

Mary's Path Of Peace

December 11, 2021

*Welcome Home!
Thanks for joining us today*

December 11 & 12, 2021

Mighty to Save

Welcome

O Come All Ye Faithful

The First Noel

O Come O Come Emmanuel

Lord's Supper Thought

Mary, Did You Know?

Prayer

Communion

Lesson: Mary's Pathway of Peace — 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.



I DON'T UNDERSTAND IT MARY ... THIS IS THE FOURTH ONE OF THESE CHRISTMAS CARDS THINGS THAT WE'VE GOT THIS WEEK ALONE, IT MUST BE SOME NEW CRAZE

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
- ➔ Young Men Fishing Sunday
- ➔ Ignite/Rev - Christmas Party Monday
- ➔ Thrive Thursday
- ➔ Last youth groups of the year

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, anielawhah@gmail.com

Nate - 907.360.4825, nrsandback@gmail.com

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

Website: www.EagleRiverside.com

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. And, if you want to help with the Angel Tree - pick a tag and bring it back - along with the unwrapped gift by next Sunday. See Janet for more details.

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 invite you to the plan.

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.

Young Men Fishing - Ice fishing day on Sunday for young adult guys at Beach Lake in Chugiak at 2pm. Please remember to bring warm clothes, snacks, and your fishing license.

Youth Group Christmas Party - Ignite/Rev (4th-8th graders) will have its Christmas party Monday, December 13th from 6:00 - 7:30pm at the church. This year, we're changing things up for the gift exchange. The present (wrap it) should be something from your own home that you haven't used in the last six months. See Aniela for details.

Upcoming Youth Events

Monday, December 13th 6:00 - 7:30

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.

IGNITE



Thursday, December 16th 6:00 - 8:00

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

Questions? Like to help? See Liz & Kyle, Taylor, or Aniela.

THRIVE

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 Tuesday 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:

What Mary Did (& Didn't) Know

Mary & The Pathway Of Peace

God's Sunrise will break in upon us, Shining on those in the darkness, those sitting in the shadow of death, Then showing us the way, one foot at a time, down the path of peace.

—Luke 1:78-79 (NCV)

Peace: freedom of the mind from annoyance, distraction, anxiety, an obsession, etc.; tranquillity; serenity.

What Did Mary Know?

1. Mary Knew She Was Confused.

- *The angel greeted Mary and said, "You are truly blessed! The Lord is with you." Mary was confused by the angel's words and wondered what they meant.*

—Luke 1:28-29 (NCV)

2. Mary Knew She Was Scared.

- *"Don't be afraid, Mary," the angel told her, "for you have found favor with God! You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you will name him Jesus.*

—Luke 1:30-31 (NLT)

- *Mary asked... "But how can this happen? I am a virgin." The angel replied, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you... For nothing is impossible with God."*

—Luke 1:34-37 (NLT)

3. Mary Knew The Pathway Of Peace.

- *Then Mary said, "I am the Lord's servant. Let it be with me just as you have said." Then the angel left her.*

—Luke 1:38 (NLT)

- *The LORD has told you what is good, and this is what he requires of you: to do what is right, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God.*

—Micah 6:8 (NLT)

4. Mary Knew She Was Confused.

- *"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 Christ, the Lord... Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests."*

—Luke 2:10-14 (NIV)

- *Everyone was amazed at what the shepherds said to them. But Mary treasured these things and continued to think about them.*

—Luke 2:18-19 (NCV)

5. Mary Knew She Was Scared.

- *"This child... has been sent as a sign from God, but many will oppose him. As a result, the deepest thoughts of many hearts will be revealed. And a sword will pierce your very soul."*

—Luke 2:34-35 (NLT)

- *He went on a little farther and bowed with his face to the ground, praying, "My Father! If it is possible, let this cup of suffering be taken away from me. Yet I want your will to be done, not mine.*

—Matthew 26:39 (NLT)

6. Mary Chose The Pathway Of Peace.

- *Then Mary said, "I am the Lord's servant. Let it be with me just as you have said." Then the angel left her.*

—Luke 1:38 (NLT)

The Dangerous Prayer Of Christmas (will you pray it?):

I am the Lord's servant. Let it be with me just as you have said.

—Luke 1:38 (NLT)

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 907-312-266:2. 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