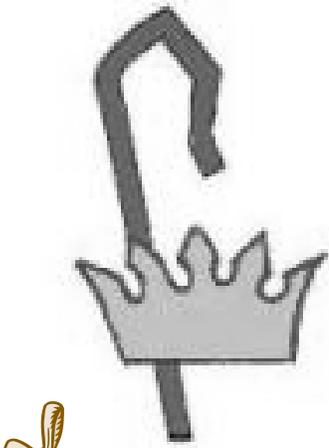


THE STAFF

Shepherd King Lutheran Church

JULY
2020

OFFICE HOURS: Mon-Thurs varied hours
Closed Fridays



KRIS CROSS.

How are you doing? It's been a difficult time for our nation, first with COVID, then with the killing of George Floyd and subsequent protests. I hope you are taking care of yourself – eating well, exercising, drinking lots of water, getting plenty of rest, talking to people who care about you, and spending quality time with God each day.

When I was 19, I joined VISTA (Volunteers in Service to America), and was sent to work in an African-American community called Bordersville, northeast of Houston. I lived in a room at the civic center where I worked, and was one of five or six white people in the community. The civic center had a day care center, a senior center that served lunch each day, a rec room, and in the summer, camp and games for youth.

I went to Bordersville because I wanted to help heal racial wounds in our nation. Schools were integrated in Austin when I was in eighth grade. I was a meek kid at the time, attending a school of wealth and privilege where I was an unwanted, often ridiculed, outsider. I survived seventh grade because of my friends in band.

On the first day of eighth grade, several busloads of African American students pulled up out back. I remember watching them get off the bus and enter the building – their heads up, some with “rakes” or combs stuck in their Afros, meeting everyone's eye, not shrinking from anyone, not even the most popular or the wealthiest white kids. For me, this was liberation. I wanted to be just like the black kids in terms of not being afraid, not cowering to the bullies in power.

In those days, the early 1970s, there were often fights in schools between black and white students. Our school was pretty safe, but I recall feeling unsure and nervous, around the African

American kids: unsure what to say, nervous that someone – in frustration or anger – might hurt me. But I also wanted to understand this brave, but small, band of kids who traveled miles across town to a strange environment every day. I was in awe of their courage.

I've been concerned about race relations, and the inequities faced by non-white people in America, since I was a child. That's what prompted me to join VISTA and spend a year in Bordersville. While there, I saw: how white people stared suspiciously when I drove a group of black kids into the white town of Humble; how my black friends and I were left to wait a long time for service in restaurants when other people were served promptly; and how city services were slow to respond to the needs of Bordersville residents. The roads in Bordersville were unpaved and full of potholes; there were no street lights for safety at night, and few houses had running water or sewage service. Yet just across highway 45, the white town of Humble had all these things.

A lot has changed since then, but a lot has stayed the same. Our nation continues to struggle with racial inequity. As a white person, I still don't know what it's like to be black or brown in America. And I'm not sure how to make things better.

You and I can start by listening to the experiences of people unlike us. The purpose of listening is not to feel guilty or dismiss white people as bad. We are all children of God. We listen to understand, to share the burden, to look for opportunities to change, and to care for our neighbors. Below are some resources for you and me to practice listening to non-white peoples. I hope you will join me in making use of them.

Pastor Kris Hill, stm



**ALL ACTIVITIES & SERVICES AT SKLC
ARE SUSPENDED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE
WATCH FOR EMAILS & PHONE TREE MESSAGES
FOR FURTHER UPDATES**

**OFFICE COVERAGE:
HOURS VARY
MONDAY—KATHY
TUESDAY—PASTOR KRIS
WEDNESDAY—COURTNEY
THURSDAY—PASTOR KRIS**

CALL THE OFFICE BEFORE YOU MAKE THE TRIP.

**NO IN PERSON VISITS
ARE BEING MADE AT THIS TIME
BUT PLEASE CALL THE OFFICE TO LET US KNOW
IF YOU OR SOMEONE YOU KNOW IS SICK.**



Thank You

This is a thank you for everyone at Shepard King and the Support Ministries Committee who have really gone above and beyond to make my graduation still feel special and made me feel loved and cared for beyond measure. You all have done so much for me, I don't know how I could ever thank you enough. You've sent gifts, and cookies and organized a mini parade just for my graduation. It gets me choked up when I think about it and I cried a bit today when the cookies showed up at my door. I feel so loved and supported. I feel God's love when I think of y'all. Thank you so much. God bless. If there's ever anything I can do in return, let me know and I'll be there. I love you all.

Tori Wendell



Stewardship thought – using the gifts God has given us, wisely and for good.

“Abundance isn't God's provision for me to live in luxury. It's his provision for me to help others live. God entrusts me with his money not to build my kingdom on earth, but to build his kingdom in heaven.” – Randy Alcorn

“Money is so intimately related to the possessor, that we cannot give money without giving ourselves.” – Unknown

Thank you for your faithful giving and participation in the life of Shepherd King during this time of social distancing. You are loved, and your giving of self is appreciated.



THIS YEAR'S GOALS

Council Goals for 2020

Just a reminder, the congregation council set the following goals for 2020:

1. To increase membership/participation in the congregation, and
2. To find more ways to be 'church' outside our building.

Please keep these goals in your prayers, and help as we seek to achieve them.

Being "church" outside the building

What are you learning about alternate ways to be the Church? Have you noticed any opportunities to connect with people you don't usually see or talk to? (I've met several neighbors on my daily walks through the neighborhood.) Are there ways Shepherd King could minister to you during this time that we aren't currently doing?

This is an excellent time for us all to reflect on what it means to be church and how we might live more effectively as the Body of Christ. I invite you to do that.

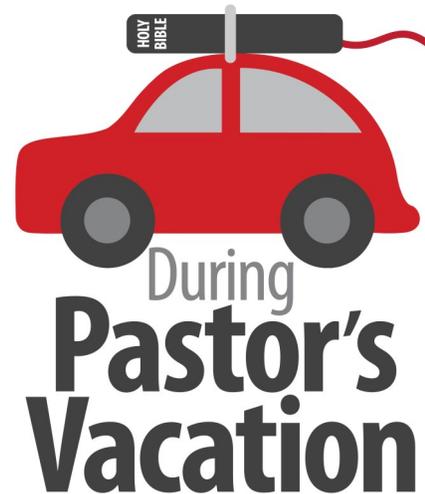
- Pastor Kris



Youth SUMMER Camp

Kids to Cross Trails Camp

Shepherd King is sending three of our youth to summer camp this year. Walker and Cooper Grill, and JW Wendell will be spending a week at summer camp, using the monies raised by the youth during the last year. Thank you for your generous support of our young people. We can't wait to hear about their experiences at camp.



Vacation

Pastor Kris plans to take vacation at the end of July, starting on Monday, July 20. On Sunday, July 26, Shepherd King will be worshipping, virtually over the internet, with House of Prayer Lutheran Church. Courtney, the church secretary, will send you the necessary information when the time comes.

MEN'S EARLY BREAKFAST

Thursday, July 23
8:30 a.m.
Denny's @ Bitters & 281

LADIES LUNCHEON

Saturday, July 25
11:00 AM
Luciano's
15614 Huebner Rd.

RACHEL CIRCLE

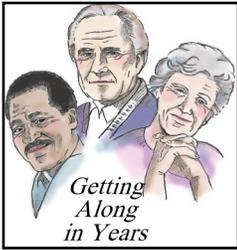
Monday, July 27
6:30 p.m. Fellowship Hall
Potluck: Bring a dessert or
appetizer to share

Ladies Corner

And time marches on. We miss each other but know that the time to "gather" once again is approaching (we hope). We will have lots to talk about when we once again can meet in person. It maybe well to write down your thoughts and the items you wish to share. We will take time for that. My thoughts are all over the place! It has been time to reflect on some new issues every day and I have changed my thinking on so many things. Some years ago we read the book: The Shack. And I remember the Holy Spirit depicted as a colorful ribbon streaming through the house and property. That picture is in my mind now as we just celebrated Holy Trinity Sunday and I pray that the Holy Spirit is moving among us, leading us closer to our Heavenly Father and how He wants us to live and think and act. Father, Son and Holy Spirit, the Three in One. The Synodical Convention scheduled for the end of September at Zion Lutheran has been cancelled. We hope to meet in September 2021 at the same place with many of the same plans. So much work has been done but it seems best to postpone since things are still uncertain. Love to all of you ladies. Stay strong.

Shirley Hormuth
Coordinator of Shepherd King Women of the ELCA





Getting Along in Years by Don Hill

Altruism: Pay It Forward

In the last month's *Staff News Letter* I used a definition of altruism from Midlarsky and Kahana's book, *Altruism in Later Life*. It is good, succinct and I'm going to use it again. Altruism "may best be viewed as a subcategory of helping, in which the [altruistic] behavior is voluntary and motivated by concern for the welfare of the other, rather than in anticipation of rewards." In other words, while it may involve self-sacrifice and unselfishness, altruism may provide some degree of satisfaction.

Oh, but what a very long way we've all come!

In a search for material on altruism and coronavirus I came across an article, in the *New York Times*, from March 8, 2020, title: "The Best Response to the Coronavirus: Altruism, Not Panic." I thought that I might get an interesting perspective on altruism, even from an article written so early in the pandemic. According to Richard A. Friedman, the author of this *New York Times* article, on that day the Center for Disease Control had registered 19 coronavirus deaths in the United States Today, (I'm writing on June 7) roughly 90 days later, we have had more than 109,000.

We've come such a terribly long way and in such a very short time!

* * *

You may recall last month's *Staff* essay discussed altruism in terms of courage of first-responders and frontline medical personnel in New York City in their awful battle with the coronavirus, a battle which cost thousands of lives, including some of these same nurses, doctors, and other medical workers. My focus in this essay is similarly on altruism, but from a different perspective, perhaps that of the patient.

You would be correct in pointing out that people are dying all the time; but this pandemic is different, and more personal. Although 109,000 is a staggering number, most of us have been, to a certain extent, in fear for our lives sheltering at home, wearing face masks, to comply with the directives of scientists but mostly to avoid coming in contact with the pathogen which has brought so many of our neighbors to this unhappy condition. It is not far-fetched to say that it is as though a silent and invisible killer has been stalking you and me, and whose terrible work is statistically shown to us on the evening news. Once it was 19 American death's and now, seemingly in the blink of an eye, it is many times greater than that.

For some time, we heard of quickly returning to normal: to come to the aid of a distressed economy, but also for physical and mental health and wellness. We yearned to be free of our isolation and to return to normal, the desire for life the way it was. We all want this and the recent easing of restrictions is a welcome change. However, it is understandable to worry: Perhaps it is too soon! Or maybe it really is safe. In either case, week after week, sequestered with our fears: will it be months or even years and what about growing unemployment? The stress - particularly the cumulative stress - of the invisible viral threat and its silent, invisible nature suggests the danger of damage, some of which, like our awful stalker, may be unseen. It is likely we've been changed, and normal, real normal, may be hard to find, and long in coming.

I wonder, how long it will be before I can go to church, and not worry about the air that I'm breathing? There is understandable concern about singing in church because singing is such a potent means for the pathogen to spread. Surely, we'll sing again: the wonderful hymns that fill the sanctuary with joyous voices. That would be wonderful, and normal. But how long will it be before we're able to sing without fear, the music coming with spirit, loud and from deep within us?

* * *

In early April of this year, at a time when the pandemic's terrible potential was beginning to show itself, *Psychology Today* published an essay by Anna Katharina Schaffner, titled "The Power of Altruism." Perhaps anticipating the terrible toll the coronavirus would take, the essay

Getting Along In Years continued.....

addresses the trials of returning to normal. It begins: “in times like these, it is of the essence to keep our minds and bodies strong. Not to give in to dejection and fear. To find activities that give us meaning and purpose – whatever they may be,” and she noted in passing that we would learn from the experience. (Schaffner 2020)

I recall that in the early days of the virus, when everything of “meaning and purpose” seemed, in an instant to be cancelled: church, choirs, important meetings, etc., and rather quickly there was suddenly dread, ominous silence and an awful emptiness: timeless time “Bereft of our certainties and confronted with the unknown, we see behaviors we have never seen before – some that are deeply moving on account of their kindness and generosity, others that are ruthless.” Schaffner tells of “panic buying, fistfights over toilet paper,” but more to her point is focus on altruism:

there are many other stories that could and should be told: about communities coming together, the young and healthy offering to shop for the elderly, chefs cooking for overworked hospital staff, and musicians playing concerts outside the windows of those in quarantine to keep up their spirits. (Schaffner 2020)

Such stories as these must now be our focus, along with our own behavioral vigilance: the face masks, the social distancing, the hand-washing, and, primarily, the consideration, and compassion which is altruism.

Most of us engage naturally in altruistic and pro-social activities – in giving, volunteering, sharing goods and services, even in truly heroic acts that may cost us and even expose us to risk....[it]is the highest moral value in most religions for a reason: without it, our souls would wither and our societies collapse...Practicing kindness and compassion is our only hope for getting through the current pandemic with our spirits intact. It is what will bind us more closely together and strengthen the collective. Altruism is the highest moral value in most religions for a reason: without it, our souls would wither and our societies collapse.

This is what our neighbors, like ourselves, need and deserve.



**SCHOOL
SUPPLY**
Drive

Support Ministries

We will be collecting school supplies for CAM from July 19-August 9. Since the Covid-19 virus has encouraged people to shelter in doors, you may donate money to Shepherd King and indicate that it is for CAM school supplies. Kathy will then write one check from SKLC to CAM. If you would prefer to purchase the supplies on your own, you may place them in the CAM box in the Narthex starting July 19, 2020. Since many families are struggling at this time, school supplies will probably be a greater need this year than normal. Thank you for supporting our CAM families.

Here is a list of items that can be purchased: #2 pencils, blue/black/red pens, colored pencils, 3 or 4 inch binder, divider pages for binders, brad folders with pockets, composition books, index cards, ruler, glue sticks, zipper pencil pouch, backpacks and Kleenex.



Music News

March to July. It's really difficult to believe that we are continuing to practice social distancing and most churches are still live streaming Sunday worships or practicing the 25% rule. Even with some of us returning to more normal job schedules, we all have more time being spent at home. We miss visiting in person with family and friends. Many of us are not rushing to restaurants and shopping centers just yet. I have been noticing how some masks have actually become fashion statements! Who would have thought that we would be living like this when we were celebrating the beginning of 2020 in January?

Now that we have extra time on our hands, what are we going to do with it? If you are like me, it seems as if those big projects that I thought I could do are not all being com-

pleted. Some of you may be searching for some different areas to explore. Here are some things that you might want to check out!

Take time to use social media in a more positive way. I have enjoyed tuning in to other church services in addition to SKLC and some of them aren't even Lutheran!

Take this opportunity to experience different ways of sharing God's Word through music, sermon deliveries, and different Scripture readings. Looking for new devotions during the week? Check out YouTube and church websites. Who says Sunday worships are exclusive to Sunday mornings?

Have you exhausted all the series and the movies that you care to view on TV? This might be a great time to view some Christian movies that you passed by when they were shown at the movie theaters. Two relatively recent ones to look for are **I Still Believe** and **I Can Only Imagine**. Both are based on events in the lives of two Christian musicians that led them to their calls to the music ministry. The quality of Christian films has improved dramatically. By the way, have a box of Kleenex on hand because I guarantee the messages will touch your heart and soul.

If reading is more your thing, I would like to share a new author that was introduced to me in May. Charles Martin is a Christian novelist who includes Biblical themes in his storytelling. **Long Way Gone** is a radical retelling of the prodigal son story. It chronicles the journey of a young musician who begins singing at his father's tent revivals but then leaves his father to pursue a music career in the Nashville music scene. It tells the story of the relationship between a broken man who survives tragedy and the father who never stopped calling him home. Charles Martin has written many books but two more that should not be overlooked are **Send Down the Rain** and **The Mountain Between Us**.

As a music director, I would be remiss if I did not mention the power of music to refresh us! Turn up your music and lift your voices. Take time to listen to Christian radio, CDs of all kinds of music, concerts of featured musicians on TV - I guarantee your spirits will soar. Sing praises with us on Sunday mornings during our live streaming. We miss seeing you but we know that you are there singing with us. Watch for updates of worship possibilities and when our music rehearsals will resume.

Looking forward to the time when we are all together again,
Paula Kummer
SKLC Director of Music



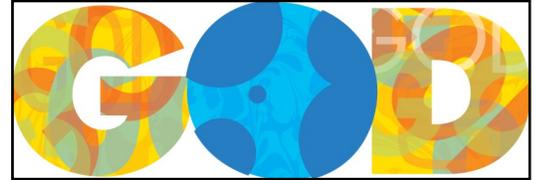
Where is God in all this?

We've seen tragic deaths of African American people in the last month, and then people in the streets of cities across America and the world, calling for justice and change. Most of the protests have been peaceful, although there has been violence and looting as well. Where is God in the middle of this? In what ways do you recognize God's presence in the life of the world today?

Stay at home orders have been eased and life is getting back closer to "normal," but "normal" these days is relative. What have you noticed in the world around you as we spend little or no time with others and restrict our movements? Have you spent time in the morning sun (afternoons are too hot)? Have you read a good book? Have you talked to your neighbors? Have you reached out to someone when you were lonely? Has a Bible passage you've read, struck you in a new light?

Look for God in all these things. God is present with us, at work hearing and healing and leading us to new life.

Pastor Kris



**HAPPY
BIRTHDAY,
AMERICA!**

**The Church Office will be closed on
Monday, July 6
for the holiday weekend.**

Financial Health

Contributions Income for May:	\$23,092.00
Budget Required for May:	\$28,930.00
Miscellaneous Income for May:	\$ 94.00
MIF Loan Repayment for May:	\$ 779.41
RC Academy (Bldg. Usage):	\$ 1,567.50



Total Income to Operations (Contributions & Misc. Income) for May:	\$25,532.91
Total Expenses for May:	\$24,812.38
Total Income (Contributions & Misc. Income) less Expenses for May:	\$ 720.53

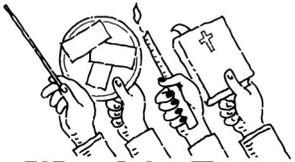
Christian Education and Church Business

This summer the Wednesday Bible Study is taking a look at the book of Psalms using Zoom. If you are interested in participating and are not yet on Pastor Kris's list, let her know and she'll send you the information on how to join. (Pastor Kris's phone number is: 210-860-4458)

In July, the Council is tentatively scheduled to meet on Sunday, the 19th at 3 pm, via Zoom, but that may change. Council members may get in touch with Barbara Eickman or Pastor Kris if you're unsure when we meet again.



CHURCH
BUSINESS



Worship Team

The Worship and Music Ministry Team will meet via Zoom on Saturday, July 11, at 10:00.



Worship during COVID-19

There is no clear timetable for when the congregation will resume in person worship on Sundays. The council is following the advice of medical and church leaders in deciding how to proceed. For the time being worship will continue to be broadcast on Facebook Live, Sunday mornings at 10:00 am. Bulletins will be sent by email or regular mail to all on the mailing lists.

Beginning on Sunday, June 21, we started celebrating Holy Communion while still separated in our individual homes. It is always preferable to have Holy Communion in person, but since the physical separation is lasting longer than expected, it seemed important to resume the Lord's Supper.

On Sunday mornings, in preparation for worship, please make a space for Holy Communion in your home. You might put out a table cloth or nice linens, have a candle to light, and gather some sort of bread (or cracker, or tortilla) on a plate and either wine, grape juice, or water in a cup. When we arrive at the part of the service for Holy Communion, Pastor Kris will bless the elements and then invite you to take and eat the bread, then take and drink the cup.

Although we miss being together in body as well as spirit to worship with prayers and songs and Holy Communion, we are together through Jesus Christ every Sunday morning during our service.



Ways to Listen to the Experiences of Others

What follows is a listing of videos, books, websites, and movies that can help us be a part of the conversation on racism in our country.

If you only do one thing, please watch the video at <https://vimeo.com/151867078> This video, *Confronting Racism: A Holy Yearning*, is a conversation (*from four years ago*) on racism and the criminal justice system between the ELCA presiding bishop, Elizabeth Eaton, and William B. Horne II, ELCA member from Florida, Judge Yolanda Tanner, Leonard Duncan, ELCA pastor,

and Charlene Guiliani, former police sergeant. The video starts slowly, so have patience or move it forward. This is a very good and easy to watch conversation. A great place to start.

The ELCA offers more resources at: <https://www.elca.org/Resources/Racial-Justice>. There are downloadable documents here to read and discuss with others. (No cost)

Another excellent resource is a handbook you can find here: http://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/Understanding_One_Another.pdf

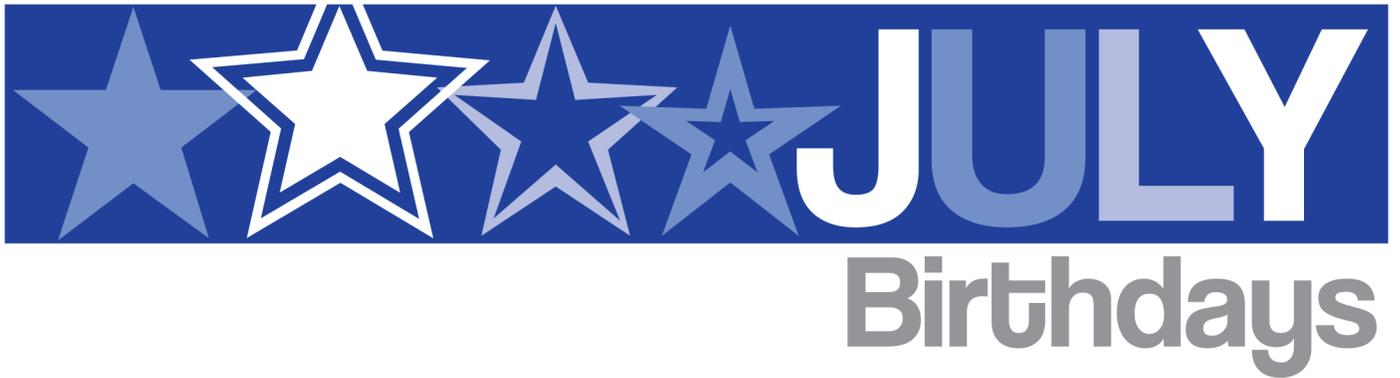
This handbook, *Understanding One Another*, compares the similarities and differences between the ELCA (a mostly white denomination) and the African Methodist Episcopal Church (AME – a historically black denomination). The handbook gives an overview on the history, theology, worship, mission, and policies of each church.

Here is an article from Forbes magazine on learning how to listen and help with racial issues: <https://www.forbes.com/sites/juliawuench/2020/06/02/first-listen-then-learn-anti-racism-resources-for-white-people/#2c24261116ee>

At this website you can learn how to help with the Black Lives Matter movement: <https://www.forbes.com/sites/juliawuench/2020/06/02/first-listen-then-learn-anti-racism-resources-for-white-people/#2c24261116ee>

Some books to consider reading are: “Dear Church, a Love Letter from a Black Preacher to the Whitest Denomination in the US” by Lenny Duncan. “How To Be An Antiracist” by Ibram X. Kendi. “So You Want to Talk About Race,” by Ijeoma Oluo. “White Fragility: Why It’s So Hard for White People to Talk About Racism,” by Robin DiAngelo. “Black and White: Disrupting Racism One Friendship at a Time,” by Teesha Hadra and John Hambrick.

If you’d like to watch a movie, consider these: Just Mercy is based on the true story of a lawyer representing a black man wrongly convicted and sentenced to death. The Hate U Give, is about a teenage girl who sees her friend killed by a police officer. Selma dramatizes the Civil Rights Movement and Martin Luther King, jr during the rally in Selma, Georgia. 13th is a documentary examining why a third of US prisoners are black. I Am Not Your Negro connects the Civil Rights Movement with Black Lives Matter. Teach Us All looks at how schools are still segregated 60 years after Brown vs Board of Education.



JULY

Birthdays

July 1
Jeanette Pegues

July 2
Patricia Martin

July 4
Alison Surma Estep
Hope Whitaker

July 8
Jeanne Weisbaker

July 13
Edith O'Neill

July 14
Kashton Boag
Dorothy Smith

July 15
Shirley Hormuth

July 17
Emerson Boag

July 20
Barbara Eickman

July 21
Marco Rendon

July 23
Annelle Clements

July 31
Jacquelyn Woltersdorf

Shepherd King Lutheran Church

303 West Ramsey Rd.
San Antonio, TX 78216-3818
Telephone: (210) 344-5881
Email: shepherd.king@sbcglobal.net
Web: www.skllcsa.org



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Items for THE STAFF are due to the office no later than the second Monday of each month.

Date Mailed: June 15, 2020

CHURCH COUNCIL

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

PRESIDENT:
Barbara Eickman

VICE PRESIDENT:
Gary Clements

TREASURER:
Carol Stobb

SECRETARY:
Jorie Hughes

MEMBER-AT-LARGE:
Denice Hoggatt
Robert Holm
Joe Villafane

COMMITTEES:

YOUTH:
Vacant

EDUCATION/YOUTH:
Vacant:

EVANGELISM:
Vacant

FELLOWSHIP:
Vacant

STEWARDSHIP:
Vacant

SUPPORT MINISTRIES:
Linda Hansen

WORSHIP:
Pat Hart

AD HOC COMMITTEES:

BANNER MINISTRY:
Lavelle Brown
Marilyn Lange

PERSONNEL:
Karen Keener

PROPERTY:
Melvin Gerloff