

The River View

Riverside

Join the Journey

www.RiversideEPC.org

July 2021

From the Pastor—

One of my trusted sources of information and guidance during the pandemic has been Dr. Emily Smith, a Baylor University professor styled the Friendly Neighbor Epidemiologist. Dr. Smith happens to be married to an evangelical pastor and regularly aims to connect the gospel to the work of public health.

One of Smith's recent posts connected our current situation to that of Israel in the wilderness, an analogy I have employed previously. She relates that we are on our way out of the world of COVID, but not quite there yet: we are still plodding our way from "slavery" to the "promised land."

"Normalcy" in the in-between sits more easily with some than with others. Some are more ready to dispense with the restrictions and requirements of the past year, others less so. Matters are complicated by differing opinions on what our gatherings should look like—masks or no masks? Vaccinated or not? These issues are non-essential when it comes to the gospel, yes, but they still matter a great deal to everyone involved.

The good news, Smith points out, is that the **in-between time is characterized by God's wonderful and special provision.** For Israel, this was manna. It was a timely, regular, sufficient provision, to be gathered every day but not hoarded, enough for the daily needs of each family.

Israel's problem came when they doubted the goodness of God in providing manna and pined for the rich food they had as slaves: "We remember the fish we ate in Egypt at no cost—also the cucumbers, melons, leeks, onions and garlic. But now we have lost our appetite; we never see anything but this manna!" (Num 11:5–6 NIV). Rather than looking to God's amazing provisions in the present, they donned the rosy glasses of nostalgia and longed for the "good old days" of slavery in Egypt!

Ingratitude blinds us to God's goodness in the present. Pride and self-sufficiency hide from us our utter dependence on God's provision in the past that brought us safely where we are today. Anxiety keeps us from trusting God's promises for the future in view of how he has helped us in the past. But if, as Jesus taught, we learn to pray for our *daily bread*, perhaps we will look for each day's mercies and live more fruitfully in the present.

The prayer for daily bread teaches us to look at yesterday's provision (e.g., I woke up today and wasn't utterly destitute) and say, "Thank you." It teaches us to look at the present as an opportunity to gather up what good God sends (rather than complaining or pining for what we don't have). And it teaches us to look ahead in faith and confidence.

Pastor Isaac

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July 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4 9 am Praise Team 10 am Worship and Communion	5	6 6:30 Deacons	7 6:30 am Men's Study 6:30 pm Women's Study	8	9	10
11 9 am Praise Team 10 am Worship	12	13 (No Finance or Session Meeting)	14 6:30 am Men's Study 6:30 pm Women's Study	15	16	17
18 9 am Praise Team 10 am Worship	19	20	21 6:30 am Men's Study 6:30 pm Women's Study	22	23	24
25 9 am Praise Team 10 am Worship	26	27	28 6:30 am Men's Study 6:30 pm Women's Study	29	30	31

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



Save the Date!
Rocky Railway VBS
August 16-20, 2021

Register online: <https://riversideepc.org/vbs-registration/>

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 and Fri 9:00-1:00
 Treasurer—Mark Johansen 253-0786
 Custodians—ServiceMaster (contact office)
 Prayer Line—Ruth Tidd 320-387-2980

May 11th Session report

Session minutes are available from the office

Avg May Attendance—47

Budget Summary - as of May 31, 2021

	Actual	Budgeted
May Income	11,597.14	16,009.00
May Expenses	14,924.87	17,531.15
YTD Income	87,508.86	85,045.00
YTD Expenses	75,463.63	82,229.08
YTD Net Income (loss)	12,045.23	

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

July Birthdays

- 2 Benjamin Mumme
- 3 Judy Swanson
- 7 Jay Blomquist
- 8 Caleb Zieske
- 11 Judith Loudon
- 11 Josh Mumme
- 15 Deanna Petersen
- 19 Allie Pennertz
- 30 Levi Gould



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!

July Anniversaries

Mark & Deb Johansen



7/7/79

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 320-405-8212
- Bruce Glanzer (20-22) F, M 320-290-6818
- Dave Jones (20-22) N 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) WC, CE 320-387-2980
- Matt Zieske (21-23) CE, W 320-249-5253

Deacons:

- Mike Beltinck (19-21) UG, CP 320-363-4238
- Deanna Petersen (19-21) CP, MM 320-774-5005
- Gean Wiltgen (19-21) CS, MM 320-290-2798
- Jay Blomquist (20-22) FL, FS 320-229-2766
- Dave Markgraf (20-22) S, RS 320-493-2720
- Angelina Holte (21-23) T, V 503-841-9603
- Josh Mumme (21-23) DL, CH 320-266-7101
- Julie Pennertz (21-23) H, UG 320-333-8270

Key:

Key:

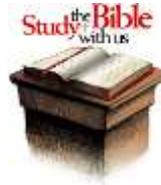
- B Building/Grounds
- CE Christian Education
- M Missions/Outreach
- P Personnel
- WC We Care
- F Finance
- N Nominating Committee
- W Worship

- DL Deacon Liaison (Head Deacon)
- CH Coffee Hour
- CS Corresponding Sec.
- FL Funeral Luncheons
- MM Meals Ministry
- S Sanctuary
- UG Ushers/Greeters
- I 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 service. Let us know if you need a copy and which format works best for you.



Bible Studies

(at the church unless noted)

Wednesday Morning Men's Bible Study
6:30 a.m. weekly

Wednesday Evening Women's Bible Study
Casket Empty
6:30 p.m.—May-Sept—Gould House

Thursday Morning Women's Bible Study
9:00 a.m.—Sept-May

Friday Morning Men's Bible Study
10:00 a.m.—Sept-May



PRAYER CHAIN
If you, or a loved one, are in need of prayer,
please contact

Ruth Tidd— 320-387-2980

to have your prayer request included on
Riverside's confidential prayer chain.

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

Looking for New Volunteers!

We need volunteer ushers, readers, 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!

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Our Larger Community

EPC General Assembly and the Advance of the Kingdom

by Pastor Isaac

One of the great privileges of gathering as a denomination annually is the opportunity to receive reports of what God is doing through fellow believers around the country and around the world. If for nothing else, I would find GA gatherings worthwhile just to be reminded of the advance of **God's kingdom in and through the EPC. I'd like to give you a taste of some of what I've heard and seen this week.**

We heard from numerous EPC global workers **(that's our official way of referring to missionaries where that term is dangerous to use) giving accounts of God's surprising blessings during the worldwide COVID-19 pandemic. The EPC's missions arm, World Outreach, has in its charter that we will go to the "hard places," the places where churches are not sending workers—the underserved, unreached, and unengaged. This has mainly meant sending our global workers into the Muslim world.**

A couple commissioned to work among Syrian refugees reported progress long looked for. Multiple Muslim women have had dreams or visions in which Jesus appeared and told them to continue seeking him through a relationship with our global workers. Many of their husbands, who had been practically impossible to reach because of extremely long work hours, found themselves sidelined because of COVID, and now eight men are in a Bible study, eager to know more of Jesus.

One of the bold initiatives World Outreach began many years ago is called Engage 2025. This project seeks to plant churches in unreached people groups all around the world. Each presbytery has targeted specific regions and people groups. This is hard work. Many of these groups have actively resisted missionaries and suppressed Christian churches. Our presbytery has been working to see churches planted among the Bengali Muslims of Bangladesh (a.k.a. Sylhettis), numbering 6.7 million. We are also looking to see churches planted among the 908,000 Rohingya of Bangladesh. Both of these groups have workers engaged in gospel ministry, though churches have been slow to be established.

Through Engage 2025 across the EPC, numerous churches have been planted by global workers, and we recently had a national, indigenous congregation of former Muslims become fully self-supporting and active in outreach to their neighbors. God is moving! EPC leaders have written more about reaching Muslims than any other group, and we are learning how to do this better and better. I appreciated hearing from and chatting with Pastor Mark, who led a seminar for us at Riverside a few years back on building bridges to **Muslim neighbors. I'll be bringing back a copy of his new book on the topic.**

Another encouraging development comes from fraternal guests at General Assembly. These are leaders, elders, and pastors from churches not part of our denominational structure, but whom we regard as closely aligned in beliefs and practices. The EPC Presbytery of Sierra Leone brought a report **of God's work in this group of eight churches** originally planted by the EPC. They are now recognized by the government, have ordained dozens of ruling elders, and hundreds of former Muslims have been baptized.

In the United States, the EPC has fifty active church plants—some even launched during COVID!—and numerous congregations working on revitalization. Reports estimate that 86% of congregations in the US are in decline, with 150 to 200 churches expected to be closing every week. We are committed to pushing back against this trend and **seeing God's kingdom advance where he has placed us.**

**Drive-Up Communion
at Riverside—
July 4, 12:00—1:00 pm**



From **12:00—1:00 pm on July 4th** 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)



August 16-20, 2021

[Register Online!](#)

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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