

2025 ANNUAL REPORT

July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025



RIVERSIDE
IS NOT JUST A CHURCH
WHERE YOU GO...IT IS A
FAMILY WHERE YOU CAN
BELONG. 

A Message from the Senior Pastor



ONE THING NEVER CHANGES!

If there's one thing we have all learned as we journey through life, it is that change is the most reliable constant there is. When I watch my almost 8 and 5-year-old grandchildren navigating (very appropriate!) games, shows and information on their parent's iPhones, I cannot even begin to conceive how something like this would have even been possible when I was 5 or 8 years old. Just during my 68 years on this planet, the amount and speed of change in nearly every area of life is too much to even begin to totally absorb.

You can shop for almost anything and never leave your home, and vehicles can display a map of where you are and where you're going (including verbal directions if you want them). Space rockets that are being developed by the private sector (and not the government) that can not only blast off into orbit, but also have the first stage return and land safely on either a landing pad at Cape Canaveral or on an autonomous drone ship to be reused multiple times (I never tire of watching these launches on YouTube whenever I can). Cell phones that can fit into your pocket but have more power and capabilities than the computers used in 1969 to land the first men on the moon and can also take better photos and videos than any cameras or video cameras we had when our kids were little. Advances in medicine and surgery that were at best only theoretical when Gwen and I got married...well, the list can go on and on and on.

Living in this world where change is the norm and is happening at an ever-increasing pace can sometimes be unsettling as well as exhausting. If you're like me, there are times you might wish for things to be simpler... at least as we think it was when we were younger (even though my parents thought everything was changing so fast when I was a child, too!).

As I look back over almost 22 years as Senior Pastor at Riverside, the amount of change here has also been incredible. Riverside is in many ways a totally different church today than it was in 2003, and it has been mostly a good thing as we are now the largest the church has ever been in our 94-year history. What began as 2 services at one campus and one venue is now 7 services at 3 campuses, and each campus also has more than one venue where people can worship. We have experienced for many years now the truth about the first church in Jerusalem that saw **"Every day the Lord was adding to their number those who were being saved."** (Acts 2:47)

As you all know by now, I am in a succession process which will result in, God willing, a new Senior Pastor for Riverside by this time next year. I recognize this is a significant change for our whole church family (as many of you have so kindly shared with us your love and appreciation), and it will be a major change for Gwen and me as well. Many of you have only known me as your Senior Pastor. And for me, Riverside has been the most fulfilling and wonderful ministry of

my entire life, and I'm sure there will be a time of adjustment for me when I'm no longer in this role.

But what matters most never changes:

- Jesus Christ never changes, and He has been, and will continue to be the Head of Riverside Church. **("Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever."** Hebrews 13:8, NLT)
- The mission of Jesus never changes. Lost people matter to God. He wants them found. And He wants them to matter to us.
- No one loves this church more than Jesus. No one more than Jesus wants the best days of Riverside Church to still be ahead, and not in the rear view mirror.
- Many of God's people at Riverside are still here engaging in the BIG 3 and inviting people in their lives to "come and sit with me."
- The Holy Spirit is not any less present, active, or powerfully and personally working in our lives.
- Riverside Church still has a great team of Elders and staff, and a growing team of volunteers at every campus as well.

As this is probably my final Annual Report at Riverside Church, let's remind ourselves Who our incredible Lord is, and what we have again witnessed the past 12 months that He has done among us and through us!

By God's amazing grace we continue to stay focused always on Jesus' mission: to **reach people and help them become fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ**. I continue to share this same statement I have made in previous annual reports because it is still so true: *While we are a community*

of people who have spiritually-defective DNA, we also have been and are being transformed, and we are empowered by Jesus to engage in His mission. He has a special delight when we as individuals and as a church embrace and participate in that which is the passion of His great heart: lost people matter to God and He wants them found.

We are so excited about what God is doing at our Buffalo Campus! This campus has been up and running well since last September, and we have seen the Lord working in so many people's lives there, as well as at our Sauk Rapids and Big Lake campuses.

Our challenge continues as a church to give generously and sacrificially to ensure we are able to fully fund the operations/ministries of all 3 campuses in future years, and to rebuild our bank balance so we are ready when God opens the next door for us to pursue. Be receptive to what God is saying to you about your next steps of generosity.

As you read the through the summaries of what has happened the past 12 months, be sure to take a moment to thank and praise God for what He has done through you as part of Riverside. What you have done matters. For the lives changed because you invited, prayed, served, gave, and cared. And remember, *every one of those numbers has a name, every name has a story, and every story matters to God*. And to us! Celebrate with our ministry leaders as you discover success stories; thank them for their service and continue to pray for them as the new fiscal year begins. Pray for our Elders and leaders as we continue to lead and seek God's will for Riverside.

In the past 12 months at Riverside:

- **168** people followed the Lord in water baptism!
- We welcomed **58** people into membership!
- Our average weekly attendance July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025 (not including our online experience) is **1954**.
- In times of economic uncertainty, the Lord has again worked through His people here to help our church be financially stable, and we received much financial generosity through regular giving without receiving any estate and special gifts such as we've had in previous years.
- WE ONCE AGAIN HAD THE JOY TO JOIN THE CELEBRATION IN HEAVEN FOR THE **1226** MEN, WOMEN, KIDS, AND STUDENTS WHO TOLD US THEY SAID 'YES!' TO JESUS CHRIST AS THEIR LORD AND SAVIOR! This means more than three people every day for the past 12 months said 'YES!' to Jesus as Lord through the people and ministries of Riverside! Praise the Lord for His wonderful love and amazing grace!

Thanks to everyone at Riverside who in these past 12 months has prayed for me and my family, encouraged me with a note, an e-mail, a pat on the back, or even a hug. I know I say this every year, but you need to know that these things mean more to me than you will ever realize. I am thankful for a godly and mission-focused board of Elders who care so much for our staff and entire church family. Gwen and I are grateful to the Lord for our small group and many others of you who care about us, pray for us, and demonstrate real love to us.

It has been my greatest privilege to serve as your Senior Pastor for almost 22 years (as of September 1). I look forward to this next chapter and again know that my commitment is to help this be the healthiest succession process as possible for Riverside Church.

Together let's continue to be an outward focused church that makes and multiplies passionate followers of Jesus.

I love you, Riverside family.

Because Jesus never changes,



Tom Lundeen
SENIOR PASTOR

A Message from the Elders

Dear Riverside Family,

We are delighted to share how God has been faithful in accomplishing Riverside Church's mission to reach people with the Good News of Jesus and to help them become His fully devoted followers over the past year.

You all helped welcome many new faces almost every week. Our Riverside Kids and Riverside Students ministries continue to flourish, and we are thrilled once again to see that many of you followed God's call to be baptized! Additionally, we continued to receive many new members into our fellowship, and participation in small groups continued to thrive. Most amazingly, **1226** people repented and said 'YES!' to Jesus as their Lord!

Last year, we shared we were ready to launch the Buffalo Campus, which we did in September of 2024. It has been a resounding success with growth in attendance, 'YES!' decisions, thriving RK and RS ministries, an incredible cast of dedicated staff and volunteers, and leadership of Campus Pastor Nate Sickler!

All glory goes to God for these achievements, but it is also remarkable that He chooses to involve His followers in His work. If you are in Jesus, your prayers for those around you matter. Your invitations to "come and sit with me" matter. Your consistent acts of service and support for Riverside's ministries matter. Most importantly, your commitment to becoming more like Jesus—loving others as He loves you—matters profoundly.

As your Elder Board, we are passionate about the privilege of leading Riverside Church. Our prayer is for God to grant us wisdom and humility as we follow Him. We also pray He will use the people and ministries of Riverside to draw many to Himself. Lost people matter to God, and they matter to us too!

God bless you,

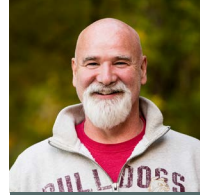
The Elders of Riverside Church



Todd Brown



Paul Johnson



Brad Long



Matt Marquette



Joel Peterson



Brent Scheideman

The word translated “elder” is used nearly 20 times in the New Testament in reference to the group of leaders who have the responsibility of overseeing God’s people. Several passages indicate that the words “elder,” “overseer,” and “pastor” all refer to the same role of biblically qualified men who jointly oversee a local body of believers. (See 1 Timothy 3:1-7, Titus 1:6-9)

2024-2025 Church Officers

Board of Elders:

Todd Brown, Paul Johnson,
Brad Long, Matt Marquette,
Joel Peterson, Brent Scheideman

Treasurer: Bill Holmgren

Secretary: Leanne Goerz

Audit Committee: Woody Glines,
Lindsay Marquette, Wayne Watson

Nominating Committee:

Val Battis, Paul Knier

Riverside Church exists...

for the purpose of reaching people and helping them to become fully-devoted followers of Jesus Christ. This is accomplished by bringing people into a relationship with God through Jesus Christ, and drawing them into the Christ-centered community of the church.



EXPERIENCE GRACE

Come Every Sunday



GROW IN LOVE

Be Part of a Group



GIVE OF YOURSELF

Serve on a Team

58 new members

168 baptized

889 served at Christmas and Easter

982 volunteers regularly serving

1226 total 'YES!' decisions for Jesus!

1382 served at Riverside

1416 regularly attending small groups

1468 app downloads

2105 participated in a small group

2838 kids & students connected with Riverside this year

6307 followers on Facebook

*Every number has a name, every name has a story,
and every story matters to God!*



409

new households

1954

average in-person
attendance

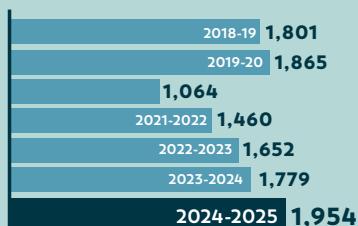
2172

Christmas weekend
2024 attendance

4459

Easter 2025 attendance

TOTAL AVERAGE IN-PERSON WEEKLY ATTENDANCE



238

tithing households
(Giving \$5,000+/yr)
**based on a conservative
average household income
of \$50,000*

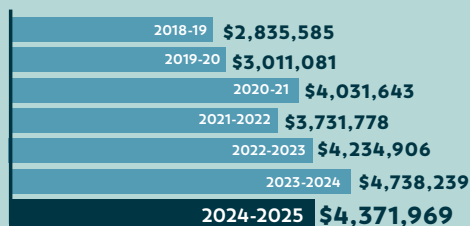
385

first-time giving
households

1323

households who gave to
the Fuel for Ministry Fund

FUEL FOR MINISTRY FUND



Church History

*For the Son of Man came
to seek and save those
who are lost.*

Luke 19:10, NLT

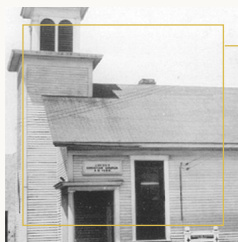
Almost 94 years ago, a person was willing to step down into a dad's sorrow, help him dig a grave for his infant child, and share with that man the hope of eternal life in Jesus. From that act of mercy, the man and his family accepted Christ as their Savior.

This is how Riverside Church began. This is our spiritual heritage. Our church exists because those who came before us prayed, gave and sacrificed.

They understood that it was their time to follow the Lord. Now it's our turn.

RIVERSIDE ONLINE

While Riverside has had an online presence for many years, the pandemic accelerated our plans to improve this experience, many use this when they are not able to make it in person or are not geographically close to one of our campuses.

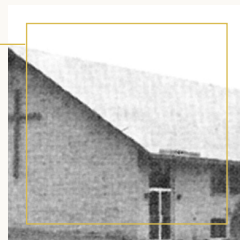


1ST CHURCH

Riverside's first home in 1931 was located on Broadway Street in Monticello.

2ND CHURCH

Our second building's basement was built in 1951 & the building was finished in 1962. This provided more room for worship & also created ministry space. This building was the former antique store just across the bridge in Monticello. This location is now the Block 52 apartment & commercial venue.



3RD CHURCH / BIG LAKE CAMPUS

Our current Big Lake campus was the dream of a few leaders at Riverside who saw God's vision for a larger community requiring more space. Services were first held in 1973.

2ND CAMPUS / SAUK RAPIDS CAMPUS

We are excited to celebrate 7 years at our first multisite campus which opened in March 2018. We are trusting God to continue to use this facility to reach people in the area around Sauk Rapids.



3RD CAMPUS / BUFFALO CAMPUS

Our Buffalo Campus grand opening was Fall Kickoff Sunday, Sept 9, 2024! The newly-renovated building is strategically located at the intersection of two major highways so uniquely situated to reach multiple communities and we're excited to see how God continues to grow this campus.

-NEW Buffalo Campus: In the first year...

"Great Church. Very welcoming, kids love it, very good message and music. Space is renovated very nice!"

-P.G., Buffalo Campus guest

"Such a wonderful, welcoming place.
We love Riverside!"

-Janessa, Buffalo Campus attender

"Our 13-year-old's friend's family attends. We didn't know they were there that day but the dad found us afterward. [He] was so kind and welcoming and wanted to be sure we knew about all the options for kids and more. It made me more excited to come back and hoping our kids will be more excited about getting involved."

-Abby, Buffalo Campus guest ... now RK volunteer!

"I felt the Holy Spirit's presence. I did not feel judged for my choice in attire. My son and I LOVE the follow-along notes and most recently learned of the app option. Mind blown. I like the way Pastor Tom delivers his message."

-Justina, Buffalo Campus guest ... now attender & GS volunteer!

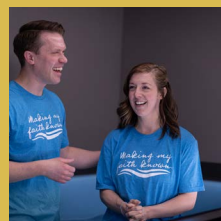


721

Buffalo Campus grand
opening attendance

Grand Opening Sept 8, 2024





21

new members

18

baptisms

213

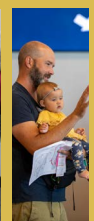
new families

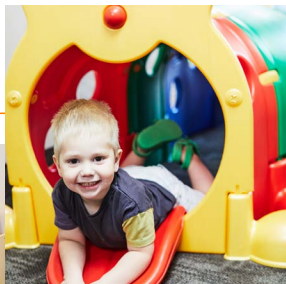
345

'YES!' decisions

432

average weekly attendance





263

new families to RK

292

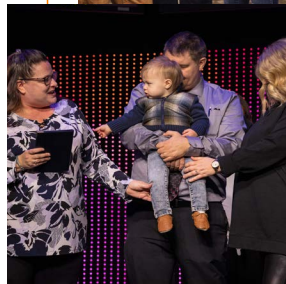
RK 'YES!' decisions

324

volunteers serving
with RK

2015

kids participated
with Riverside Kids



Riverside Kids

“

Riverside Kids is a positive and safe environment where my child can grow in love with and for God.

– *Stephanie, Buffalo parent*

I like getting to play with friends and learning about God.

– *Elise, Sauk Rapids 2nd grader*

I enjoy serving and helping kids learn about God at an early age.

– *Isaiah, Sauk Rapids student volunteer*

Riverside Kids is amazing! Their volunteers are dedicated to serving the kiddos! They make the lessons easy to understand for the kids and help them develop a relationship and love for Jesus! All my kids have loved growing up in RK! I ❤️ RK!

– *Jessie, Big Lake parent*

I serve because I want to help bring the younger generation to Jesus.

– *Ruby, Buffalo volunteer*

I serve because I would like to be that positive, godly influence to a child like adults were to me when I was a kid.

– *Dan, Big Lake volunteer*

”



Riverside Students

“

The connections I've built with the students, their parents, the other leaders, and everyone else involved with RS has been one of the biggest highlights in my life that God has given me. I highly encourage everyone to get involved and be part of this awesome community, whether you're a student, or want to be a leader or volunteer. The impact it will have on you is life-changing!

– Kyle, Big Lake adult volunteer

”

This year at Riverside Students, we dug deep and discovered something life-changing: life is more than a feeling. That truth became our anchor in a world that constantly tells us to follow our hearts, chase emotional highs, avoid discomfort, and “you do you, boo.” But together, we learned that God calls us beyond our feelings. We realized that truth isn't found in our ever-changing emotions, but in our never-changing God.

Through every Wednesday night, every small group conversation, every camp and trip, and every shared moment of laughter and tears, we witnessed God at work. We grew, asked hard questions, and learned to trust - together. We encouraged one another to take next steps—especially when we didn't feel like it.

Next year holds more growth, more events, more camps, more trips, and more 'YESES!' Would you consider joining us in advancing God's Kingdom in a meaningful way by serving with Riverside Students? As we wrap up this year, we want to say, “Thank you,” to our church family. Thank you for showing up to serve and for giving generously to support what God is doing. And thank you for faithfully praying for this next generation to be reached for Jesus.

We leave you with this powerful truth: **“Let each generation tell its children of Your mighty acts; let them proclaim Your power.”** Psalm 145:4, NLT

All for His Glory,
The Riverside Students Team

“

I love working with kids and setting their foundation in Jesus. Teaching them young about Jesus' love is #1!

*– Amanda,
Sauk Rapids adult volunteer*

I'm so thankful to my leaders for being with us through the tough and the good.

– Tyvon, Buffalo student

”



51

Buffalo average weekly attendance

64

Sauk Rapids average weekly attendance

289

Big Lake average weekly attendance

79

average weekly adult volunteers

67

Squad and student volunteers

193

RS 'YES!' decisions

445

attended Summer Kickoff

823

Middle and High School students participated



Care Ministry (Local) 37

"Being a part of *The Marriage Course* helped my husband and I continue to grow closer together and to God in the process. We were so blessed in the process of hosting it online as we were able to meet and encourage other couples also striving to make their marriages stronger and a priority in hectic seasons of life. Every time we are a part of *The Marriage Course* we are challenged and encouraged as God refines us as individuals and a couple."

- *Megan*, The Marriage Course online facilitator

"We feel very blessed to have been able to answer the call to lead the DivorceCare group. Having been children of divorced parents, we have both been divorced and we ourselves almost divorced, we felt like we could do this if it's God's will. Little did we know that just 6 days prior to the start of the 1st group, our son was found passed away in his bed from an undiagnosed heart disease. While this was a great reason for us to step back, we again felt like God was saying, 'Trust me, I will be with you.' Starting that DivorceCare was actually a huge blessing during that time of ultimate grief, but that group actually was OUR support just as much as we were to them. The videos and the content from licensed counselors was such a gift. I'd recommend to anyone trying to decide if leading a group is the right decision for you or not.....*pray and listen!* You don't have to be a 'professional' to lead a group, you just need to have a willing heart!!"

- *Rick & Lori*, DivorceCare facilitators, Big Lake

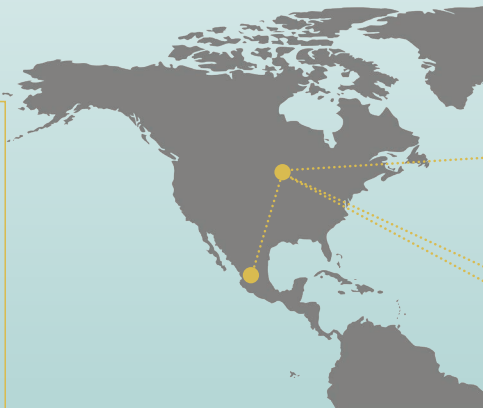
cars serviced at 2 Car Care Days at Big Lake & Sauk Rapids Campuses
(1st time in Buffalo coming in July!)

123
units of blood donated through **5 Red Cross blood drives**
(1st time in Buffalo!)

519
adults aided through care groups including: GriefShare, FPU, Life Recovery, and The Marriage Course

2244
people served through various care ministries and initiatives

6054
socks & underclothing donated to local centers during "Socktober"



RC Global

3

hangars (frames for churches) built in Burkina Faso

7

wells dug for clean water in Burkina Faso

27

people sent (4 teams)

80

first-time givers to the Fuel for Global Missions Fund

188

households gave over \$500 to Fuel for Global Missions Fund

\$49,739

given to short-term mission teams to GO!



"I came home with less attachment to things and a deeper appreciation for people. Gratitude now flows more freely — in my home, my work, and my faith."

-Lori, Guinea Team Member

"Being on a short-term mission team has helped me to realize that people everywhere need to hear about, and experience, the love of God."

-Ryan, Germany Team Member

"Being involved in a Riverside short-term missions team helped me act on God's call on my life to serve others overseas and has given me people who have supported me enough to realize God is calling me to more than just short-term mission work."

-Lexi, Germany Team Member

"Being part of the Riverside Church short-term missions team opened my eyes to how God moves across cultures—and it deepened my faith, challenged my comfort zone, and rewrote how I see service and purpose."

-Jae, Germany Team Member



GCF	Great Commission Fund	\$69,311
Germany		\$39,414
Mexico		\$46,422
Guinea		\$98,083
Burkina		\$116,050
TOTAL		\$369,280

Distributed through 5/31/25

Small Groups

"Being involved in a small group has been a great journey. It is nice to get together with others wanting to get to know the Lord Jesus Christ and to do His will. Our group is like a family of brothers. We love each other and care about each other. Thank you for the opportunity. My desire everyday is to be more like Jesus and be about His work."

-Scott, small group leader/coach

"Being involved in a Riverside Small Group has impacted my story because the people in my small group are truly my family. We love and support one another. I cannot imagine doing life without them."

-Paul, small group leader/coach

151

small groups

243

small group
leaders & coaches
for adult groups

1416

adults & students
attended a small
group 4+ times

2105

tried a small
group this year



"Our small group has allowed me to be real with other believers. I appreciate that we can share anything. We pray for each other regularly."

-Heidi, small group leader

Your group matters.

Guest Services

"For me, I *GET* to serve on the café team. I *GET* to serve my Lord. We don't necessarily know the story of a person coming through our church. They may be a long time attender or new guest. We do know a smile may be what they need today. Perhaps they need to know someone cares about them. For me, it is a privilege to serve."

-*Dan*, Big Lake café team

"Serving as an usher in church has deeply impacted me by showing how even the simplest acts of service can create a welcoming space where others feel God's love. It has taught me that true joy comes from giving, not just receiving. Serving as an usher has been my way of giving back, and I've found that in helping others feel at home."

-*Lellann*, Big Lake usher

"I just love welcoming people to church! I truly feel joyful when I am serving. Being a part of a team is a very fulfilling endeavor. I've made so many new friendships through volunteering, as well as strengthened some old relationships. There is no place like HOME!"

-*Carla*, Buffalo greeter

"I'm proud to say I am part of the parking team. Rain, snow and sunshine - we enjoy it all, together. I see it more as a privilege to make sure families at Riverside can come and go safely and guests feel welcome and know where to park and enter the building. I feel extremely blessed to have developed some great friendships over the past few years and hope to continue to create more."

-*Blake*, Big Lake parking team



12

front desk
volunteers

32

facility watch
volunteers

62

Buffalo
volunteers

63

Sauk Rapids
volunteers

160

Big Lake
volunteers



Creative Arts

"For years, every time I considered serving in creative arts, I would second guess myself. I worried I wasn't good enough or wasn't really needed, but God kept nudging me to give it a try. I should have listened earlier because God has used creative arts to overflow my cup with joy. Every time I serve, I get to make music and worship God with my friends. It doesn't matter how many songs we sing, I can always enjoy one more. Now, I get to enjoy all the songs multiple times! It's definitely become one of my favorite things."

-Alicia, Sauk Rapids musician

15

dual roles

35

vocalists

51

tech team

52

band members

180

Christmas & Easter
volunteers

"...The feeling of worshiping and singing with other people is such a gratifying and overwhelmingly beautiful experience. So, with the experience of already doing choir and [Christmas Production], it pushed me to want to do the worship team. The first time that I served, it felt so right. No nervousness. Only worshiping with my fellow musicians and the Lord. And I want to share my talent to help people be brought into His presence just as I felt it that day."

-Em, Buffalo vocalist

"The Lord impressed upon my heart to play for the worship team for several years, and finally in a dramatic way. When I submitted in obedience, I found the most overwhelming joy since my salvation. Something that transcended any experience I have ever had in my walk with Christ. I am exactly where He wants me to be, without a shadow of doubt or regret. I receive so much more from serving than I can ever give back."

-David, Big Lake musician



Prayer Team

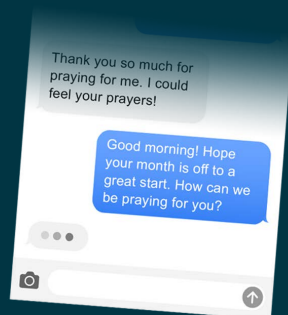
If you have been around RC this past year for any length of time, you have been asked the question...

“How can we be praying for you?”

In difficult times, and in times of contentment and praise, this question has landed in the hearts of thousands offering encouragement and care. Nothing is too small, and nothing is too large to offer up to God in prayer...even through a text.

“Serving is in my heart! It is how I care and love people with a sense of belonging to my family! I love to make people feel welcomed, cared for, noticed, appreciated and that they matter. It is a great way to connect and get to know our church family! It is a way to be God’s hands and feet as He works in us and through us!”

-Lori, Big Lake volunteer



23

text team

37

note team

3300

text responses to prayer

12,500+

hand-written notes since starting December 2020

“I really enjoy serving on the prayer team! It gives me a chance to specifically pray for those who attend RC and their families and for those specific needs and desires. It gives me an idea of what the needs of the church are and how I can best be praying.”

-Christina, Big Lake volunteer



Your story matters.



RIVERSIDE
CHURCH

BIG LAKE CAMPUS

8:45am, 10:30am, 12:05pm

20314 County Rd 14 NW, Big Lake

BUFFALO CAMPUS

9:00 & 10:45am

1004 Commercial Dr, Buffalo

SAUK RAPIDS CAMPUS

9:00 & 10:45am

1702 Highview Dr W, Sauk Rapids

763.263.2410

MYRC.CHURCH