

The River View

Riverside

Join the Journey

www.RiversideEPC.org

August 2021

From the Pastor—

Life in Minnesota has taught me to cherish the pleasant temperatures of the summer while they last. Our family has certainly enjoyed days of outdoor play, **water, and meals outside. This summer's weather, however, has not always been** quite as pleasant as normal. We have had an unusually high number of 90° days, wildfire smoke has badly affected air quality, and drought conditions have **affected the entire state. As I write, 75% of Minnesota is in "severe" drought, and nearly a quarter has conditions rated "extreme."** Friends of ours who farm are regularly asking for prayer.

These conditions are not normal for us, but our forefathers in the faith were well acquainted with the challenges of a scorched, thirsty land. In the arid lands of the Bible, famine regularly followed drought, leading to terrible suffering. This forms the backdrop to many of the stories about the **patriarchs, not least Joseph's rise to power and the relocation of the family of promise to Egypt,** from which the whole story of the Exodus arises.

God's promise to the Exodus generation is regularly couched in terms of a land "flowing with milk and honey," the very antithesis of drought and its effects. In the concrete and physical terms of the covenant at Sinai, Israel was promised abundant agricultural production for obedience and **threatened with (among other thing) "scorching heat and drought" (Deut 28:22) for disobedience.** These land-based blessings and curses were for a time and place, but they point to spiritual realities.

The Psalms, in particular, take the image of drought as a metaphor for living apart from God's favor and presence. Take Psalm 63, for example: "My soul thirsts for you, my body longs for you, in a dry and weary land where there is no water" (v. 1, NIV). Perhaps this unpleasant weather can help **remind us of how desolate our lives are without God's presence and influence. The verdant, fruitful** images of Psalm 1 with a tree planted by a stream of water reflect what life lived in communion with God and his word look like. When our spiritual life is neglected, the result is drought—thirst, weariness, and longing.

As our lawns get crunchy and the ground becomes increasingly parched, let us remember the danger of an unwatered soul. How do you beat a spiritual drought? The same way you address a physical one: pray! Seek God and his presence, seek his favor in his word. But we must also go to the water source. God gives drink to his people in community with other thirsty searchers as we gather on the **Lord's Day under the word and sacraments. The Spirit of God is pleased to bless these means of grace with "streams of living water" (John 7:37–38).**

Thank God for his blessings, and may the rest of your summer be well-watered!

Pastor Isaac

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August 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 9 am Praise Team 10 am Worship and Communion	2	3 No Deacons	4 6:30 am Men's Study 6:30 pm Women's Study	5	6	7
8 9 am Praise Team 10 am Worship	9	10 5:45 Finance 6:30 Session	11 6:30 am Men's Study 6:30 pm Women's Study	12	13 Pick up VBS supplies from Avon Community Church	14
15 9 am Praise Team 10 am Worship 	16	17	18 6:30 am Men's Study No Women's Study	19	20	21
<p>————— Vacation Bible School August 16-20 —————</p> <p>9a.m.—12p.m.</p>						
22 9 am Praise Team 10 am Worship	23	24	25 6:30 am Men's Study 6:30 pm Women's Study	26	27	28
29 9 am Praise Team 10 am Worship	30	31				

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



Rocky Railway VBS

August 16-20, 2021

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

June 8th Session report

Minutes are available from the office.

Avg July Attendance—57

Budget Summary - as of June 30, 2021

	Actual	Budgeted
June Income	13,662.92	13,009.00
June Expenses	16,230.78	19,992.15
YTD Income	101,131.78	98,054.00
YTD Expenses	91,654.41	102,221.23
YTD Net Income (loss)	9,477.37	

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

August Birthdays

- 3 Chris Jones
- 5 Dave Henry
- 8 Sharla Huls
- 12 Ronan Westlund
- 13 Stephen Pennertz
- 14 Ann Kelley
- 14 Mark Stumvoll
- 19 Pat Weihrauch
- 21 Tessa Gould
- 21 Hawkins Henderson
- 22 Lewis Henderson
- 22 Doug Stockinger
- 26 Kayla Grundahl
- 26 Gean Wiltgen



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!

August Anniversaries

- Bob & Kim Koopmeiners 8/10
- Dave & Lindsey Henry 8/12/06
- Mike and Pam Dille 8/19/67



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:

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

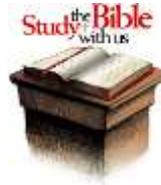
Key:

- 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!

rightnow MEDIA Sign up today at: bit.ly/RIVERSIDEEPC

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Our Larger Community

Little Free Pantry Coming Soon!

Earlier this summer, Riverside was approached by Girl Scout Troop 101 about building and installing an outdoor free pantry on our property. The Session received a visit from the **whole troop and got to share in the girls' enthusiasm** for this work. We approved the project, and you can expect to see an outdoor wooden pantry showing up in front of the church on Riverside Avenue later this summer. In addition to our partnership with Celebration Lutheran Church to provide meals to community members in need, this project with Troop 101 will help get emergency food to those who need it.

The Girl Scouts are committed to installing, maintaining, and keeping the pantry stocked. We will also be storing select items at church to keep the pantry filled as a concrete way of showing love and care to our community. As people have found with the free little libraries around town, we expect both taking *and* giving. Neighbors in need will be able to take canned goods or diapers, and neighbors with things to spare will be able to share what they have and contribute conveniently to the needs of those around them.



Here is an update from the Community Free Store's Facebook page:

So thrilled to announce the Free Store's first satellite pantry is under construction! Location will be outside of our partner church, Riverside Evangelical, on Riverside Drive in Sartell. HUGE THANKS to Girl Scout Troop 101 for building and overseeing this little pantry, to Riverside Church for partnering with us in serving our neighbors with compassion and food, and to Simonson Lumber for donating the wood materials. Sharing kindness, compassion, and food with all! Troop 101, you Rock! Your hearts for this community shine bright. ❤️

[#clcfreecommmitystore](#) [#churcheswithfood](#)
[#girlscoutsgiveback](#) [#lovingourneighbors](#)

Drive-Up Communion
 at Riverside—
 August 1, 12:00—1:00 pm



From 12:00—1:00 pm on August 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.

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

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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