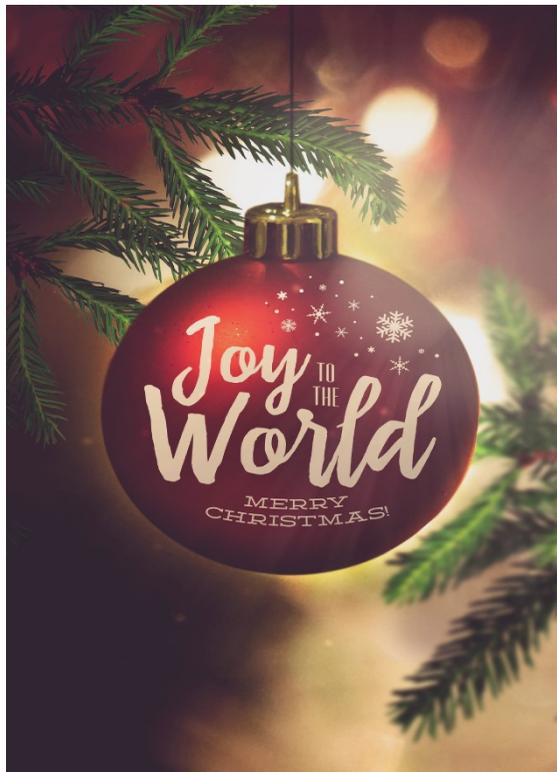




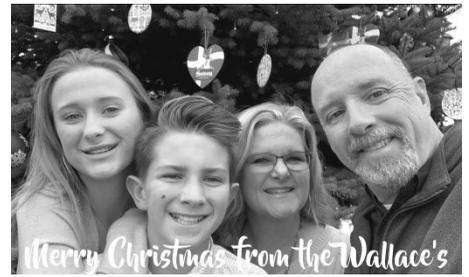
## *The Eagle*



*December 2021*

# Pastor's Page

*"Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us." Matthew 1:23*



God is with us! Christmas is good news for those feeling lonely and disconnected. God is with us! Have you been feeling the need for more human connection? Apparently, so did God! He sends Jesus as a little human to connect with us in our deepest needs. God is with us!

If you need some assistance pushing the Grinch away and getting some Christmas Cheer then you have come to the right month. We've got loads of wonderful things happening around Saint John's in December. See the next page and the rest of this newsletter for all the fun.

It's a perfect time to be on our church mission together as we Encounter Jesus, Experience Family, & Embrace the broken. The big question is: Who are you going to share Jesus' birth with this month? Will you bring someone to the Advent Festival? How about bringing someone you care about to "A Tapestry of Carols" Music Sunday? Christmas Eve is also a great opportunity to invite friends and neighbors to experience the true reason for the season.

Let's make this December a special one for all those who need a boost (and don't we all need a boost). Thanks so much for prayerfully reaching out this month. We really do need each other.

Christmas Blessings, Greg

PS And don't forget your Ugly Sweaters for the Sunday after Christmas!

Are you getting our weekly email updates? Email me to get on our list.  
[greg@saintjohnsag.com](mailto:greg@saintjohnsag.com)

# Life Together



**Join us Online or In-Person**

**All December Sundays - One Gathering 10am**

Sunday, December 5th

10am Worship  
11am **Bethlehem Bazaar**  
Gift giving with a purpose  
(see page 11 for more details)

5pm **Advent Festival**  
Advent Wreaths, Soup,  
Care Package and Singing  
(see page 5 for more details)

Sunday, December 12th

10am Worship  
11:15am **Congregation Meeting**  
Come and vote our church budget!  
You can pick up a budget on  
December 5th after worship.

Please send any questions you have to  
Brian King (brianking40@gmail.com) or  
Wes Drysdale (wadrysdale@gmail.com)

Sunday, December 19th

10am Worship - Music Sunday  
**A Tapestry of Carols**  
(see page 7 for more details)

**Youth Christmas Outing**  
(see page 4 for more details)

Sunday, December 26th

10am Worship with Carols  
**Ugly Sweater Sunday**  
Wear your special sweater!



**Christmas Eve Worship**  
Friday, December 24th at 4pm

**Join us a 4pm for a lovely Christmas Celebration**  
We'll enjoy fun carols, candlelight, & Holy Communion  
together around the manger of the Christ child.

**Who are you inviting?**

**Church Work Day**

Saturday, December 4th 9am

**Dec. Food of the Month**

Rice, Beans & Masa Harina (Corn Meal)

# Kids News

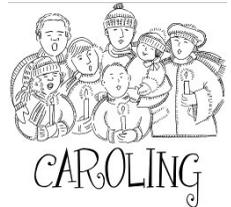
**Come create a Gingerbread House on Sunday, December 19th at 9:30 am!** Join Mrs. Theresa for a fun morning of KidsChurch learning about the Gingerbread Gospel and a very sweet time (yummmm!) making Gingerbread houses. This will be a great Sunday to return to regular KidsChurch rhythms and feel free to bring a friend! Don't miss it!



**Just a reminder weekly KidsChurch continues each week!** Other than Family Sundays (on the first Sunday of each month) K-6th graders - we have a special time created just for you! Join us Sundays during 9:30 worship for games, snacks, crafts, and Bible stories. We'd love to see you!

## Youth Group Christmas Outing Sunday December 19th

Join us for a fun afternoon/evening celebrating Christmas and kicking off Winter break! We're working on some fun local adventures you don't want to miss. Friends welcome! Students will need to bring money for dinner. Stay tuned for exact times and details... No regular youth group on Wednesday Dec 22 (12/22 is Valerie's birthday - don't forget to wish her a great one!)



## Scarf Distribution coming January 9th, 2022

Save Sunday afternoon for our annual time of distributing scarves in strategic places around the local area. Pam continues to do an amazing job leading our knitting crew and they have been hard at work making over 100 scarves!! We need lots of help to get these beautiful scarves into the hands of homeless and those in need this Winter. We'll start with lunch out together and then head off to distribute. All ages and friends welcome! Kids 6th grade and younger need an adult present.

## Winter Camp March 4-6, 2022

Friday: Students will need to be excused from school early on Friday.  
Cost: The cost of Hume lake winter camp is \$224 per student. We are asking Saint John's students pay half while the other half will be covered with fundraising. Deposit of \$50 is past due! Limited spots - sign up with Cindi ASAP!  
Grades: 7-12 (entering fall 2020)



**SAVE THE DATES** for this summer's houseboat trip with Sunshine Ministries June 19-25, 2022

# SAINT JOHN'S ADVENT FESTIVAL

**Sunday, December 5<sup>th</sup>**  
**5:00-7:00 p.m.**  
**Ouimette Hall**



## **GATHER FOR DINNER at 5:00 p.m.**

Homemade Soups, Salad and French Bread will be served  
Dessert: Bring a plate of your favorite cookies to share

## **ADVENT ACTIVITIES**

Make an Advent Wreath  
Traditional Scandinavian Treats for everyone

## **CAROLING IN THE COMMONS**

A special time together in the Commons  
Singing Christmas Carols  
Decorating our Church Family Christmas Tree  
Hot Cocoa and Apple Cider



# Women' Ministry



**Come one, Come all! Christmas is Coming!**

**All Women of Saint John's Lutheran Church are Invited to attend the Annual Christmas Luncheon**



Date: Wednesday December 8 2021, 12:00 noon

Location: Commons at Saint John's Lutheran Church

Cost: \$15.00 per person, which includes a catered taco bar from Old Juan's Cantina, desserts will be provided.

Entertainment: Instrumental Christmas Tree-O, Janice Goodwin, saxophone; Beth Webb, violin, Louise Frye, piano

Group Singing, Games & Prizes

Sign-ups begin Sunday November 21, and end Friday December 3.

+++++



**We would like to extend a special thank you...**

...and blessing to our three new Stephen Minister trainees, **Mel Gomez, Rebecca Linquist, and Theresa Wolfe Masicampo**, who will complete their 50 hours of caregiving training on December 13<sup>th</sup>. We will officially welcome and commission them as Stephen Ministers to our congregation during services on Sunday, January 9<sup>th</sup>. Our Stephen Ministers at Saint John's are trained to provide one-to-one, Christ-centered care. They have a compassionate heart for those who are hurting, and they're equipped with caring ministry skills through their training by our Stephen Leaders.

**Stephen Ministry is appropriate for people experiencing:**

- |                           |                           |                  |                 |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|------------------|-----------------|
| Grief                     | Divorce                   | Cancer           | Chronic illness |
| Hospitalization           | Physical rehabilitation   | Long-term care   |                 |
| Terminal illness          | Job loss                  | Loss of a home   |                 |
| Military deployment       | The onset of a disability | Spiritual crisis |                 |
| Many other life struggles |                           |                  |                 |

If you are experiencing a life struggle or crisis, we want to be there with you. The relationship with your Stephen Minister can last a day, a week, a month, a year, or longer. You determine the length. We promote confidentiality in every relationship. We listen, we pray, we hug, we care!

Encounter Jesus. Experience Family. Embrace the Broken.  
Pastor Greg and The Saint John's Stephen Ministry Team



**Sunday, December 19  
10:00 a.m.**

Please plan to join us in worship on Sunday, December 19th at 10:00 a.m. as Saint John's Music Ministry presents "A Tapestry of Carols". As we did in 2019, this single morning worship service will encompass all of Saint John's music ministries: from Songfest to Organ, from Chancel Choir to Heavenly Handbells, from piano solo to instrumentalists. We will re-tell the story of Jesus' birth through music, interlaced with scriptures, prayers and song.

We are especially pleased to include an all-instrumental piece this year which will include: flute - Adrienne Rule; violin - Beth Webb; clarinet - Tim Myer; soprano saxophone - Robin Eiland; alto saxophone - Kevin Colton; tenor saxophone - Janice Goodwin; trumpets - Bob McGhie & Mike Smiley; trombone - Wes Drysdale; handbells - Shari Bowman & Kathy Lindstaedt; keyboard - Dave Immel; and percussion - Tyler Drysdale.

What a blessing to have such a large group of musically talented members in our congregation! We hope you'll mark this date on your calendars, and be sure to invite family and friends and neighbors -- anyone who would enjoy a morning of celebrating God's greatest gift to mankind, His Son, Jesus!!

- Janice, Cal and Shari

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday
<p><b>28</b>  <b>Advent</b>  <b>9:30 AM</b> Worship  <b>11:00 AM</b> Worship</p>	<p><b>29</b>  <b>9:00 AM</b> NO Lucia Mar Quilting  <b>10:30 AM</b> OA Meeting  <b>11:00 AM</b> Heavenly Handbells  <b>6:00 PM</b> Stephen Ministry Training  <b>7:00 PM</b> Boy Scouts</p>	<p><b>30</b>  <b>10:00 AM</b> Morning Bible Study</p>
<p><b>5</b>  <b>10:00 AM</b> Family Sunday - NO Kids Church  <b>5:00 PM</b> Advent Festival</p> 	<p><b>6</b>  <b>9:00 AM</b> Lucia Mar Quilting  <b>10:30 AM</b> OA Meeting  <b>11:00 AM</b> Heavenly Handbells  <b>6:00 PM</b> Stephen Ministry Training  <b>6:30 PM</b> Youth Comm Mtg  <b>7:00 PM</b> Boy Scouts</p>	<p><b>7</b>  <b>10:00 AM</b> Morning Bible Study</p>
<p><b>12</b>  <b>10:00 AM</b> Worship  <b>11:15 AM</b> Annual Cong. Mtg. Part 1</p> <p><b>Congregational Meeting</b></p> 	<p><b>13</b>  <b>9:00 AM</b> Lucia Mar Quilting  <b>10:30 AM</b> OA Meeting  <b>11:00 AM</b> Heavenly Handbells  <b>2:00 PM</b> Global Mission  <b>3:00 PM</b> Stephen Min.  <b>6:00 PM</b> Stephen Ministry Training  <b>7:00 PM</b> Boy Scouts</p>	<p><b>14</b>  <b>10:00 AM</b> Morning Bible Study  <b>11:30 AM</b> Chapel People's Kit.</p>
<p><b>19</b>  <b>10:00 AM</b> Worship-Holy Communion          - Tapestry of Carols</p> 	<p><b>20</b>  <b>9:00 AM</b> Lucia Mar Quilting  <b>10:30 AM</b> OA Meeting  <b>7:00 PM</b> Boy Scouts</p>	<p><b>21</b>  <b>First Day of Winter</b>  <b>10:00 AM</b> Morning Bible Study</p>
<p><b>26</b>  <b>10:00 AM</b> Worship- Ugly Sweater Sunday</p> 	<p><b>27</b>  <b>OFFICE CLOSED FOR THE HOLIDAYS</b>  <b>10:30 AM</b> OA Meeting  <b>3:00 PM</b> Stephen Min.</p>	<p><b>28</b>  <b>OFFICE CLOSED FOR THE HOLIDAYS</b></p>

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p><b>1</b> 5:30 PM Instrumental Practice 6:00 PM Youth Group 7-12th</p>	<p><b>2</b> 9:00 AM NO Lucia Mar Quilting 10:00 AM Organist Rehearsal 6:00 PM Worship Team Rehearsal 6:30 PM Chancel Choir 7:00 PM Boy Scouts 7:00 PM Property Comm</p>	<p><b>3</b> OFFICE CLOSED 10:00 AM Lucia Mar Knitting</p>	<p><b>4</b> 9:00 AM Property Day 8:00 PM A.A. Speakers</p> 
<p><b>8</b> 12:00 PM Women's Luncheon 5:30 PM Instrumental Practice 6:00 PM Youth Group 7-12th</p> 	<p><b>9</b> 9:00 AM Lucia Mar Quilting 10:00 AM Organist Rehearsal 6:00 PM Worship Team Rehearsal 6:30 PM Chancel Choir 7:00 PM Boy Scouts</p>	<p><b>10</b> OFFICE CLOSED 10:00 AM Lucia Mar Knitting</p>	<p><b>11</b> 9:00 AM Dress A Girl Workshop</p>
<p><b>15</b> 5:30 PM Instrumental Practice 6:00 PM Youth Group 7-12th</p>	<p><b>16</b> 9:00 AM Lucia Mar Quilting 10:00 AM Organist Rehearsal 6:00 PM Worship Team Rehearsal 6:30 PM Chancel Choir 7:00 PM Boy Scouts</p>	<p><b>17</b> OFFICE CLOSED 10:00 AM Lucia Mar Knitting</p>	<p><b>18</b> 11:30 AM Scleroderma Support Group</p>
<p><b>22</b> 6:00 PM Youth Group 7-12th</p>	<p><b>23</b> 10:00 AM Organist Rehearsal 6:00 PM Worship Team Rehearsal 7:00 PM Boy Scouts</p>	<p><b>24</b> OFFICE CLOSED FOR THE HOLIDAYS 4:00 PM Candlelight Worship</p> 	<p><b>25</b> Christmas Day</p> 
<p><b>29</b> OFFICE CLOSED FOR THE HOLIDAYS</p>	<p><b>30</b> OFFICE CLOSED FOR THE HOLIDAYS</p>	<p><b>31</b> OFFICE CLOSED FOR THE HOLIDAYS</p>	<p><b>1</b> New Year's Day</p> 



## What's happening at the ZOZU Project and at Solid Rock Christian School

Students have been learning at home and are tutored by their hard working teachers who walk or ride their bikes to each student's tiny dirt floored hut on a weekly basis. In spite of these difficult conditions, ALL OF THE STUDENTS TAKING THE UGANDAN NATIONAL EXAM PASSED. This enables them to pass on to the next grade level . We are so proud of these children, the staff and Principal David for their positive attitude and perseverance!!

Social Worker, Richard, organized a career guidance week at the school for the upper grade students. Richard brought in from Kampala a civil engineer, a medical doctor, an accountant, an agriculturalist, a lawyer, and a teacher to show the students possible career options. "Dream, work hard, and you can help your family climb out of poverty", Richard emphasizes. These children are the hope for the future and they are highly motivated through the encouragement of the staff at Solid Rock.

Lots of preliminary planning is being done to work toward the acquisition of additional land and the eventual building of a boarding high school. The staff at Solid Rock Christian School and Pastor JP feel it would be a safer environment for 7th graders to remain in Arua where they can be tracked and supported by the teachers and their families who love them. Child trafficking, early marriages, and teenage pregnancies are potential risks in Kampala. In the long run, it will also be better financially for the Zozu Project to run their own high school as tuition costs in Kampala continue to rise each year. As it stands now, our students move to the big city of Kampala where they are unable to have much communication with their families and 2 visits home per year. Pastor JP goes to visit the school in Kampala twice a month just to check on things. Mick, Elaine, and the Zozu Board are most anxious to make a high school in Arua happen, but will not begin on this huge project until they can once again travel safely to Uganda and walk the land, and look at the needs to determine when construction can begin.

**SPONSORS:** Mark your calendars for Saturday, May 7, and plan to attend a thank you party for your loyalty and devotion to your Ugandan children. It is deeply appreciated. More details will be sent to the sponsors. With a new class of preschoolers coming to Solid Rock, opportunities still exist for others to become a sponsor or to sponsor more than one child. Questions about sponsorship can be directed to Sandy Lebens.

# Make A Difference



The Bethlehem Bazaar (formerly known as Alternative Gift Giving Christmas) is coming to Saint John's on Sunday, December 5 at 11:15 AM. With all the distractions of the last two years this is a perfect time to refocus on Christ as the reason for celebrating Christmas. Bethlehem Christmas affords us that opportunity. Instead of fighting crowds in stores or ordering piles of gifts on-line, we can give a gift in honor of a loved one that will truly change the life of someone in need.

This year we are using two non-profits as gifting sources:

The ZOZU Project which supports the 500 students attending Solid Rock Christian School in Arua, Uganda. As the new school year begins in February and the pre-schoolers come to school for the first time, they need shoes, uniforms, supplies and books, how wonderful it would be to give a donation to meet some of these needs for a Ugandan child and doing so in honor of a loved one. This gift would be recognized on a special certificate for you to present to the person being honored by your gift. What a wonderful way to follow Christ's command to care for the needy.

Iglesia Luterana de Santa Cruz Church in Santa Maria. offers two separate gifting opportunities. (a) The first is the purchase of a certificate honoring a loved one with the proceeds covering costs for food for the many field workers Iglesia Luterana de Santa Cruz serves. Pastor Esteban and his wife, Angie, work so hard to pour love through their ministry by taking sandwiches to the fields and providing lunch after their church service. (b) The second opportunity offered by Iglesia Luterana de Santa Cruz Church is the Angel Tree. You can select a card from the tree containing the name of a child from Iglesia Luterana de Santa Cruz. It will be your responsibility to purchase a gift for the needy child whose name appears on the card. The wrapped gift will be brought to Saint John's by Sunday, December 19th for delivery to the church in Santa Maria.

Your participation in Bethlehem Bazaar will both help us serve the needy and direct our focus on the true spirit of Christmas.

If you have questions contact Sandy Lebens.

# Dress a Girl

Dress A Girl met for the last time this year on Saturday the 13<sup>th</sup>. We had a great time sewing, chatting and of course, eating! We had a pot-luck lunch with soup, chicken salad and croissants and fresh fruit salad. We also awarded prizes for our contest for most dresses made and most dress kits serged. First prize for serging went to Candy Kaseman with second prize going to Janice Goodwin. The most dresses were sewn by Kathy Latte and our newest church member, Carol Burton. Because they both sewed the same number of dresses, we gave two first prizes. It was a good day to be part of the Dress a Girl Ministry. The next time we meet, it will be 2022 and we are looking forward to some new equipment, made possible by receiving an endowment grant, as well as planning out some new events for 2022. If you are looking for a fun ministry that serves God's people world-wide, please do consider joining us in the New Year – our first meeting will be January 8<sup>th</sup>. You don't have to sew but if you want to, we are happy to teach you. Don't be shy – we will welcome you with open arms!

Pamela Glenn, Dress A Girl Coordinator for Saint John's & Dress A Girl Ambassador for the Central Coast of CA and beyond!



## Holiday Deadlines

- |   |                       |
|---|-----------------------|
| ◆ January Newsletter Deadline                   | December 10th 8:30am  |
| ◆ Annual Report Deadline                        | December 15th 8:30am  |
| ◆ Christmas Eve Bulletin Information            | December 16th 8:30 am |
| ◆ December 30th & Jan. 2nd Bulletin Information | December 20th 8:30 am |

**Please try to get your information & articles in early;  
Due to our holiday schedule we are unable to make exceptions.**

**Office Closed For Holidays  
December 23–January 2, 2022**

Just a reminder that the Annual Report Deadline is sneaking up on us. This year's deadline is December 15th, 2021. Please keep your article to 1 page. (Type-written if possible or you can email your report to [office@saintjohnsag.com](mailto:office@saintjohnsag.com)) We have extra copies of last year's Annual Report in the office in case you would like a copy to help you prepare this year's report. If you have any questions, please feel free to call or email.

# Council Highlights

- ◆ The combined Global Missions and Social Outreach Committees have voted to combine. The new name is Community and Global Missions.
- ◆ All Worship Services in December will be held at 10:00 AM.
- ◆ Thanks to Cindi Wallace's leadership, the Veteran's Dinner was a success.
- ◆ Advent Festival is scheduled for December 5th.
- ◆ There will be one service on Christmas Eve at 4:00 PM.
- ◆ Discussed and passed a draft of the 2022 Church Budget to submit to the Congregational Meeting for a vote on Sunday, December 12th. Budgets will be available to pick up on Sunday, December 5th. Please email any questions to Brian King ([brianking40@gmail.com](mailto:brianking40@gmail.com)) or Wes Drysdale ([wadrysdale@gmail.com](mailto:wadrysdale@gmail.com))

<u>Income/Expenses:</u>	<b>October 2021</b>	<b>YTD</b>
Income	\$ 27,543	\$289,714
Expense	<u>\$ 33,722</u>	<u>\$341,568</u>
	\$ - 6,179	\$ -51,854

## Lay Staff Christmas Bonus

Here's our annual opportunity to bless our hardworking lay staff members. They make such a difference at Saint John's and serve so well. You can send in a check or drop one in the offering during December with "Staff Bonus" in the memo. The Church Council is so thankful for our amazing Lay Staff. Merry Christmas!





# December

- 2 BORJA, JANICE
- 7 CAL WOOD
- 8 IRENE RODIN
- 10 BRIAN BELDEN
- 11 GABRIELA SILVERSTONE
- 12 ANDY DODDS,  
MIKE EBERSOLE,  
CANDY KASEMAN,  
BOB WEIGER
- 15 PRISCILLA THOMAS
- 18 TERRY FIBICH
- 22 VALERIE REILLY,  
SCOTT TAYLOR
- 23 FRANK DRAKE
- 24 TIM MYER
- 26 RON WERNER

To Friends of Saint John's,  
Dear Friends, Please accept my love and appreciation for coming to the Open House party that Pastor Randy held in their back yard for my 100th birthday. The turn out was fantastic, the surroundings and food were just beautiful. Patty and Pastor Randy did this with a generous, loving heart.  
Praise and Thanksgiving, Flo Sasse

MERRY  
CHRISTMAS  
FROM THE  
STAFF



**Prayers For:** Treat Family, Lydia's family, Cal, Penningroth Family, Steve Groves Family, Tony Drake, Toni M, Tim, Cindi, Kay, Eric, Betty, Nancy, Nancy O, Mike, Marilyn, Betty, Shari B, George, Families suffering with Covid

January Newsletter

**Deadline is December 10**

Thank you to my newsletter crew, they are such a blessing to the office.

It would be impossible without you!

# CONTACT information



## STAFF

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Cheryl Apfel Office Admin	office@saintjohnsag.com
Cindi Wallace Child & Youth Ministry Dir	cindi@saintjohnsag.com
Council President	
Prayer Ministry Cindi Wallace	cindi@saintjohnsag.com
Pamela Glenn Office Assist.	office@saintjohnsag.com
Kerry Wood Financial Secretary	financialsecretary@saintjohnsag.com

Church Website [www.saintjohnsag.com](http://www.saintjohnsag.com)

Office Assistant	Pam Glenn
Bookkeeper	Cheryl Apfel
Child & Youth Director	Cindi Wallace
Music Coordinator	Janice Goodwin
Chancel Choir & Handbells Director	Shari Bowman
Songfest Director	Cal Wood
Choir Accompanist	Shari Bowman
Organist	Dawn Russ
Nursery Attendant	

## How to Give to Saint John's

Go to [www.saintjohnsag.com/give/](http://www.saintjohnsag.com/give/) where you can learn more about donating with your credit or debit card or follow the link to give on-line . Call the Church Office for more info.



## Church Council 2021

### **PRESIDENT**

Wes Drysdale

### **VICE PRESIDENT**

Kevin Colton

### **TREASURER**

Brian King

### **SECRETARY**

Roseann Carroll

### **Women's Ministry**

Roseann Carroll

### **Youth & Children**

Kevin Colton

### **Worship & Music**

Wes Drysdale

### **Stewardship**

Frank Drake

### **Property**

Mark Haley

### **Social Outreach**

Jeff Metcalfe

### **Global Missions**

Pat Muran

### **Good News**

Cyndi Perry



**The Eagle**

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