

The River View

Riverside

Join the Journey

www.RiversideEPC.org

January 2021

From the Pastor—

Just for fun, I looked back at the Riverview article I wrote for January 2017, and I was struck by my comments about how memorable 2016 had been. Apparently, as the year wound down, social media was abuzz with people complaining about how terrible a year it had been. The American Dialect Society proclaimed “dumpster fire” the 2016 Word of the Year! My immediate thought was, “If only they could have seen what was coming in 2020....”

Everyone seemed convinced that 2016 would be an unforgettable year, but I’m hard-pressed to remember anything much that happened! I looked it up, and people felt so strongly about the year because of some tragic events in the US, some celebrities who died, the summer Olympics, a World Series win for the Cubs, and President Trump’s election. Those things were all significant at the time, but our memories are short, aren’t they?

It’s obvious by now that 2021 isn’t going to usher in an immediate change for the better from the challenges of 2020. The pandemic is claiming thousands of American lives every day, millions of people have descended into poverty, the American electorate is as divided as ever, and it’s hard to see that the racial injustice protests led to substantial change. But we Christians should know better anyway than to pin our hopes on a new calendar. Many of the things that seem so all-consuming and life-altering today will seem far less so four years from now. Perhaps 20/20 hindsight will let us see God’s hand in 2020.

The grace of God enabled Israel to say amid the desolation of exile, “his compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness” (Lamentations 3:22–23). I pray that we will find the compassion of God in our memories of 2020. Or perhaps we will look back with the words of the prophet Joel, rejoicing at how God repaid us for the year the locusts ate (Joel 2:25). God does not afflict his beloved people for no purpose; he disciplines us as sons (Heb 12:7). He will bring good of what we went through, and there will be new graces: perseverance, character, hope, etc. (Rom 5:3–4).

I will conclude with the words I had for the church four years ago: “As we look ahead to 2017-2020, we will no doubt meet with many exciting, fascinating, disturbing, and troubling occurrences. Let us keep our eyes on Jesus. We dare not speculate about dates and times, but we can be sure that ‘the night is nearly over; the day is almost here, so let us put aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light’ (Romans 13:12).”

Wishing you a truly happy New Year,

Pastor Isaac

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January 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 9 am Praise Team 10 am Worship and Communion	4	5 6:30 Deacons	6 6:30 am Men's Study 6:30 Youth Group	7 9:00 Women's Study	8 10:00 Men's Study	9
10 9 am Praise Team 10 am Worship	11	12 5:45 Finance 6:30 Session	13 6:30 am Men's Study	14 9:00 Women's Study	15 10:00 Men's Study	16
17 9 am Praise Team 10 am Worship 11 am Annual Congregational Meeting	18	19	20 6:30 am Men's Study 6:30 Youth Group	21 9:00 Women's Study	22 10:00 Men's Study	23
24 9 am Praise Team 10 am Worship	25	26	27 6:30 am Men's Study	28 9:00 Women's Study	29 10:00 Men's Study	30
31 9 am Praise Team 10 am Worship						

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

November 10th Session report
 Session minutes are available from the office

Avg November Attendance—45

Budget Summary - as of November 30, 2020

	Actual	Budgeted
Nov. Income	12,547.21	10,809.00
Nov. Expenses	16,381.42	17,506.66
YTD Income	178,350.09	194,790.00
YTD Expenses	183,877.35	202,238.82
YTD Net Income (loss)	(\$5,527.26)	

Riverside Planned Mission Support - 2021

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

January Birthdays

- 2 Levi Markgraf
- 6 Toby Gould
- 9 Diane Beltinck
- 12 Mike Dille
- 12 Zachary Henry
- 12 Liz Rogers
- 18 Holli Zieske
- 27 Linda Paulson
- 28 Jessica Paulson
- 31 Ally Westlund



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!

January Anniversaries

Luke & Hanna Henderson 1/1/16



Your 2021 Elders/Deacons

Elders

- Patrick Farrell (19-21) B, W 320-232-3643
- Linda Paulson (19-21) M, N 320-420-2921
- Matthew Pennertz (19-21) F, WC 320-405-8212
- Bruce Glanzer (20-22) F, M 320-290-6818
- Dave Jones (20-22) 320-267-1054
- Mark Olson (20-22) P, WC 320-252-7242
- Rick Petersen (21-23) P, B 320-774-5006
- Ruth Tidd (21-23) 320-387-2980
- Matt Zieske (21-23) 320-249-5253

Deacons:

- 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
- Angelina Holte (21-23) 503-841-9603
- Josh Mumme (21-23) DL, CH 320-266-7101
- Julie Pennertz (21-23) 320-333-8270

Key:

Key:

- B** Building/Grounds
- CE** Family Ministry
- M** Missions/Outreach
- P** Personnel
- WC** We Care
- F** Finance
- N** Nominating Committee
- W** Worship

- 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

10:00 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.

Our Larger Community

Jeff Jeremiah is soon retiring as our Stated Clerk. To **God's glory, Jeff has blessed us with years of extraordinary service**, both as an administrator and as the spokesman for the Evangelical Presbyterian Church. **Under Jeff's leadership** we have seen tremendous growth, both spiritually and numerically as he has led us to become a strong voice for biblical truth and the sharing of the Gospel.

In recognition of the call God placed on Jeff's heart and his years of service to our denomination, I would humbly ask that you consider a donation to the **"Jeff Fund"**. Dean Weaver, Bill Dudley, Scott Griffin and I (Former Moderators) have come together in hopes of making Jeff's retirement and last General Assembly as Stated Clerk something special. In that spirit, we are asking that you notify your churches of Jeff's upcoming retirement and that they, and any individuals who wish to contribute to this fund prayerfully consider a generous contribution. We want Jeff and Cindy to know how much we love them and appreciate the many sacrifices they have made on our behalf.

Should you, other individuals, or churches in your presbytery be led to contribute to the **"Jeff Fund"**, for proper credit for your donation, checks should be made out to the Evangelical Presbyterian Church with **"Jeff Fund"** entered on the memo line. I have included the mailing address at the end of my letter.

Please note, we want this to be a genuine expression of our love for Jeff. No church or individual should feel that they have to contribute. Any amount, large or small, will be greatly appreciated.

Even if you are unable to donate, I would hope to see you in Memphis in June for the 41st General Assembly. Special arrangements are being made so that part of the **Assembly will be a celebration of Jeff's efforts on our behalf**. At that time, our gift will be presented to Jeff and Cindy. While Jeff is generally aware of plans to recognize his service, he is not aware of all that is planned. I would respectfully request our efforts for this special gift not be mentioned.

Should you have any questions about this letter or our **efforts on Jeff's behalf**, please feel free to call me at (336) 650-5940.

God bless,
Gordon A. Miller
Moderator 34th General Assembly

Evangelical Presbyterian Church
5850 T.G. Lee Blvd, Suite 510
Orlando, FL 32822
Phone/Fax: 407-930-4462



Drive-Up Communion at Riverside— January 3, 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 January 3rd, 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.—1:00 p.m.

(additional hours possible with prior arrangement)

Happy
New Year!

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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