



RiverTree Lake

Three Services FAQs

As our leadership makes a shift in adding a third worship service on Sunday morning, here are a few frequently asked questions that will help you understand the details of this transition.

Revised June 2017

1. Why add a third service? Can't we just find more chairs?

- **ANSWER: "The 70% Rule"**

We do have some "empty seats" on Sunday mornings, but looks can be very deceiving when it comes to seating capacity. The truth is that we're already "full," actually beyond capacity. Our current sanctuary set-up can hold about 200 people shoulder-to-shoulder. But in reality, any space (parking lots, auditoriums, sanctuary, etc) feels "full" at 70% of capacity. Every study has shown that once a space reaches 70% capacity, people (especially first-time guests) begin to feel like there isn't room for more people, and less are inclined to return. Unfortunately, to many first-time guests, a full sanctuary communicates, "There is no room here for you."

This past year, there have been numerous Sundays we have averaged over 400 people in attendance at RiverTree Lake. So in order for us to continue growing & ensuring RiverTree Lake can be a home for many more people, we must add a third service.

- **ANSWER: Children's & Students Space**

On a weekly basis, we average 150 children and students at our campus. Over 1/3 of our church is under the age of 12. Our continued growth with children and students has placed significant pressure on our existing classrooms and meeting places. Three services allow us to create smaller and more manageable classrooms for our children and students.

- **ANSWER: Parking Limitations**

With the consistent growth we have experienced by God's provision, we've faced strain on our parking lot - resulting in parking cars on the lawn. As people drive by our campus, we want to ensure the message is loud and clear: "There is room for you here." Three services will ease our parking strain significantly.

- **ANSWER: "Feel" of a smaller church with the "benefits" of a larger church**

Most people love the "feel" of a smaller church, but like the "benefits" that a larger church can provide. Most people want an "intimate" community feel, but also want to be a part of a church that can make a significant impact on their community, state

and world. Three services will allow us keep the “feel” of a small church while continuing to use our resources (time, talent and treasure) to impact Lake Township, Stark County and beyond.

2. What are the service times going to be?

Our 3 worship services times will be **8:30, 9:45 & 11:15AM.**

3. Will services be different or identical?

All 3 worship services will be identical. And all services will have children’s & student programming.

4. When will these 3 services begin?

September 17, 2017

5. What does this mean for volunteers and staff?

Our staff is happy to serve at all three services as the needs of their ministry require. But with adding a third worship service, the need for volunteers is much greater. Please consider using your God-given gifts to serve in one of the following areas:

- Worship
- TreeHouse Kidz (birth - 4th grade)
- Students (5th-12th grade)
- Hospitality
- Facilities
- Groups
- Tech / Sound

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- Email lake@rivertreechristian.com if you are interested in serving.

6. Why are we focused on "getting bigger"?

Our goal is not about size; it's about health and RiverTree Lake's faithfulness to Jesus' command in Matthew 28:19-20:

"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

At RiverTree Lake, we will not stop spreading the good news of Jesus until every person, every family and every neighborhood in Lake Township and around the world knows who Jesus is and places their trust in Him. To us, every "number" is a person - and every person has a story. Our job is to share how Jesus' story intersects with each person's story.

7. Why are we waiting until September?

In order to have the best infrastructure in place with new volunteers and systems, we have decided to wait until September. This gives us time to prepare and troubleshoot. Also, historically, September has been a month of significant growth in attendance at RiverTree Lake.

8. Why don't we just start a new church instead of adding a third service?

Church planting lies at the heart of who we are as a church. We believe in church planting. But experience has taught us the need to do so wisely and with a good plan. When we plant a new church, we want to do so in a way that the new church and RiverTree Lake both have enough people and resources to thrive and continue growing. We will continue to pursue opportunities to plant churches, but in the mean time - we feel this is the best option for RiverTree Lake.

9. Is this our plan forever?

We don't know. At this point, we're trying to follow God in our next steps & we don't exactly what lies ahead. Over the past 6-9 months, we have considered and searched out many options including church planting, building on our current property, purchasing land & building a facility and purchasing a property & renovating the facility. However, through prayer and discernment from the Holy Spirit, we have felt God telling us, "Not yet." Therefore, as a church, we will focus on eliminating our mortgage debt and continuing to grow across three services. During this time, we will continue to search out and discern what God has in store next for RiverTree Lake.

10. What can I do to help?

In order for this transition to three services to be a success, we need your help!

- 1. Pray** - Prayer is essential in this transition. Please pray for our staff and all the volunteers needed to make this third service a reality.
- 2. Join Our 8:30 Launch Team** - We are asking for 75 people to commit to the 8:30am worship service for six months. This will help us establish the 8:30 worship service and create more children's classroom and parking space at our later services. If you are interested in joining our launch team, visit www.rivertreelake.com/thirdservice or email Hannah Thorn at thornh@rivertreechristian.com
- 3. Serve** - Use your God-given gifts to make an eternal impact at RiverTree Lake. There are countless opportunities to use your gifts in our children's, students, groups, worship, tech, facilities and hospitality ministries. For more information on serving, email us at lake@rivertreechristian.com.
- 4. Share** - Share our service times with your family, friends and on your social media platforms. We believe that Jesus is good news to ALL people – and that what God is doing at RiverTree Lake is truly special.

If you have further questions regarding our transition to three services, contact Pastor Joshua Little at littlej@rivertreechristian.com.