



SENIOR PASTOR Riverside Church

Overview

Riverside Church, a vibrant, multi-campus church with locations in Big Lake, Buffalo and Sauk Rapids, MN, represents a rare opportunity for a gifted pastor to step into a healthy and mission-driven ministry poised for even greater impact. With a deeply engaged congregation, and a clear mission to reach people and help them become fully devoted followers of Jesus, Riverside is experiencing remarkable growth and spiritual momentum.

The Big Idea



After 22 years of faithful service, the church is preparing for the transition of Senior Pastor Tom Lundeen. They are prayerfully seeking a dynamic, outwardly-focused, biblically-grounded pastor and leader to shepherd the church to the next season with refreshed vision, vitality and Gospel impact. This is a wonderful opportunity to guide a healthy and outward-focused church family that is eager to help people say, "YES!" to Jesus and be transformed as they grow in Him. Riverside is not just a church where you go, it is a family where you belong. The congregation reflects a compelling blend of strong biblically-focused teaching, relational warmth and a very clear evangelistic heartbeat. At Riverside, people of all ages are growing in their faith, serving their communities, and actively inviting others to encounter the life-changing love of Jesus. This is an invitation for a visionary pastor to cast compelling direction and help the church lean forward in faith. They are not looking for a manager, but a builder—someone who will carefully and lovingly shepherd spiritual momentum with integrity and collaboration with a talented staff team.

The Church



Affiliation: [The Christian and Missionary Alliance](#)

Attendance: nearly 2,000

About: Riverside Church has a powerful legacy of evangelism, compassion and transformational ministry. Locations include Big Lake (central campus/averaging around 1,300 attenders with three venues: the main Worship Center, the Family Room and the Café) offering services at 8:45 and 10:30 a.m., and 12:05 p.m.; Buffalo (launched 2024/averaging around 400 attenders with two venues: the main Worship Center and the Family Room) and offering services at 9 and 10:45 a.m.; Sauk Rapids (launched 2018/averaging 300 in attendance in one venue) services are offered at 9 & 10:45 a.m. Each location offers live modern worship with the message streamed from the Big Lake location.

The Candidate



Riverside Church is seeking a gifted and passionate communicator of God's Word—someone who teaches with biblical conviction, clarity and relevance. He will be known for sermons that are rooted in Scripture, infused with grace and truth and consistently point people to Jesus. The church values practical, heartfelt messages that speak to everyday life and always includes an invitation to say, "YES!" to Jesus. Culturally aware and community-minded, the ideal candidate will understand the unique setting of Central Minnesota and embrace its rhythms, relationships and rich spiritual heritage, including the culturally religious roots of the region. He will lead with humility, courage, and a contagious passion for God's mission to help lost people be found. Ideally, the candidate will model lifestyle evangelism and the invitational ethos that has been a hallmark of Riverside's culture for decades.

The Location



For a pastor and family, Big Lake offers a relationally-warm environment where ministry and everyday life can flourish side by side. Nestled between the amenities of the Minneapolis-St. Paul metro area and the natural beauty of greater Minnesota, Big Lake offers the best of both worlds. With beautiful lakes, scenic parks and a strong sense of community, it's an ideal place to raise a family, build meaningful relationships and enjoy the outdoors year-round.

The Qualifications



Candidates must be in full agreement with Riverside Church's [beliefs](#); Ordination with the [Christian & Missionary Alliance](#) is required; A theological graduate degree is preferred, but not required; Fifteen or more years of pastoral experience, including healthy leadership in a large, complex church context that includes oversight and collaboration with paid staff and key volunteers; Evidence of building positive momentum, progress and follow through on mission; For a full list of qualifications and steps to learn more, please click the link below.

Next Steps



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For the Full Opportunity Profile:

[CLICK HERE](#)