



Introducing Senior Pastor *Kyle Asmus*



South Rapids

ONE CHURCH
MULTIPLE CAMPUSES
ONE FAMILY

Big Lake

Buffalo

Schedule for Introduction Events:

Pastor Kyle Attending:

Wednesday, April 22	Attend Big Lake Campus Riverside Students service (stream to other locations)
Thursday, April 23	Attend Weekly All-Staff Meeting
Friday, April 24	All Staff and Spouse Event

Public Invitations:

Saturday, April 25	<p>10-11am: Sauk Rapids Campus Meet & Greet Interview by Pastor Skipp @ 10:30am</p> <p>1:30-2:30pm: Buffalo Campus Meet & Greet Interview by Pastor Skipp @ 2pm</p>
Sunday, April 26	<p>8:45 & 10:30am, 12:05pm: Pastor Kyle will be preaching all 3 services at the Big Lake Campus which will be streamed to Sauk Rapids and Buffalo Campuses at 9 & 10:45am services.</p> <p>1:30-2:30pm: Big Lake Campus Meet & Greet Interview by Pastor Skipp @ 2pm</p>

A Message from the Elders Introducing Pastor Kyle Asmus as our next Senior Pastor

Dear Riverside Family,

We are thrilled to introduce Pastor Kyle to you as the man we believe God has called to serve as our next Senior Pastor.

After many months of prayer, listening, and seeking the Lord's clear direction, we are confident Pastor Kyle is the leader God has prepared for this next season at Riverside. Throughout our conversations and his visits, we have been consistently encouraged by his deep love for Jesus, his pastoral heart, his humility, and his strong passion for the Great Commission.

Pastor Kyle and his wife Lindsay have already spent meaningful time with our Staff Leadership Team, Elders, and Campus Pastors. They have listened carefully and asked thoughtful questions. Pastor Kyle has expressed a genuine willingness to learn from the rich story and faithful foundation God has built here under Pastor Tom's leadership. At the same time, he has shown a clear excitement to lead boldly into the future as we continue reaching people who are far from God and helping them become fully devoted followers of Jesus together.

On Sunday, April 26 you will hear Pastor Kyle preach here at Riverside. His message will be a heartfelt "Here's my heart — here's our future together" moment. We are confident you will sense:

- His deep love for Jesus and for people
- His sincere appreciation for the story God has written at Riverside
- His humble spirit and personal warmth
- His excitement to lead us forward as One Church Family

We believe Pastor Kyle will bring relational and visionary leadership that honors our past while also courageously advancing us into the next generation of our mission.

We invite you to pray for Pastor Kyle, Lindsay, and their family as they prepare. Come with open hearts; we are excited that as you hear him teach God's Word and extend our familiar "Say 'YES!' to Jesus" invitation, you will see why we are so optimistic about the future God has for Riverside.

With gratitude for your faithfulness and great anticipation for what lies ahead,

Elder Brad Long, Vice-Chairman
On behalf of The Elders of Riverside Church



Brad Long

Introducing Pastor Kyle Asmus

Pastor Kyle's Commitment to Follow Christ and Call to Ministry



I came to faith in Jesus at 19. I grew up in a home overshadowed by addiction and dysfunction. Despite my parents' best efforts, brokenness defined our lives. In rural Minnesota, Christianity was part of the cultural backdrop—we attended a Lutheran church on holidays—but genuine, vibrant faith was absent from daily life.

Through my teenage years, I never doubted God's existence; I just doubted His love and care for us. After all, our circumstances seemed to offer no evidence that He did.

After high school, I was lucky enough to receive a football scholarship to a local university. It was there, on a cold, desolate campus that grace found me. A high school friend emailed me a sermon titled "Lukewarm and Loving It" by Francis Chan. What struck me wasn't that I all of sudden believed what he was saying—it was the fact that Chan so clearly believed what he was saying. His passion was contagious. That authenticity sparked an insatiable hunger in me for preaching.

Suddenly, I was spending every night watching passionate preachers online who spoke of a God I had never truly known. Then, in February 2010, I surrendered my life to Jesus. I often joke that God saved me through YouTube sermons—but it's true.

With this newfound faith, I transferred to Bethel University in St. Paul, MN, to study the Bible. Early on, I sensed God was leading me to local church ministry—specifically preaching—so I could do for others what those online preachers had done for me.

I began attending a church plant in Maple Grove. They needed energy and help, so I jumped in—completely unprepared and immature—but God redeemed it. One of the most formative early experiences was starting a college ministry with my brother. It gave me a vision for gritty, vulnerable ministry wholly dependent on God—my preamble to church planting.

As graduation approached, I knew I needed further theological training. God opened the door again with another scholarship, and my wife and I moved to Boston's North Shore to attend Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary. I became involved in another church plant almost immediately, moving from volunteer to part-time staff to full-time pastor, and eventually planting a new congregation with GENESIS.

Boston is notoriously difficult for Gospel-preaching churches. Essex County, where we planted, is roughly 3% evangelical; it is primarily post-Christian and secular. Thus, ministry here requires a missionary mindset. Our growth doesn't come from transfer; it comes from conversion. We love Jesus, we love the Bible, and we love lost people. We want to be a church where non-church people can come and find community, friendship, and ultimately Jesus. We have a front-row seat to watch God grow His Kingdom in really hard soil!

Looking back, it's remarkable how God used a YouTube sermon to plant a seed for strong, passionate, Gospel preaching. Now, more than 15 years later, that seed has bloomed into the privilege of proclaiming Christ in places just as resistant as my own heart once was. ***It's living proof that Jesus' plan will not be stopped!***



Kyle & Lindsay



*Left-right:
Hannah, Nora, Knox*

We Asked Pastor Kyle...

WHAT IS IT ABOUT THE OPPORTUNITY AT RIVERSIDE CHURCH THAT ATTRACTS YOU TO THIS POSITION AND WHAT, IN YOUR EXPERIENCE, HAS PREPARED YOU FOR THIS ROLE?

In some ways, it “feels” like God has been preparing me for an opportunity just like Riverside.

First, my primary gifting, by far, is preaching and communication. I love to open the Bible and preach in a way that gets others excited about what God has said. A pastor once challenged me with the statement, “Good preachers feed the sheep. Great preachers create a hunger in the room.” I try to create that hunger every weekend.

Second, I have a big heart for lost, hurting, and broken people. I try to preach with a warm, whimsical sensitivity to people who have questions, hesitations, or even hostilities towards the church. I firmly believe in attractional ministry and being a church where people can bring their unbelieving friends because they know it’s going to be a great experience. (This passion is what led us to plant in a place like Boston.)

Also, I’m a very shepherdly leader. I’m not the alpha-dog who dominates the room. I thrive on collaboration, relational ministry, and ensuring there’s a healthy dose of the “friendship factor” in all ministries. I’m convinced, if we all love Jesus and are on mission together, we should be having the time of our lives!

For five years, we’ve existed in a “One Church – Multiple Congregations” structure. I love multisite ministry and believe in it. And although we are not video venues in Boston, I understand the tremendous benefits of consistency and the “**One Church. Multiple Campuses. One Family**” paradigm at Riverside.

Lastly, the reason we’re pursuing a new ministry is not because we’re hurt, limping or burnt out. It’s because last fall my wife and I started sensing a pull back to Minnesota. We love our church, but God has been stirring in us a desire to go back “home” and be a part of His mission there.

WHAT ARE TWO OR THREE CORE STRENGTHS YOU HAVE USED TO BUILD THE CHURCH OR MINISTRY YOU HAVE LED?

One — God’s given me the ability and personality to attract and motivate the room. I’m a high-energy guy who can get the room moving and keep us going.

Two — I’m highly, highly relational and intentional. And what I mean is, on Sunday mornings, I’m focused on connecting with the people who I don’t know or who are disconnected.

Three — God’s given me a sanctified grit. Quite simply, there is a pace and grind to church planting in New England that requires a perseverance and tenacity that not everyone has. Sometimes that’s

not always great... it can easily morph into a ministry stubbornness. But, when it’s redeemed with holy ambitions, it’s what keeps the church from stalling or idling.

HOW HAVE YOU FOSTERED AND DEVELOPED AN OUTWARD FOCUS IN PREVIOUS MINISTRY?

- My ministry philosophy is articulated with three words – relational, intentional, and missional. So, honestly, every ministry has a missional flare in its DNA.
- Every sermon starts with an intro that is written with both spiritual and non-spiritual people in mind.
- Every sermon ends with a Gospel invitation.
- Hospitality Teams are trained to focus on first-time guests or people who are standing by themselves.
- Group ministry is designed to be a place where people can bring their friends who are not connected to a church.
- Thoughtful connection events are planned as on-ramps into church.
- Church outreach must include helping people who are in hard situations (sex trafficking, homelessness, poverty, etc.).

DESCRIBE YOUR APPROACH TO LIFESTYLE EVANGELISM: HOW DO YOU WEAVE OPPORTUNITIES FOR PEOPLE TO SAY ‘YES!’ TO JESUS INTO YOUR MINISTRY?

For a lifestyle, it’s simply paying attention to the moments God puts in front of you. Every moment becomes a Gospel moment when you’re looking to join in where the Spirit is already moving. The most “strategic” thing I do happens in regular conversations. The first question people always ask is, “What do you do?” When I tell people that I work at a church, it’s a really easy pivot for me to ask, “Are you a spiritual person?”

As I said, every sermon has a Gospel invitation built into it. We will also celebrate communion once a month, where there is a clear Gospel invitation.

WHAT ARE THE KEY FACTORS YOU BELIEVE SHOULD BE PRESENT FOR SUCCESSFUL MINISTRY AT RIVERSIDE?

I’ll thrive if there is a really strong Executive Pastor or executive team. Organizational health and clear leadership pipelines are key for churches to grow and multiply. Having an executive leader who is focused and gifted in running the church will allow me to lead the church.

Also, the willingness for the elders/staff to take risks for Jesus. If there’s a collective buy-in to swing for the fences, I’ll do great.

Endorsements from the Elders & Consultant



Todd Brown

I'm so happy to recommend Pastor Kyle Asmus as our next Senior Pastor because he is the kind of gifted preacher we need. He is an engaging communicator who delivers the truth of Scripture in a way that connects both with believers and skeptics. His dynamic sermons include a Gospel invitation and practical application for wherever the listener is on their journey with Christ. Pastor Kyle's passion for the Word and his ability to create a spiritual longing in the room will carry forward Riverside's strong teaching legacy while making the Bible come alive for our entire congregation.

I enthusiastically endorse Pastor Kyle because he is wired for collaboration. He thrives in team settings, loves praying and dreaming with others and has successfully led in a collaborative multisite ministry for years. Pastor Kyle's relational, non-dominating style and his desire to work shoulder-to-shoulder with our gifted Executive Pastor will strengthen unity and empower our leaders. I have confidence in and am optimistic for the joyful team culture he will cultivate here at Riverside.



Kyle Goerz



Brad Long

I'm excited to endorse Pastor Kyle because he has proven strength in leading through complexity. Having planted and led within a multisite church in a tough post-Christian region, Pastor Kyle has already navigated multiple venues, staff teams, and the delicate balance of central alignment with the unique character of each campus. His momentum-building, laid back leadership style keeps things moving forward while honoring spiritual depth. We will be well-served by a pastor who can see the whole landscape and guide Riverside into our next generation of growth with clarity and confidence.

I'm excited to endorse Pastor Kyle Asmus because he excels at building relational trust. With a natural shepherd's heart and a highly intentional focus on connecting with disconnected people, he doesn't stay backstage—he steps into the crowd, learns names and stories, and builds genuine friendships. His warm, approachable presence and commitment to being visible across all three campuses will quickly win hearts. Pastor Kyle is the kind of leader who makes you feel seen, known, and loved.



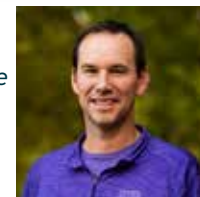
Paul Johnson



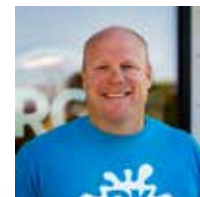
Matt Marquette

I wholeheartedly endorse Pastor Kyle Asmus as the right cultural and leadership fit for Riverside in this season. As a Minnesota native returning home with his wife, Lindsay, and their young family, he understands the values of Central Minnesota and has a genuine heart for people searching for authentic faith and community. He leads with calm confidence, strong character, and a relational warmth that helps people feel seen and valued. Pastor Kyle brings the kind of steady, emotionally intelligent leadership that can honor Riverside's history while guiding it forward with clarity and unity. He loves Jesus, cares deeply for people, and understands that leadership is ultimately about stewarding culture, vision, and relationships. I am confident he will be a true gift to Riverside.

I am very excited that Pastor Kyle Asmus has accepted the call to serve as the next Senior Pastor at Riverside Church. His faith journey is a powerful example of God's redemptive work through life's hardships. He said his 'YES!' to Jesus in college and continues to walk humbly with Christ. His life and ministry are guided by a deepening relationship with Jesus and a strong desire to care for God's people. I trust that God will continue to use Riverside, under Pastor Kyle's leadership, to reach many more lives for the Kingdom.



Joel Peterson



Brent Scheideman

I endorse Pastor Kyle because he is wired to advance the mission in just the way we need. His ministry philosophy - relational, intentional, and missional - has produced consistent conversions in one of the least evangelical areas of the country. Pastor Kyle doesn't just talk about reaching the lost; he has built a culture that makes outreach the DNA of the church. His track record of fostering outward focus and helping people say 'YES!' to Jesus will keep our flywheel turning and propel Riverside into even greater Kingdom impact.



NL Moore & Associates

Nancy Moore, Founder & Lead Consultant

From my very first conversation with Pastor Kyle, I recognized a similar voice and manner of speaking about ministry values and the mission of the Church, one that sounded so much like what I had heard from Pastor Tom and everyone I encountered in leadership at Riverside Church! The kind of "spark" that signifies alignment in a first conversation is rare, but he had it. Throughout a very robust process Pastor Kyle proved himself. He is the real deal; authentic, relational and passionate to see people say 'YES!' to Jesus. I am so excited to see how he and Riverside grow together for even greater Kingdom impact in the years to come!

Affirmation from Pastor Tom



It is my privilege to enthusiastically affirm Pastor Kyle Asmus as the next Senior Pastor of Riverside Church! As I have learned about his spiritual journey, his educational achievements, his experience in a larger multisite church, and have had multiple personal conversations with him, I am encouraged by his humble heart and his teachable spirit. He knows God's Word well, is theologically astute, and he is a good communicator of God's truth. Pastor Kyle excels in connecting with people of all ages, and he exudes a personal maturity that is evident from the first time you meet him.

Even more importantly, Pastor Kyle and his wife Lindsay know what it is to be lost people, and then to discover the greatest good news ever and become found people. He is passionate about reaching lost people with the greatest good news ever. He shares Riverside's DNA. And for Pastor Kyle and Lindsay, while they have been serving the Lord faithfully in the Boston area for 11 years, they are both native Minnesotans, and are looking forward to coming back to their home state to be a part of the great work we have seen the Lord accomplish at Riverside these past almost 23 years.

I am so proud of our Elder Board, who in our denomination (C&MA) have the tremendous responsibility of calling the next Senior Pastor here at Riverside. They have spent many hours prayerfully studying resumes and information

about potential candidates brought to them by our good partners at NL Moore and Associates. They have spent hours developing questions, conducting both Zoom and in person interviews, and seeking the Lord's direction in their meetings together as to who should be the next Senior Pastor at Riverside Church. We are fortunate to have such godly and committed elders who embraced this task with humility and dependence on the Lord. God's hand has been evident every step of this journey.

I believe that Riverside Church, with Pastor Kyle as the next Senior Pastor, along with our excellent staff, amazing volunteers, and grace-filled church family, will continue to be a bright light in an often dark and confused world, helping kids, students, and adults to say 'YES!' to Jesus Christ as their Lord, and encouraging them to become fully devoted followers of Jesus.

Riverside Church belongs to Jesus Christ, and He, more than any of us, wants to continue to use this church family to accomplish His mission in our local communities and around the world.

God bless you, Pastor Kyle and Lindsay and family, and God bless all of you, our Riverside family!

Because God so loved the world,

Rev. Tom Lundeen
SENIOR PASTOR

What Happens Next:

Pastor Tom will continue to be at our Big Lake Campus through the end of June

Friday, April 24-Sunday, April 26 – Pastor Kyle here (see pg 2)

Open House "Thank You" Events for Pastor Tom and Gwen:

- Saturday, May 16, 10-11:30am at Sauk Rapids Campus
- Saturday, May 30, 10-11:30am at Buffalo Campus
- Saturday, June 6, 1-3:30pm at Big Lake Campus

All Church Baptism & Picnic Sunday, June 14

- 2 service schedule at all campuses followed by the All Church Baptism & Picnic

Sunday, June 21 – Pastor Tom's Final Message

- Pastor Tom's final message as Senior Pastor entitled "Leaving A Legacy"

Sunday, June 28 – Thank You Service

- Thank You service for Pastor Tom and Gwen that will include a number of video elements along with an interview of Pastor Tom with Pastor Skipp
- 2 service schedule at all campuses followed by the Annual Meeting

Sunday, July 5 – Regular Service Times at All Campuses

Sunday, July 12 – Hand-Off Sunday

- Passing the baton of leadership from Pastor Tom to Pastor Kyle



**RIVERSIDE is not just a
CHURCH where you go,
it is a FAMILY where
you can BELONG.**



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