



RIVERSIDE CHURCH

ANNUAL REPORT

2023-2024



WHAT A MIGHTY GOD WE SERVE!

A MESSAGE FROM THE SENIOR PASTOR

Sometimes it is only God's Word that can adequately put into words how amazing He really is. Psalm 66:1-4, MSG, tells us what an incredible God He is:

All together now—applause for God! Sing songs to the tune of his glory, set glory to the rhythms of his praise. Say of God, "We've never seen anything like him!" When your enemies see you in action, they slink off like scolded dogs. The whole earth falls to its knees—it worships you, sings to you, can't stop enjoying your name and fame.

We at Riverside have again witnessed Who our incredible Lord is and what only He could do among us and through us the past 12 months!

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.

Staying
focused on
Jesus' mission
matters.
It matters
more than
anything
else.

Staying focused on Jesus' mission matters. It matters more than anything else.

We are so excited and looking forward to the launching of our 3rd physical campus in Buffalo with our Grand Opening Sunday, August 4, 2024! God has provided for us a facility we are completely remodeling, which will look different from both our Big Lake and Sauk Rapids campuses, and its location is at one of the busiest intersections in Wright County, I believe. The possibilities of reaching so many lost



people through this campus are great, and we thank our great God for working and continuing to work in so many ways for His glory through this huge project.

We praise the Lord for the faithful giving of Riversiders over the past decade which meant we were able to purchase this property with cash, and God willing, we will be able to complete the remodel of this building with cash! That's no small thing any time, but especially when economic times are uncertain.

Our challenge now as a church is 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 cash reserves so we are ready when God opens the next door for us to pursue. Be open 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.

Continued on next page...

Every **NUMBER** has a **NAME**
every **NAME** has a **STORY** and
every **STORY MATTERS TO GOD**
...and to **US!**

IN THE PAST 12 MONTHS AT RIVERSIDE:



- **151** people followed the Lord in water baptism!
- We welcomed **85** people into membership!
- Our average weekly attendance July 1, 2023 - June 16, 2024 (including our online experience) is **2,381**!
- In times of economic uncertainty, the Lord has again worked through His people here to help our church be financially strong and stable, and we received the greatest level of financial generosity through regular giving and also some estate and special gifts in Riverside's almost 93 years of existence!
- WE ONCE AGAIN HAD THE JOY TO JOIN THE CELEBRATION IN HEAVEN FOR THE **941** MEN, WOMEN, STUDENTS, AND CHILDREN WHO TOLD US THEY SAID 'YES!' TO JESUS CHRIST AS THEIR LORD AND SAVIOR! This means more than two people every day for the past 12 months said 'YES!' to Jesus as Lord through the people and ministries of Riverside (sounds a lot like the first Church in Jerusalem, where we are told, *"And each day the Lord added to their fellowship those who were being saved,"* Acts 2:47, NLT)! 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 email, a pat on the back, or even a hug. I know I say this every year, but you need to know 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 privilege to serve as your Senior Pastor for almost 21 years (as of September 1), and I look forward to the next 12 months with joy and great anticipation! Together let's continue to be an outward focused church that makes and multiplies passionate followers of Jesus.

I love you, Riverside family.
What a mighty God we serve!

Tom Lundeen, Senior Pastor



WHAT IS A BOARD OF ELDERS?

The word translated 'elder' is used nearly 20 times in Acts and the Epistles in reference to the group of leaders who have responsibility for overseeing God's people. Several passages in the New Testament 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 (1 Timothy 3:1-7, Titus 1:6-9).



Kyle Goerz



David Hyttsten



Brad Long



Matt Marquette



Joel Peterson



Brent Scheideman

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 help them become His fully devoted followers over the past year.

We have welcomed new faces almost every week. Our Riverside Kids and Riverside Students ministries continue to flourish, and we are thrilled to share that **151** people followed God's call and were baptized. Additionally, we received **85** new members into our fellowship, and our small groups saw regular participation of **1,365** individuals. Most amazingly, **941** people repented and said 'YES' to Jesus as their Lord this year, surpassing last year's numbers—praise God for His incredible work!

Last year, we shared how God opened the door for us to purchase the Buffalo Campus facility. After extensive renovations, we are excited to announce that we are ready to launch this new campus later this summer. Thanks to your generous contributions and our careful financial management, we are able to do this without incurring any debt. We serve a good, powerful, and faithful God!

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.

Jesus said, "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples if you love one another." (John 13:34-35, NIV)

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

2023-2024 CHURCH OFFICERS

AUDIT COMMITTEE:

Woody Glines, Lindsay Marquette,
Wayne Watson

NOMINATING COMMITTEE:

Pete Kile, Amy McCalla

TREASURER: Bill Holmgren

SECRETARY: Mamie Hyttsten/
Leanne Goerz

BOARD OF ELDERS:

Kyle Goerz, David Hyttsten,
Brad Long, Matt Marquette,
Joel Peterson, Brent Scheideman

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

941
'YES!'
DECISIONS!



GROW IN
LOVE

151
BAPTISMS
1,365
REGULARLY
ATTENDING
SMALL GROUPS

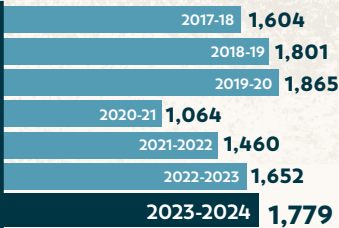


GIVE OF
YOURSELF

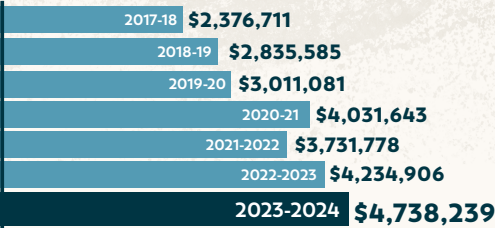
959
REGULARLY SERVING
235
TITHING HOUSEHOLDS
GIVING \$5,000+/YEAR
**based on a conservative
average household income
of \$50,000*



TOTAL AVERAGE IN-PERSON WEEKLY ATTENDANCE



FUEL FOR MINISTRY FUND



EVERY **NUMBER** HAS A **NAME**,
EVERY **NAME** HAS A **STORY**, AND
EVERY **STORY** MATTERS TO GOD!



85 new members



167 first-time giving households

941 total 'YES!' decisions
for Jesus!



1291 served at Riverside

1,113 households who gave to the
Fuel for Ministry Fund



1,779 average in-person
attendance



1,850 participated in a small group

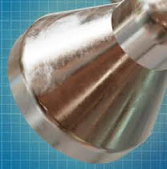
2,354 kids & students connected
with Riverside this year



5,909 followers on Facebook



FOUNDATIONS



START HERE >>>

Almost 93 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.

1



1ST CHURCH:

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



3



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.



5



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.



*This is our spiritual heritage...
Now it's our turn.*





2

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.*

4

2ND CAMPUS

SAUK RAPIDS CAMPUS:



SAUK RAPIDS CAMPUS

We are excited to celebrate 6 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.

6

3RD CAMPUS

BUFFALO CAMPUS:



**GRAND OPENING
SUNDAY, AUG 4, 2024!**

**"FOR THE SON OF MAN CAME TO SEEK
AND SAVE THOSE WHO ARE LOST."**

LUKE 19:10, NLT





RIVERSIDE KIDS

“ We started coming here when our daughter’s friend invited her to church. The kids enjoy themselves so much that we keep coming as a family. ”
– Parent



“ Riverside Kids ministry is a safe and loving environment for my children where they get to draw closer to Jesus and grow closer in the Word. ”
– Parent



“ I accepted Jesus as my Savior when I was in the age range of a preschooler. I know personally the impact that is made at this age, and I want to help other kids become followers of Jesus from an early age. ”
– Volunteer

“ I enjoy showing kids God’s love and teaching about His love for them. I hope I make a difference for good in their lives. Kids are cool! ”
– Volunteer

“ **WE GET TO DO SMALL GROUP WITH OTHER KIDS, PLAY FUN GAMES AND YOU GET TO MAKE NEW FRIENDS OR BRING A FRIEND. //** ”
– KID



181

new families
to RK!

241

“YES!” decisions
from BL & SR

292

volunteers
serving with RK

1,758

kids participated
in Riverside Kids

YOU'RE INVITED! That's been our theme all year - because that's God's theme, isn't it? Riverside Students has been living that out this year, seeing tremendous growth in our regular students while also reaching area students at local schools. God gave us incredible Summer and Winter Camp attendance and experiences, all so relationships with Him and others could thrive. We also tried new things - 2 original productions at Christmas and Easter, new serving teams, mission trips as Mystery Trips, collaborative ministry with other churches, and tons of special events.

"At RS I've been able to join into a Christian friend group who's super supportive. And I was able to join the worship team, and grow in my faith through that."

- Claire, SR Campus Student



"Teenagers are the future of our world and if we don't teach them how to walk in the footsteps of Jesus, then others will step up to guide them in the opposite direction. Riverside Students is reaching hundreds of students and families for Christ and we are excited to be a part of it, not just as RS volunteers but as parents of students!"

- Audrey,
BL Campus Volunteer



596

Middle & High School students participated

51

Average weekly attendance in Sauk Rapids

235

Average weekly attendance in Big Lake

102

Adult volunteers

111

'YES!' decisions from BL & SR

24

Squad & Student Volunteers

373

attended Summer Kick Off from BL & SR

You're invited! Join us in reaching students who have yet to be reached. Invest into our Christian students. Pray for this ministry and everyone in it. Don't just hear these stories... experience them firsthand!

RIVERSIDE STUDENTS

GUEST SERVICES

“Serving with GS has helped me continue to grow in my relationship with God by working alongside other believers. It is such a privilege to serve and be a part of a community that wants to help others say their ‘YES!’ and come to Christ.”



77

Sauk Rapids
Campus
Volunteers



35

Facility
Watch
Volunteers

243

Big Lake
Campus
Volunteers



“

Serving as an usher with our Guest Services team has been a wonderful experience! Our team has grown as we have worked together to help make our attending guests have an organized and loving experience. What a great example of servant leadership like Jesus!”



11

Volunteers
at Front
Desk



“Love the opportunity to serve, it's a way for me to give of myself to the One who has given me so much. When I know I am on the schedule to serve, my heart is filled with love, joy and happiness to be able to share with all those who come to RC!”

”



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.



47

Volunteers

Thank you so much for praying for me. I could feel your prayers!

Good morning! Hope your month is off to a great start. How can we be praying for you?

3,325

Text responses
to prayer

Approaching
10,000

Hand-written notes
since starting in
Dec 2020

Stories from our Prayer Team:

"Serving in our prayer ministry has drawn me closer to God's heart and His people. I am in awe how deep the need is and how powerful prayer is as we come together and lift up our church family in prayer!"

"I feel so filled up with gratitude for what the Lord has already done. So when I am praying for others I am reminded of that and it warms my heart! So as I pray, I first thank Him and then request whatever it is with faithfulness, knowing that if it is in His will, He will answer."

"Being a part of the prayer ministry has been such a blessing to me. Time is something I don't have a lot of to give in this season of life with younger kids. Finding a ministry to serve in has been difficult until I was invited to the prayer team! Being able to pray for others from our church has humbled me and has given me such perspective."

"So encourage each other and build each other up, just as you are already doing."

1 Thessalonians 5:11, NLT

CREATIVE ARTS

"Serving on the Creative Arts team has allowed me to share my love of the Lord through worship. Worship to me is a time where I feel the most vulnerable; I felt a huge push to share that with others. This push is what changed my thoughts of 'I'm not good enough' to 'God says I am enough.' Being a part of the Creative Arts team is fulfilling and rewarding; leading others to listen to God's word through music is powerful."

"I love serving with [the RS worship team] on Wednesday nights! It's something I look forward to doing, and I thoroughly enjoy when I have the opportunity to do so!"

"Joy in my heart, using the gift of music given to me from Him, to return to Him the glory and praise and love! I'm blessed to be a servant of Jesus, and helping others find their heart's peace worshipping Him."



155

Easter &
Christmas
Volunteers

90

Sunday
Volunteers

42 BAND MEMBERS
19 VOCALISTS
38 TECH TEAM
(9 volunteers have dual roles)



SMALL GROUPS

144

Small
Groups



246

Small Group
leaders & coaches
for adult groups

"We have an amazing group of ladies who are excited to learn more about the Bible and the people in the Bible. Each week we are reminded how many times God rescues us, shows us mercy, and loves us. This was a hard year for many, yet we can still come together and laugh, encourage, and pray for each other."

1,365

adults & students
attended a small
group 4+ times

"Our small group offers me a place where I can be completely transparent. I love knowing I have people I can trust with the good, the bad, AND the ugly! 😊"



1,850

tried a small
group this year



"Our small group is like an extension of our family, we look forward to seeing them each week and growing in relationship together. People have good things to share that help sharpen us in our walk with God."



SG
Your *group* matters.

CARE MINISTRY

60

cars serviced at
4 Car Care Days
at Big Lake and
Sauk Rapids
Campuses

129

units of blood
donated through
4 Red Cross
blood drives

152+

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

4,320

people served
through various care
ministries
and initiatives

5,618

socks & underclothing
donated to local
centers during
"Socktober"

"It is so satisfying being able to present the Gospel as a solution to grief. Most of our attendees are not from our church and it gives one great joy to see the people change, learn and even smile and laugh. Some have started coming to our Sauk Rapids Campus and there has been at least one 'YES!' for Christ. This makes the effort and time spent worthwhile!"

- GriefShare Leader



"I have loved learning how to do simple maintenance on cars and knowing that the time and effort we are putting into fixing another person's vehicle is appreciated and a tangible way to bless another family."

- Car Care Volunteer



RC GLOBAL

"Without the partnership I could not have risked the opening of Solares or Zacatecas; 2 in one year would have been unsustainable without the Riverside partnership. We would not have been able to give partial scholarships to the 14 students who are studying theology – this is critical to the continued acceleration of leadership for new campus launches."

- Bob Fugate, Mexico Partner



"Through our partnership with Riverside, we were able to give generously to help CASOG (child rescue center) start on their next building, which is taking them one step closer to their dream of being self-sustaining. We were also able to give generously to the school at the Fula church to help them start their next floor of construction, helping them take the next step in

expanding their school. We were also able to give to help with the completion of the church at the site for persecuted believers, help displaced people after the huge fuel depot explosion and help some others we would not of otherwise been able to help. In addition to this, we depend on partnerships with churches like Riverside and individuals in order to be able to live in Guinea and serve alongside the people here." - Joanna Gregg, Guinea Partner

"Thank you, Riverside. I love this time of year as it is an encouragement to us of the possibilities for Burkina Faso! Betty and I also greatly appreciate the personal support for us which allows us to keep doing what God has asked us to do. 😊"

- John Arnold, Burkina Faso Partner



4
hangars
(frames for
churches)
built in
Burkina Faso

66
first-time
givers to
the Fuel for
Global
Missions
Fund

188
households gave
over \$500 to
Fuel for Global
Missions Fund

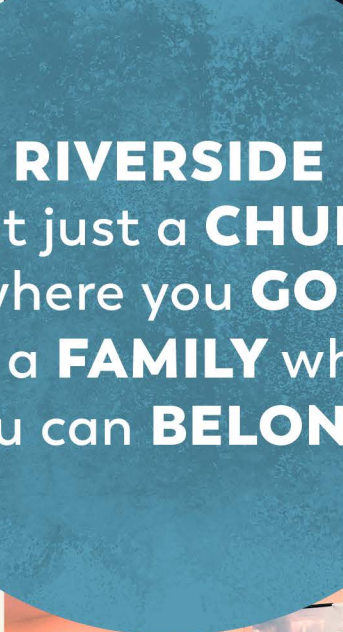
18
people sent
(3 teams)

6
wells dug for clean
water in
Burkina Faso

\$32,396
given to short-term
mission teams to GO!

MEXICO	\$42,352
GUINEA	\$54,565
BURKINA	\$102,300
GERMANY	\$59,841
GCF (GREAT COMMISSION FUND)	\$134,752
TOTAL	\$393,809

distributed thru 5/31/24





- 1 Come every Sunday
- 2 Be part of a group
- 3 Serve on a team

WHAT'S YOUR NEXT STEP?



RIVERSIDE CHURCH

Your story matters.

BIG LAKE CAMPUS

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

SAUK RAPIDS CAMPUS

9am & 10:45am

BUFFALO CAMPUS

Grand Opening - Aug 4, 2024!

9am & 10:45am

MYRC.ONLINE.CHURCH

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

763.263.2410

MYRC.CHURCH