

The Year Of Following Jesus #103 Wonder Of The Shepherds

December 11, 2023

Welcome Home!
Thanks for joining us today

December 16 & 17, 2023

It's Christmas

Welcome

For Unto Us a Child is Born/Open the Eyes

Light of the World

Angels We Have Heard on High

Lord's Supper Thought

O Holy Night

Prayer

Communion

Lesson: The Year(s) of Following Jesus

#103 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.



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)

- Ignite/Rev Monday - gift exchange
- Thrive Thursday - gift exchange
- No Saturday Service
- Parking helpers needed Sunday
- Angel tree families & Food drive

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

Cassie - 907.360.2996, cassiemaylinn@yahoo.com

Website: www.EagleRiverside.com

Facebook: EagleRiverside

Riverside Happenings

Christmas Eve Services - Join us for Christmas Eve services. The four service times are 2 pm; 3:15; 4:30 & 5:45pm. Bring a friend and some treats to share.

Riverside Service Project(s) - Thank you to everyone who helped with the Angel Tree! The Holidays are a tough time for many. We'll be gathering non-perishable food supplies and gas cards for our Riverside families.

Young Adults Group - Alive is on Christmas Break. Next date TBD. Text Cassie for details.

Ladies Craft Day - Bring your own craft and a dish to share. Saturday, January 13th, 10am-4pm at the church. See Becky 812-449-7004.

Riverside Potluck - Next potluck is January 14th after the 2nd service.

Warriors in Christ - Meeting TBD. See Nate for details.

Baptism - Want to get baptized or have questions? Scan the QR code or go to www.EagleRiverside.com/baptism



Write to our missionaries- Contact Hank at 713 548 7446.

Thrive Retreat - Save the date: February 23-25, 2024 for the Thrive winter retreat. See Aniela, Cassie, Tayler, or Kelly for details.

Feed the Teens - Sign up to bring a meal for Thrive. Prepare meals for 10-15 people. Sign up for a Thursday on the bulletin board. See Aniela for details.

Upcoming Youth Events

Monday, December 18th, 6:00 - 7:30

Ignite and Rev (our two younger youth groups) will combine at Riverside for pizza, games, and a devotional. For 4th - 8th graders. Questions? Like to help? See Cassie.



THRIVE

Thursday, December 21st, 6:00 - 8:00

9th - 12th graders. At Riverside. Pizza, games, and a devotional. Questions? Like to help? See 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 Sunday the 24th. The four identical services will be held at 2:00pm, 3:15pm, 4:30pm and 5:45pm. Bring a Christmas treat to share afterward.

All four services will be candlelit 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 parents 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 what Christmas is truly all about. 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](http://www.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!

^{Following} The Year(s) Of [^]Jesus #103

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)

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)

- *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)

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)

3. The Shepherds Were Wondering.

- *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)

- *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)

- *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.

—Luke 2:8-13 (ESV)

- *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.” So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger.*

—Luke 2:15-16 (NLT)

- *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)

Follow Through Step:

As we approach Christmas spend this next week watching, waiting and wondering about the birth of Jesus and what it means for you today.