

# The Year(s) Of Following Jesus #155 Bethlehem

December 16, 2024

*Welcome Home!  
Thanks for joining us today*

**December 21 & 22, 2024**

Hark the Herald Angels Sing/King of Heaven

**Welcome**

Behold

What Child is This

**Lord's Supper Thought**

O Holy Night

**Prayer**

**Communion**

**Lesson: The Year(s) of Following Jesus**

**#155 - The Extraordinary Shepherds of**

**Bethlehem - 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](http://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. 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). Ask if you need gluten free. 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](http://www.EagleRiverside.com)

### This Week At Riverside

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

- ➔ No Youth Groups this week
- ➔ Christmas Eve Services: 2, 3:15, 4:30, 5:45
- ➔ Parking lot help needed
- ➔ No services next weekend

#### 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](mailto:ednjude@gmail.com)

Aniela - 907.748.1556, [anielawhah@gmail.com](mailto:anielawhah@gmail.com)

Nate - 907.360.4825, [nrsandback@gmail.com](mailto:nrsandback@gmail.com)

Cassie - 907.360.2996, [cassiemiinn@gmail.com](mailto:cassiemiinn@gmail.com)

Website: [www.EagleRiverside.com](http://www.EagleRiverside.com)

Facebook: EagleRiverside

### Riverside Happenings

**Christmas Eve Services** -Will be held at 2 pm, 3:15, 4:30, and 5:45 on the 24th. Bring a friend and a treat to share.

**No Services Next Weekend** -We're giving our team a Christmas break the weekend of December 28 & 29. We'll see you back here on January 4 & 5.

**Bible Study** - Meeting Wednesdays from 6:30 to 7:30 pm, led by Jake Belford. This is an opportunity to fill up your tank mid-week with Jesus! All are welcome; no experience is required.

**Community Group** - Alive is expanding to include our entire church family! We aim to encourage fellowship among believers, teach each other new skills, and enjoy life together! Contact Cassie, and text 'alive' to 907-312-2662 for updates.

**Ladies Craft Day** - Bring your own craft and a dish to share. Saturday, January 11th, 10 am-4 pm at the church. See Becky 812-449-7004.

**Riverside Potluck** - January 12th after the 2nd service. See Lenea.

**Baptism** - Want to get baptized or have questions? Scan the QR code or go to [www.EagleRiverside.com/baptism](http://www.EagleRiverside.com/baptism)

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

**Riverside App** - Did you know Riverside has its own app? Download here.



### Upcoming Youth Events

**Monday, January 27th, 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.



**Thursday, January 9th, 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!

# The Year(s) Of <sup>Following</sup> Jesus #155

## The Extraordinary Shepherds Of Bethlehem



*"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)

## **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 Christ, 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 22:8-13 (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. \**