 Mitchell Koopmeiners
- 7 Jana Nyholm
- 12 Mark Rogers
- 13 Steve Johnson
- 14 Samuel Umbarger
- 17 Isaac Gould
- 20 Celyn Henry
- 25 Deb Koltjes
- 26 Carrie Loudon
- 26 Matt Westlund
- 28 Kathy Gabrelcik
- 29 Daniel Pahl
- 30 Megan Zieske



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!

December Anniversaries

- Josh & Andrea Mumme 12/10/09
- Mark & MaryLou Olson 12/18/82
- Isaac & Christy Gould 12/22/07
- Patrick & Linda Farrell 12/31



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. Training is available for these 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.

Dream Center Christmas
Donations are due by
December 6!

Our Larger Community

Greetings Riverside EPC!

How is life in beautiful Minnesota? From "this side of the pond", it seems like an interesting time to be living in America. We hope and pray that this message finds you and the congregation well and enjoying the rich blessings of our Lord in the midst of a quite unstable year.

We wanted to take a moment as the holidays approach to thank you for your continued support for our call to ministry here in London. We could not have made it through this past year without people like you willing to care for us through financial support, verbal encouragements and, most importantly, your prayers. We continue to feel the effects of such support even through all the ups and downs of 2020.

Though it has been crazy here in ministry at times during this year, we are also very aware that life in the U.S. hasn't been simple either. The pandemic has been global, racial tensions have been high and the election continues to garner news time everywhere. Amidst these larger situations, we assume the trials of life have also been a part of 2020 for you on a more personal level as well. All of this is to say, we do not take your support for granted and you are much appreciated. We lift you up in prayer as our partners in ministry, thanking God for you individually for how much you mean to us and His call to join in furthering His kingdom on the East End.

We will be sending out our final monthly prayer and update letter soon. (If, for some reason, you have not been receiving these, please don't hesitate to let us know.) Hopefully, it will keep you up to date on how we are doing and what is happening with life and ministry. This message is primarily to let you know that as we celebrate Thanksgiving (on Saturday once Caleb has joined us in the U.K.) we will be taking time to give our thanksgiving for you and our other supporters. We pray that God's richest blessings come to you in the highs and lows of this life and that you forever feel His love surrounding you.

Happy Thanksgiving and Merry Christmas!

Grace and peace,

Scott and Colleen (and family)



Drive-Up Communion at Riverside— December 6th, 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 December 6th**, 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.



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)

Merry
Christmas!

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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