

The Wonder Of The Shepherds

December 17, 2021

*Welcome Home!
Thanks for joining us today*

December 18 & 19, 2021

It's Christmas

Welcome

Joy to the World

What Child is This?

O Holy Night

Lord's Supper Thought

Silent Night

Prayer

Communion

Lesson: The Wonder of the Shepherds —

Pastor Ed



Good Stuff To Know

Riverside Services Online- If you aren't in town on the weekend, you can still follow our services. We live stream each service on Facebook! You can also watch them anytime through Facebook by navigating over to <https://www.facebook.com/EagleRiverside>. And you don't need a Facebook account to watch the videos.

Offerings To Riverside - In case you were wondering- We don't pass a collection plate at Riverside. If you'd like to give, there are boxes at the back & envelopes in the information racks for cash donations. If you would like the convenience of giving online, go to www.EagleRiverside.com, click on "Give" and follow the directions. Your donations are an answer to our prayers and are the only means by which Riverside is able to operate.

FAQs - Have questions about why we do what we do and why we don't do what we don't do? Chances are you'll find more about it on our FAQs page. You can access the page from our website or text the word "Guest" to 907-312-2662 and you'll receive a link to the page.

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Thanks to Allen

12-16-2013

**WHILE SHEPHERDS DECKED THEIR FLOCKS
BY NIGHT**

Riverside Happenings

First Time Visitors

The Lord's Supper (Communion)

This is a time when we "commune" with God and remember Jesus' sacrifice. We also "commune" with one another as His church family. You are welcome to participate with us by going to one of the tables set up with trays- each cup is actually 2 cups (bread in bottom and juice on top) so grab a set of cups and take it back to your place (and don't forget to social distance). You can eat/drink the cracker and juice whenever you feel ready and then throw the cups away on your way out (there are trash cans at all exits). Everyone is welcome to join us if you're interested in remembering Jesus' life & sacrifice with us.

"Welcome To Riverside" brochure available online.
www.EagleRiverside.com

This Week At Riverside

(Specific info about these activities is listed in the "Happenings" section)

- ➔ December Service Project
- ➔ Christmas Eve services
- ➔ No services December 25th/26th & Jan. 1
- ➔ Bible in a year - starting January 1st

Need To Talk?...

The church office is not staffed during the week. There is a preschool that uses our building, so Ed, Aniela & Nate work from home. If you would like to contact them directly you can call them or email and set up an appointment.

Ed - 907.306.2823, ednjude@gmail.com

Aniela - 907.748.1556, anielawah@gmail.com

Nate - 907.360.4825, nrsandback@gmail.com

Taylor (youth intern) - 907.230.3242, tgongliewski8@yahoo.com

Website: www.EagleRiverside.com

Church Service Holiday Schedule - Since we'll be having four services on Christmas Eve (see insert for times), we will give our staff and volunteers some time off. There will be NO services on December 25th/26th. We will also NOT have services on Saturday, January 1st. Church will resume as usual at 10am and 11:30am on Sunday, January 2nd.

December Service Project(s) - We've adopted a foster teen for Christmas. They would like a laptop and a gaming system (PS5 or an Xbox One.) We're accepting donations for this teen as well as the youth at ARCH.

Bible Study on YouVersion - Join us in a bible study starting January 1st. Download the YouVersion bible app, search for EagleRiverside, and then add us as a friend. We'll link to the plan on the app.

Ladies Craft Day - Bring your own craft and a dish to share. Saturday, January 8th, 10am-4pm at the church. See Becky 812-449-7004.

Youth Group New Times - NO youth group over Christmas Break. Starting in the new year, 4th, 5th, and 6th graders meet to play games and have a devotional lesson from 5:30 - 6:30. 7th and 8th graders arrive at 6:30 and both groups will have pizza together. 4th-6th graders will leave at 7. The 7th/8th graders will stay until 8 for games and a lesson.

Upcoming Youth Events

Monday, January 10th 5:30 - 8:00

Ignite and Rev (our two younger youth groups) will combine on Monday nights at Riverside for pizza, games, and a devotional.

For 4th - 8th graders. Questions? Like to help?

See Taylor or Aniela.

Thursday, January 6th 6:00 - 8:00

9th - 12th graders. At Riverside. Pizza, games, and a devotional.

Questions? Like to help?

See Liz & Kyle, Taylor, or Aniela.

To get updates, text the following to **907.312.2662**:

"IGNITE" (4th & 5th) "REV" (6th-8th), -or- "THRIVE" (9th-12th).

Everybody's Welcome...

Nobody's Perfect...

Anything's Possible!

Christmas Eve Candlelight Services -

Join us for Christmas Eve services at Riverside on Friday the 24th. The four identical services will be held at 3:00pm, 4:15pm, 5:30pm and 6:45pm. Bring a Christmas treat to share afterward.

All four services will be candlelight services and everyone gets a candle (as long as parents can stand watching their kids with their own candles ;0).

There will be no kids classes at any of the services (but there will be a toddler class staffed if parent wish to drop off their small ones before the service). Each service is only about 45 minutes long. We will sing and read through the Christmas story. We will have a (very) short thought from Pastor Ed with a funny and heartwarming video (that will keep the kids engaged) as an introduction to sharing communion together to remember Jesus. Immediately after communion we'll light all of our candles and sing a few more songs and then we'll all go home to continue celebrating the birth of Jesus with our families.

Here's a couple of helpful hints if you're planning on attending:

1. Show up early! Not all the services will be packed (our building holds about 200 comfortably) but a couple of them might be. I am no good at predicting which ones will be packed and with Covid it's even more difficult than ever to predict what will or won't happen on December 24th) so if you arrive about 15 minutes prior to the service you can generally find a place for your group to sit together. Once the service starts and the lights are dimmed it gets much more "interesting" finding a seat if the building is at all full.
2. Stop by the kitchen: We've got **free** coffee, hot cocoa, tea and if you prefer water you can get some cold H2O from the refrigerator door. There will also be Christmas goodies (like donuts and maybe some cookies and candy). And yes- you can bring it all right into the service with you.

3. Be kind to the parking lot attendants- We'll have some volunteers helping to direct parking so please be kind and courteous to them. We know Alaskans don't like to be told where to go (even with their cars) but we need to maximize our parking if we're going to get everybody into the building that wants to come.

4. We are a relaxed and laid back group so dress however you'd like. Most people will be dressed casually (including the pastor) but some like to dress up on Christmas Eve. Dress however you'd like- nobody will kick you out for dress code infractions.

5. Don't worry: We don't single anyone out and you won't be asked to pull your wallets out and "pony up" to support us. In fact- we almost never talk about money and never on Christmas Eve so you don't have to stress about that.

6. We are kind of the poster church for "dis-organized" religion so if there's a typo or a mistake in this event description then you'll just be a little more prepared for when you come to Riverside for the first time.

If you've never been to Riverside and would like to know more about what kind of church we are you can navigate over to our webpage and read all about it on EagleRiverside.com.

From all of us at Riverside Community Church to anyone reading this- Merry Christmas! We are hoping you find hope and strength for whatever next year has in store for us.

Jesus is awesome!

Experiencing The Nativity:

The Wonder Of The Shepherds



“I will send my messenger, who will prepare the way before me. Then suddenly the Lord you are seeking will come to his temple; the messenger of the covenant, whom you desire, will come,” says the LORD Almighty.

—Malachi 3:1 (NLT)

But these things I plan won't happen right away. Slowly, steadily, surely, the time approaches when the vision will be fulfilled. If it seems slow, do not despair, for these things will surely come to pass. Just be patient! They will not be overdue a single day!

—Habakuk 2:3 (TLB)

Following The Shepherds:

1. The Shepherds Were Watching.

- *And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night.*
—Luke 2:8 (NIV)

- *But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, are only a small village among all the people of Judah. Yet a ruler of Israel, whose origins are in the distant past, will*

come from you on my behalf.

—Micah 5:2 (NLT)

2. The Shepherds Were Waiting.

- *Those who wait for the Lord will gain new strength; they will mount up with wings like eagles, they will run and not get tired, they will walk and not become weary.*

—Isaiah 40:31 (NASB)

- *An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord.”*

—Luke 2:9-11 (NIV)

- *But when the set time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those under the law, that we might receive adoption to sonship.*

—Galatians 4:4-5 (NIV)

3. The Shepherds Were Wondering.

- *And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in the manger, because there was no place for them in the inn (kataluma).*

—Luke 2:7 (ESV)

- *While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room (kataluma) available for them.*

—Luke 2:6-7 (NLT)











- *So Jesus sent Peter and John, saying, "Go and prepare the Passover for us... when you have entered the city, a man carrying a jar of water will meet you. Follow him into the house that he enters and tell the master of the house, 'The Teacher says to you, Where is the guest room (kataluma), where I may eat the Passover with my*

disciples?’ And he will show you a large upper room furnished; prepare it there.” And they went and found it just as he had told them, and they prepared the Passover.

—Luke 22:8-13 (ESV)

- *This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger...*

—Luke 2:12 (NLT)

- *When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let’s go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.” They hurried to the village and found Mary and Joseph. And there was the baby, lying in the manger.*

—Luke 2:15-16 (NLT)

- *As for you, watchtower of the flock, stronghold of Daughter Zion, the former dominion will be restored to you; kingship will come to Daughter Jerusalem.*

—Micah 4:8 (NIV)

- *After seeing him, the shepherds told everyone what had happened and what the angel had said to them about this child. And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them.... The shepherds went back to their flocks, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen. It was just as the angel had told them.*

—Luke 2:16-20 (NLT)

But these things I plan won’t happen right away. Slowly, steadily, surely, the time approaches when the vision will be fulfilled. If it seems slow, do not despair, for these things will surely come to pass. Just be patient! They will not be overdue a single day!

—Habakuk 2:3 (TLB)

Riverside Info Texting System

At Riverside we aren't terribly organized- in fact we're sort of the poster church for "disorganized religion". So we use a "text for information" system where how much info you get is controlled by you. You will never have someone call you without asking for a call. If you can't find the info you need or have more questions or need some help reach out to one of the pastors directly- if we don't answer try texting or emailing us and we may get your message sooner.

Pastor Ed - 907.306.2823, ednjude@gmail.com

**Aniela (kids/teens ministries) - 907.748.1556,
anielawhah@gmail.com**

**Kyle & Liz (teens ministry)- 907.854.3611,
kiz_jackson@yahoo.com**

**Nate (worship ministry)- 907.360.4825
nrsandback@gmail.com**

**Taylor Gongliewski (youth intern) - 907.230.3242
tgongliewski8@yahoo.com**

For info on any of the following areas simply text the keyword to 907-312-2662. You'll get a text in return with a link to the info you asked for.

Frequently Asked Questions About Riverside- keyword= FAQs

Communion Info- keyword= Communion

New To Riverside? keyword= Guest

Want news and updates periodically? keyword= Loop

Want more info about following Jesus? keyword= Shine

Want info on baptism at Riverside? keyword= Baptism

Youth Programs At Riverside:

Want info on 4-5 grade programs? keyword= Ignite

Want info on 6-8 grade programs? keyword= Rev

Want info on high school programs? keyword= Thrive