

*Triumphant Lutheran Church*

# **NARRATIVE BUDGET**

*How We Grew in Christ and Served Others  
2019 — 2020*



Every number has a name  
Every name has a gift  
Every gift becomes a story  
Every story matters to God

*We Grow in Christ to Serve Others!*

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## We Grow in Christ to Serve Others.

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Friends in Christ,

We, the Church Council of Triumphant Lutheran Church, would like to thank you, the members of TLC, for your generosity and faithful service during the past year. Through the generous sharing of your Time, Talent, and Treasure with TLC and the community at large, we have made a difference in the world around us as we have followed our gracious and generous God.

This is a Narrative Budget, a new format to report our work together. A budget can look like only numbers on a page, but behind each number is an incredible ministry that has taken place. This document connects the numbers with the ministry, so we can better understand how the resources God has given us are connected to the faithful work of our congregation.

During the year, with your generosity, we as a community of believers have made an impact on the communities in which we live. We have also supported many organizations not only in our community but in far-reaching places. Our support of organizations like Trulight127 Ministries, the San Antonio Food Bank, RACAP (Randolph Area Christian Assistance Program), the Comal County Senior Citizens Association, and the Ronald McDonald House has supported individuals and families in need. This year, through your giving, young people attended camp, went on mission trips, learned about their faith, gave and helped others. Lastly, your giving helps to provide us with inspired, faithful, and rich worship and music, guiding us as we connect, hear, and are fed by our God.

We have a number of ways in which you can give to TLC. One can give through cash or personal check with the white or pink giving envelopes, through Bill Pay from a bank account, with the Tithely app on a mobile phone, or with PayPal through the church website. If you have any questions, contact the Stewardship Chairman ([stewardship@triumphantlutheran.org](mailto:stewardship@triumphantlutheran.org)) or Financial Secretary ([finsec@triumphantlutheran.org](mailto:finsec@triumphantlutheran.org)).

Our mission statement, “**We Grow in Christ To Serve Others,**” is an invitation for all to serve not only our local church, but to go out into the communities in which we live and work, and tell of Christ’s love for us and others. We continually strive to fulfill this statement by sharing our generosity of time, talent, and treasure with others.

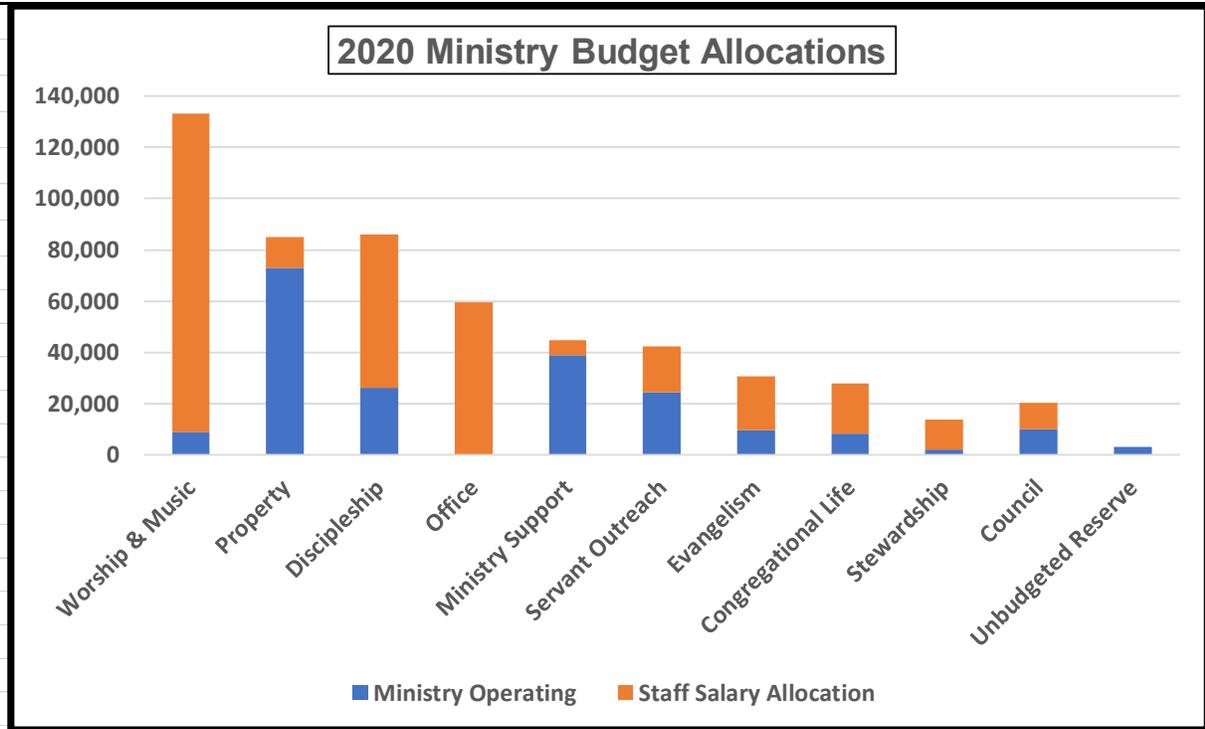
With sincere appreciation,  
Church Council

# 2020 Budget

The 2019 and 2020 budgets are a stepping out in faith that we will return to our former selves of growing as a congregation --- a perhaps two year process --- living up to our mission statement that "We Grow In Christ To Serve Others." We strive for growth in many areas, including growing in ministry, membership, attendance, and giving as evermore mature Christians. We have also grown our staff to assist in this purpose, and both the 2019 and 2020 budgets commit use of \$48,000 in Reserves in an *if needed* buffer to cover expenses while we grow. Good news -- the last three months through October show we are already starting to make progress in our growth. But all should understand, grow we must to cover the expected growth of ministry going forward and also *enough more* to stop using our reserves and start building them back up. So, let us build on this good start and grow Triumphant's ministry as we work together to "Grow in Christ To Serve Others."

Ministry Budget Allocations	2019			2020		
	Ministry	Staff Alloc	Total	Ministry	Staff Alloc	Total
<b>General Operating Income/Budget</b>						
Weekly Offering Income			388,351			402,165
Other Operating Income			16,546			17,666
<b>Projected Operating Income</b>			<b>404,897</b>			<b>419,831</b>
Worship & Music	8,984	124,031	133,015	8,784	124,784	133,568
Property	72,920	12,196	85,116	77,670	12,519	90,189
Discipleship	26,360	59,699	86,059	31,160	58,254	89,414
Office		59,644	59,644		60,420	60,420
Ministry Support	38,922	5,894	44,816	40,088	6,028	46,116
Servant Outreach	24,368	17,933	42,301	24,368	18,035	42,403
Evangelism	9,575	21,042	30,617	9,125	21,479	30,604
Congregational Life	8,280	19,631	27,911	6,400	19,959	26,359
Stewardship	2,070	11,788	13,858	2,070	12,057	14,127
Council	9,900	10,377	20,277	3,400	10,537	13,937
Unbudgeted Reserve	3,082		3,082	5,780		5,780
<b>General Operating Budget</b>	<b>204,461</b>	<b>342,235</b>	<b>546,696</b>	<b>208,845</b>	<b>344,073</b>	<b>552,918</b>
<b>General Operating Net</b>			<b>-141,799</b>			<b>-133,087</b>
<b>Early Childhood Prog Income/Budget</b>						
MDO Income			94,903			74,644
Preschool Income			217,375			208,650
<b>Projected ECP Income</b>			<b>312,278</b>			<b>283,294</b>
MDO Expense Budget			62,068			51,766
Preschool Expense Budget			156,411			146,441
<b>Projected ECP Budget</b>			<b>218,479</b>			<b>198,207</b>
<b>ECP Net (Spts Operating Exp)</b>			<b>93,799</b>			<b>85,087</b>
<b>Mortgage Income/Budget</b>						
Building Fund Income			91,104			91,104
Debt Service Expense Budget			91,104			91,104
<b>Mortgage Net</b>			<b>0</b>			<b>0</b>
<b>Reinput of Reserves as Income (if needed buffer)</b>			<b>48,000</b>			<b>48,000</b>
<b>TOTAL PROJECTED INCOME</b>			<b>856,279</b>			<b>842,229</b>
<b>TOTAL PROJECTED BUDGET</b>			<b>856,279</b>			<b>842,229</b>
<b>PROJECTED BALANCED BUDGET</b>			<b>0</b>			<b>0</b>

# 2020 Budget, Page 2



## Reserves

**Leadership Reserve.** Provides buffer to maintain current ministries and staff levels in 2019, 2020, and 2021 while we grow sufficiently in both attendance and giving to support these areas with regular giving. **At present rates of giving and use as needed, this reserve will likely be available until sometime in 2021.**

**G.O. 3 Mo Standing Reserve.** Always maintain a running 3 month operating reserve in the event of emergency(ies); i.e., large storm damage, fire, etc. **No input at present.**

**Capital Reserves.** A set aside continually banked for future facility and equipment upgrades, and to replace old or dead equipment beyond normal budgeted requirements. **No input at present.**

**Building Fund Reserve.** Maintain a 5 month reserve to ensure mortgage payment.

**Ordained Cont Ed.** Continuing Ed for Sr Pastor and Deacon, or otherwise as directed by the Sr Pastor.

**Other Specified Reserves.** \*\* Ladies Bible Study, Young Family Ministry, Creative Blessings, WC & Liability Ins, Meditation Gardens, Memorial Fund, Backpacks, Local Outreach, Youth Holding Accts, etc.

## Reserve Status

	Jan 2019	Oct 2019	Projected Dec 2019	Projected June 2020	Projected Dec 2020	
<b>Leadership Reserve*</b>	81,878	65,379	65,000	50,000	40,000	Operating Reserves
<b>G.O. 3 Mo Standing Res</b>	133,113	133,113	133,113	133,113	133,113	
<b>Capital Reserves</b>	140,746	110,325	97,000	80,000	70,000	Specific Use Reserves
<b>Building Fund Reserve</b>	33,617	35,584	35,000	36,500	37,960	
<b>Ordained Cont Ed.</b>	26,553	29,637	31,000	32,000	33,000	
<b>Other Specified Res**</b>	83,515	80,884	80,000	80,000	80,000	
	<b>499,422</b>	<b>454,922</b>	<b>441,113</b>	<b>411,613</b>	<b>394,073</b>	

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## Worship & Music

*Psalm 98:1 NIV*

*“Sing to the Lord a new song, for he has done marvelous things.”*

**W**orship and Music provides many ways to serve. We are all familiar with the 9 programs under this ministry: Acolytes, Altar Guild, Ushers, Greeters, Readers, Assistant Ministers, Music, Sound and Lighting Team, and the Puppet Ministry. Each of these wonderful volunteer programs offers a place to show your servant heart and to praise God in a valuable and fun way.

The ministry of acolytes has its roots in the Old Testament, where the prophet Samuel is seen assisting Eli, the Levite priest, and Elisha is seen assisting Elijah, the prophet. When serving as acolytes, our children at TLC are not only serving the church in an important ministry, but they are growing in their personal faith and confidence.



The ministry of the Altar Guild is deeply rooted in Scripture and church history. Altar Guilds serve the clergy and the congregation by preparing the Sanctuary for services and sacraments, much in the same way we prepare our homes for family and guests on special days. By serving the church in this important ministry, you also develop connections and friendships with other church members,

working as a team to nurture and deepen your faith. TLC has been ably served by these behind-the-scenes lay ministers.

Always there to greet you with a smile and a handshake as you enter the church, ushers and greeters are an important ministry and have a long history in the Christian church. In the Old Testament, there were positions addressed as "Doorkeepers" or "Gatekeepers," and their roles were very similar. As one of the oldest lay



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ministries in the Church, the ushers and greeters of today have descended from a long line of people of God who have gone before them.

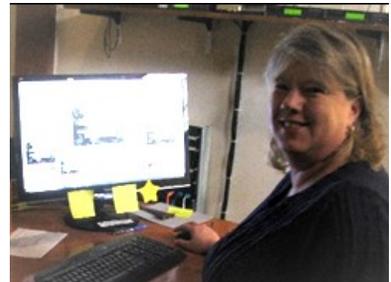
Readers and Assisting Ministers also serve TLC in an important way. Biblical history shows us the importance of temple servants who were part of the formal worship of God and how they assisted high priests and ecclesial ministry. Our talented readers of the scripture, likewise, have history in our religion. Just as the Apostles spoke the word of God to all who would listen, our readers take these same words, now written in the Bible, and share the good news which is Jesus Christ.



Traditionally, music in the early Orthodox church is thought to be a direct descendent of the music used in the synagogues during the life of Jesus. Music was held in such high esteem in the early church believing that it was a "window to heaven." We can trace our modern religious musical heritage through Greek,

Russian, Egyptian, Coptic, Ethiopian, and African Christian influences. But it is the themes we find in the Book of Psalms where the foundation of modern theological music can be found. Whether it is our wonderful Choir, Praise Band, Cantata, or guest performers, we are truly blessed with amazing musical leadership and the multiple talents of many musicians and singers who carry on the long tradition of musical worship and praise.

Our wonderful Sound and Light Team quietly, but expertly, ensures that our church services are successful. Using modern technology to enhance and project the words of our services is an extremely important ministry. Our sound system is undergoing a major upgrade due to the age of some of our speaker systems. Additionally, due to an FCC mandate on certain frequency bands, our wireless system will be replaced. This project is made possible by the expert financial management found at TLC by using funds that have been saved over the years.



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## Worship & Music, continued

Finally, our wonderful Puppet Ministry adds a new and vibrant way to preach the Gospel and bring Biblical stories to life. Both young and the young-at-heart find enjoyment and fulfillment from this ministry. We are always looking for new puppeteers.



The Worship and Music budget covers most of the items necessary to perform our 3 worship services and other events such as baptisms, weddings, and funerals. From musical scores to communion sacraments, from flowers (including seasonal Poinsettias and



Lilies) to sound and light equipment repair and replacement, from cleaning robes to tuning pianos from Polka Bands to Living Last Supper performances — all 9 ministries operate on historical cost averages which are fine-tuned to be prudent and essential.

At the heart of Triumphant Lutheran's ministry of Worship and Music is people of all ages —

people serving, people singing, and people giving of their time and talents in worship to our Lord. Serving others is the very essence of this ministry. As believers in Christ, we are called to ministry, and, therefore, we are all called to be servants for the glory of God. I would like to sincerely thank the many volunteers who lead and serve this ministry. It is through their wonderful efforts that our worship programs remain vibrant and worthwhile.

**Team Members:** Lead — Ken Smith. Group Leaders — Paula Salazar (Altar Guild); Carol Snyder (Music); Donna Guebard (Greeters); Mary Langenes, Lori O'Berg, Mary Feuge (Assistant Ministers and Readers); Christi Brinkman, Jim Moreland, Gordon Hengst, Jerry Guebard (SALT); Gloria Kruesler (Puppets); Gary Hendricks (Ushers); Maegan Lleverino, Isabella Garcia (Acolytes).

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# Discipleship

The Discipleship Team is committed to helping people grow in Christ outside of the worship setting. Here are some of the ways that we fulfill this goal:

## Retreats and Summer Camp

Our children and youth continue to experience the ministry provided through the **Cross Trails camps**. Their mission is “to provide unique settings and experiences in which youth, adults, and families are strengthened in their relationships with Christ, each other, and the church community.”



Family Retreat

We had 8 youth attend the **LYLE 1** (Lutheran Youth Leadership Experience) **camp**, which focuses on helping 8<sup>th</sup> - 10<sup>th</sup> graders discover and reflect on their spiritual gifts. In several conversations, youths mentioned how learning about their gifts was empowering them as they thought about future careers and how they can live out their faith on a daily basis at school and home. We had one youth attend **LYLE 3**, which is focused on giving youth an opportunity to explore and use their gifts in the camp setting across a time frame of 3 weeks.

In 2020, we are expecting to attend the annual youth retreats and to expand the summer camp opportunities for our youth. We look forward to having a few youth attend **LYLE 2 camp**, which will include two weeks of camp.

## Mission Trips



We continue the **annual tradition** of taking the 9<sup>th</sup> -12<sup>th</sup> graders on a trip to serve in a community. Over the years, we have visited **7 different states** and spent time with kids, service organizations, and faith communities. These trips give our youth opportunities to learn about their “giftedness,” the needs and hardships of other communities, and to hear stories from youth from all over the country. This past year, we travelled to **Marvell, Arkansas** for a week, spending time with children and completing work projects. The most impactful part of the trip was serving at a very underfunded animal shelter.

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## Discipleship, continued

In 2020, we will travel to **Montana** for an opportunity to serve with an **American Indian community**. We are travelling this distance because it will be a tremendous opportunity for our youth to experience a dramatically different culture as well as to meet youths and adults from outside of Texas. We are anticipating a slight increase in the number of youths due to a large and active 9<sup>th</sup> grade group.



### Children/Youth Sunday School

Sunday School has been a primary learning opportunity for children and youth for years. The main focus is to teach and reflect on the major stories of faith that define us as disciples of Jesus.

In 2019, we continued to offer opportunities for our children and youth to learn these stories on Sunday mornings. The **preschool group** has been learning **life-skills** like patience, new friends, and managing anger through books, songs, and games.

Sensing that we needed to invigorate **Elementary Sunday School**, we changed the format in the fall utilizing a “**rotational model**” where kids will learn Bible stories through different styles and opportunities. With the rotational model, kids will be engaged through stations; games, drama, science, art, and cooking. The **7<sup>th</sup> -12<sup>th</sup> grade group** has been using a **video-based topical study** to explore themes that are important to youth. The response to these opportunities has been very positive, so we will continue offering these opportunities for the different age groups through 2020.

### Adult Faith Formation

Helping adults grow in Christ was a focus of 2019. For years, we have offered Bible studies for adults through groups like Blended Spirits, Thursday Morning Ladies’ Bible Study, and the Friday Morning Men’s group. These programs are wonderful opportunities to meet other people and spend time exploring how God has been active in each other’s lives. This year, we further expanded adult opportunities through: **1) iDentity event** — a large-group panel conversation around identity formation and relationships in a digital world; **2) Sunday School special topics** — based around a theme and/or

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one-time need or short-term series. These opportunities offer an additional way to learn and attempt to accommodate the schedules of those who can't participate in the more traditional, established groups.

In 2020, we will further **expand** the adult learning opportunities. We plan to offer 2 one-time events: **1) an iDentity event** — we will engage with a topic for an evening **via a panel conversation or interview; 2) a Fall Adult Retreat** — an opportunity to build relationships and explore faith at a location other than Triumphant.

### **Trainings**

In 2019, we hosted an event for the **Cibolo Creek Conference**, aimed at helping people learn and develop skills in teaching small groups and Bible studies. Aimed at all ages, it used workshops to help others feel more confident to lead. This is important because the best way to learn something is to teach it and one of the significant inhibitors in teaching is confidence in the skills we already possess. This training event was very successful and was well received by those who participated. Training events of this nature will ensure that the faith formation process is the work of the entire congregation and will help us build a team of quality leaders for all of our age groups.

### **Quotes**

“I don't have the words to describe how much closer I feel to God after spending just one week trying to help the people in Marvell. Of course, I was happy to come back home to my family, but I was also dreading coming back to the same old routine of going back to work to pay the bills. This sense of purpose, of wanting to do God's work and get closer to Him, is a direct result of having gone on this mission trip.”  
— David Abraham

“Your generosity in supporting the Family Retreat has provided us the opportunity to come together with other families. This quality time allows our bond to strengthen not only in our relationship with God, but also with each other, thus creating a lifetime of memories.” — The Bazaldua Family

“I have enjoyed being a leader in the Elementary Wednesday Nite Live program. Having been a student myself a few years ago, I am able to see the lessons from both sides and help enlighten the stories for the kids.” — Isaac Spreen

**Team Members:** Lead — Aaron Theilengerdes. Members — Deacon Chris St.Clair, Lois Glazener, Mellissa Zipp, Melanie Lleverino, Ruth Garcia, Leon Henk, Marisol Whitaker, and Cindy Walters.

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## Servant Outreach

“We grow in Christ to serve others.” We read and say this so often, but it’s so much more important to make sure that we are DOING just that — serving others! The Servant Outreach team has the great privilege of researching and coordinating activities that allow members of our congregation to serve others through the giving of our time, talents, and finances. What a great way to show our love for God and each other! I have been truly amazed this year to see how filled with love and grace each of you are as you constantly help those around us.

In 2019, the Servant Outreach team has focused on not only providing financial service to others, but also providing more opportunities for giving our time and talents. We started the year with our Lenten giving project which benefitted TruLight127, an organization that helps foster families. In just a few weeks, we were able to collect enough gifts to provide 16 children (5 foster families) with monthly gift boxes filled with fun family activities all the way through September. *“I know the families you provided these for have been truly blessed.”* — Sarah Self, TruLight127



Soon after Lent, we began collecting for our Boxes of Sunshine. These were sunshine-themed care packages which we filled with everything from soap to M&M’s to cards made by our Sunday School students. We were able to cheer up about 35 college-aged students during finals time. *“Thank you so much for the care package! That was a lovely surprise and very kind of you all!”* — Alexandria Walters, college student



During the summer, we focused on service opportunities which used our time and talents. In June, we volunteered at the New Braunfels Food Bank. About 25 people of all ages sorted and bagged apples and oranges, labeled canned goods, and stocked the pantry. We also donated over 300 pounds of food which was collected by both the

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church members and our Vacation Bible School participants. *“I hope to have back Triumphant Lutheran Church soon. You are appreciated!”* — Lee Wong, Program Manager, New Braunfels Food Bank

*“At the Food Bank, you get to help people in a fun way. You get to help other kids who are hungry.”* — Kaitlyn and Kinsey Coronado, participants

In July, we prepared dinner for families staying at the Ronald McDonald House, a temporary home for critically ill children and their families. Ten members of our congregation, both youth and adults, worked together to serve a delicious taco bar. *“On behalf of our families and staff here at the San Antonio Ronald McDonald House, please accept our sincere gratitude for a wonderful dinner!! What a tasty taco bar you all prepared! The families and their children loved the meal and the brownies were a favorite! Everyone enjoyed themselves!! Our families really appreciate any and all meals, but this was a favorite!”* — Pat Bivin, Director of Ronald McDonald House Charities



With the start of school just around the corner, we took the opportunity in July to collect school supplies. We were able to fill 129 bags! As we carried in bags and bags of supplies, and even full shopping carts, everyone working at RACAP (Randolph Area Christian Assistance Program) was so amazed. When they asked where we were from, they were not at all surprised when we told them Triumphant Lutheran Church. We are definitely known to them for our great generosity! *“The response to our call for school supplies was overwhelming! You made many students (and their parents) very happy!!”* — Jessie Fisher, RACAP Program Director

September was all about “God’s Work. Our Hands.” weekend. We started the weekend on Saturday by once again volunteering at the New Braunfels Food Bank. On Sunday, several projects were completed. Cookies were made and delivered to over 15 local police and fire departments as well as nursing homes. Beautiful kindness rocks



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## Servant Outreach, continued



were painted and decorated to spread cheer to our community. Bike racks were painted and other projects were completed at TruLight127. Chairs and flower beds were cleaned here at church. Members were able to visit and eat cookies with residents at Sodalis Assisted Living. Items were collected for blessing bags, and they were put together to keep in our cars, available to give to those in need. We also joined the community at the Homes for Our Troops volunteer day for Sgt. LisaMarie Wiley on Wednesday, September 11.

Participants of all ages made this weekend a great success! *“I liked taking the cookies to the firefighters because we gave back to those who help us. I also liked cleaning the chairs because everyone worked together.”*

— Nate Feutz, participant

*“His cardboard sign read ‘50¢,’ and it struck me as a statement of the worth of the disheveled young man. Before the light could change, I rolled down my window and handed him the Blessing Bag, assembled on God’s Work, Our Hands Sunday. ‘Socks, YES!’ he exclaimed excitedly. He took a couple steps back, plopped down right there on the side of the road, pulled off his shoes and pulled the socks on his bare feet as he talked to himself about the wonders of socks. I am the one who was blessed, God touched my heart.”*

— Sharon Hopkins, TLC administrator

The holiday season will provide us even more opportunities to help those in need. In October and early November, we are collecting food items for the RACAP Thanksgiving Baskets. We hope to collect enough to provide over 50 families with a great Thanksgiving meal. In December, we will provide gifts for foster children at TruLight127 with our Angel Tree program.

We are so thankful for the amazing generosity of our church family! In 2020, we hope to continue to find ways to use our time and talents to serve others. Our team will be working to find service opportunities that meet the interests of our congregation, including members of all ages. With your support, we look forward to another great year of serving others!

**Team Members:** Lead — Amy Coronado. Members — Deacon Chris St.Clair, Amy Beierle, Amanda Henderson, Debbie Roberts, Bruce Kilhefner, Bob Crawford, and all of the great members of our church family!

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## Ministry Support

Unlike many of the other ministry teams, this team is responsible for the on-going needs of our church staff and supporting the financial needs of the church. Our primary function is in the fiduciary security of TLC. We are responsible on a monthly basis to review the giving and spending of our congregation. In addition, we are constantly reviewing the insurance needs for our property and our staff. Finally, we continue to review the automation needs of church, both for our staff and for the congregation.

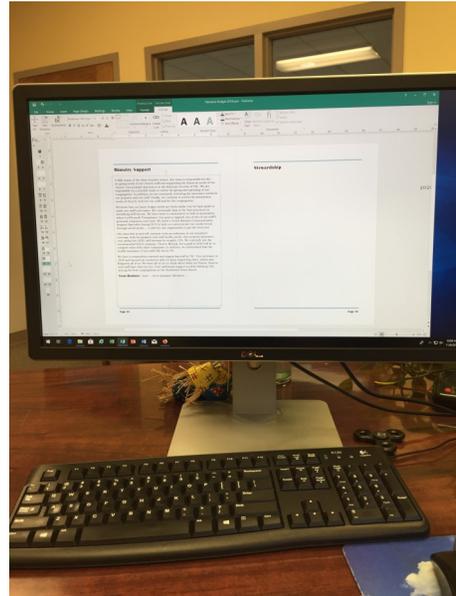
We know that our basic budget needs are fairly stable, but we have goals to make our staff's job easier. We continually look at the 'best practices' in identifying deficiencies. We have made a commitment to look at automation when it will benefit Triumphant. Our goal is upgrade one or two of our staff's personal computers each year.

We hired a Youth Ministry Communication Support Specialist during 2019 to help us communicate our youth events through social media — a need by any organization to get the word out!

One area that is and will continue to be an unknown is our insurance coverage, both for property and staff health needs. Our property insurance cost, going into 2020, will increase by roughly 12%. We currently use the recommended ELCA company, Church Mutual, but a goal in 2020 will be to compare rates with other companies. In addition, we understand that the health insurance of our staff will rise by 4%.

We have a tremendous rostered and supporting staff at TLC. Our increases in 2020 and beyond are needed in order to keep supporting them, which also supports all of us. We want all of you to think about what our Pastor, Deacon and staff have done for you. Your additional support in 2020 will keep TLC among the best congregations in the Southwest Texas Synod.

**Team Members:** Lead — Jerry Guebard. Members — Doug Hammerstrom, John Schultz, Jim Moreland, Marty Dumpys, John Gallo, Marilyn Winters, Tom O'Berg, Dennis Feuge, and Pastor Aaron Richter.



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# Evangelism



“I saw a sign on 3009 — Triumphphant Lutheran Church this way. I loved the look of the church out in the country. I stay because of the people, pastor, and deacon.” — Nancy Hendricks

“I looked online and came. The people were so welcoming!” — Helen Bauer

“This is a safe place for children. There is a lot of community outreach.”  
— Nancy Patchin & Rodney Leachman

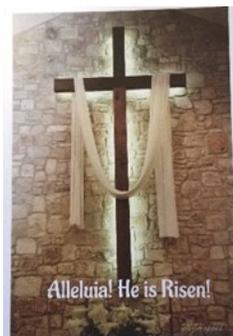
“I went to 9 different churches. The ladies’ Bible study is why I stay.”  
— Barbara Ann Smith

“Feels like home — family.” — Kristen Lowe & Corina Leachman

“I feel God’s love.” — Jennifer Spreen

**T**hese are a few of the ways people found their way to TLC and stayed. What makes TLC inviting? How do you make TLC inviting? These are some of the questions the Evangelism Ministry team seeks to answer and communicate to the community. If you really think about it, we are all part of the Evangelism Ministry team!

In 2019, the team focused on how we make our community more inviting to others. We continue to greet people at each service at the door and, if new, welcome them with a Triumphphant mug, pen, and assorted bookmark gifts.



We also ensured that each person and/or family received a special gift at our Easter and Christmas services. For Christmas 2018, we had a hand-designed ornament. Our Easter card was designed using a photo of the draped church cross taken by former TLC member M.J. Hoppes.



A large part of our mission is to advertise our church and its many ways to grow in Christ to serve others. We do this through print advertising, digital media messages, and community banners for special events such as Oktoberfest. Pastor Aaron has spearheaded a concerted effort to use Facebook advertising, which has reached up to 93,000 accounts.



In an effort to ensure that visitors can find their way around the church grounds more easily, this year we focused on new signage. We developed new signs for internal directions. We are working on new signs for the church grounds that will direct people to the appropriate parking lots based on the locations of our events.



We continually seek new ways to reach out to those members who can't get to church and to help new members integrate into our community. We greatly appreciate the financial support our members provide so that we can continue our ministry. But most of all, we know it takes all of us to create a place where we feel like family and can grow in Christ to serve others.

**Team Members:** Lead — Nancy Molter. Members — Mary Feuge, Jackie Mitchell, Ken Weber, Bobbie White, Pastor Aaron Richter, AND all of you!

**Mother's Day Out & Preschool Registration**

*Registration for the 2019-2020 school year continues through August and September until classes are full.*

*Triumphphant Lutheran Preschool is a licensed Christian school for 3 - 5 year olds. Our goal is to prepare your child for Kindergarten.*

*Mother's Day Out is a nurturing Christian daycare for children ages 6 months - 4 years.*



Get registration information and required forms:  
[triumphantlutheran.org/preschool](http://triumphantlutheran.org/preschool)  
[triumphantlutheran.org/mdo](http://triumphantlutheran.org/mdo)



21315 Bat Cave Road  
Garden Ridge 78266  
210.651.9090

**Saturday Worship**  
5:00pm Worship Service

**Sunday Worship**  
8:30am Worship Service  
11:00am Worship Service

**Preschool**  
Mon—Fri 9:00am—2:00pm

**Mother's Day Out**  
Mon/Wed 9:00am—2:00pm

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# Early Childhood Programs

## Proverbs 22:6 NIV

***“Start children off on the way they should go,  
and even when they are old they will not turn from it.”***

**E**arly Childhood Programs continues to be an important ministry of Triumphant Lutheran Church. Our long-standing reputation in the community is a tremendous asset and also helps foster an influx of children into our programs, where they receive the basics of early school learning and hear the teachings and word of God.

Preschool is led by Director Kristin Miller and is staffed by 7 teachers and 4 teaching assistants. These caring individuals lead programs for children ages 3-4-5. The children can attend two days per week, three days per week, or five days per week. An average of 78 children attend each day.

Mother’s Day Out is led by Director Vernell Theilengerdes and is staffed by 8 caregivers. It is a two-day-per-week program for children ages 6 months to 4 years. MDO operates on Mondays and Wednesdays, and an average of 45 children attend each day.



**Mother’s Day Out Chapel Time**

As the ECP Board plans for 2020, we realize that growth in our programs has been affected by the limited hours our services are available and, to a lesser extent, by the state-mandated Pre-K programs. We will be addressing these issues next year. The income and expense projections included in this budget presentation reflect a conservative estimate of our programs’ anticipated performance in 2020.

In the near future, we hope to upgrade our MDO facilities as they are beginning to show their age and our wish list includes new ceiling tiles and fresh paint. Both programs would also like improved grounds upkeep, especially in the playground areas.

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The comments we receive from parents continue to affirm our commitment to providing quality child-care and early education experiences to the children entrusted to our care.

In summary, our Early Childhood Programs are wonderful ministries of Triumphant Lutheran Church that serve our community and contribute to our financial well-being.

**Team Members:** Lead — Marilyn Winters. Members — Kristin Miller, Vernell Theilengerdes, Dennis Feuge, Ruth Garcia, Sandy Arneson, Nancy Hendricks, and Pastor Aaron Richter.

Hello! I just wanted to let you know how much we love TLC's PreK teacher, Ms. Harrison. We are absolutely amazed at how much our daughter is learning. The caliber of what Ms. H is doing with her class is astounding to us. The level she's teaching at is by far on a much higher level than the PreK our son was in. We are so grateful for the high bar Kristin is setting with TLP. We have heard from others not affiliated with the church how good the Lutheran Preschool is. And I am so pleased to say how much I agree. We are just waiting for the day when our daughter is reading to us. It's coming so quickly! And we love all the songs Ms. H. is teaching the kids, because we get the amazing privilege to listen to our daughter sing all the songs she's learning.

We are just so grateful and privileged to have our child be part of such an amazing opportunity that will benefit her for the rest of her education.

Thank you so much,  
Nicholle & Dale

Ladies of TLC MDO :

"Thank you" doesn't even begin to express my appreciation to you all for the years you have so lovingly cared for my babies, Marie + Camille. It felt as if I was bringing them to extended family to have a fun day while I was able to work. You do this so faithfully week after week - giving them hugs and comfort and play while I'm away. What a blessing you all have been to me and my family. We will miss you all so much.

The Lord bless you and keep you.  
NUMBERS 6:24 NRSV

Ms. Vernell, Ms. Ella,  
Ms. Lisa, Ms. Nancy, Ms. Wilma,  
Ms. Mary, Ms. Rosie, Ms. Melinda,  
Ms. Melanie and Faith  
those who have moved on...

With appreciation  
for the special blessing  
you've been.

My deepest thanks —  
The Watson Family  
Bernie, Missy, Marie,  
Camille + baby Natalie



A Preschool Class

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## Property & Resources

**Mission:** *The Property and Resources team is responsible for the Triumphant Lutheran Church (TLC) property including fifteen (15) acres, five (5) separate unique buildings, twenty (20) AC units, nine (9) heating units, and any other functions needed to support the congregation, as well as Early Childhood Programs.*

Your donations throughout the year provide the funds to pay for utilities (all cooling and heating the facilities, water, security, lights), cleaning the facilities, lawn maintenance, and repairs and supplies to name a few.

2019 was the first year of a maintenance contract for the HVAC units. It is recognized that many of the units may be at end-of-life, so maintaining them is critical. One unit had to be replaced, with repairs to others. Maintaining this equipment ensures comfort for building users. To insure A/Cs work efficiently, a quarterly replacement schedule has been implemented.

During 2019, we began the gradual conversion of our lighting to LEDs which is more cost effective. So far, this change provides better lighting in the Sanctuary, the hallways, and the church offices.

Lawn management is critical. Large rocks and root systems were causing problems with the mowers, so 2019 brought the use of equipment to remove both. Trees were trimmed to prevent damage to roofs on all buildings. Because volunteers are responsible for all yard maintenance – grass mowing, edging, low shrub



and tree trimming, etc., the cost for lawn service is eliminated. This is a function that requires weekly staffing to ensure the front of the church looks nice. Other mowing is dependent on need but still requires volunteers.



Automatic handicap doors were installed at the main entrance for members and visitors. Addressing security is important and a camera and door opener were installed; however; the project failed, and equipment was removed. This

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has been assigned to the Security Committee and will be addressed during 2020.

Sprinkler systems will require updating during 2020. It is important that the areas used by the children are visibly acceptable.

With your support, projects for 2020 include updating property lighting for the areas used by our youth, repainting the TLC concrete sign, and replacing worn flooring in all areas.

It would not be possible to have accomplished all we did in 2019 without your support and it will not be possible to accomplish our goals for 2020 without you, our members.

**Team Members:** Lead — Jackie Mitchell. Members — Frank Fogg (TLC Sexton), Cody Whitaker, Marisol Jacquez Whitaker, Marty Dumpys, Jerry Guebard, and everyone else who helps on Grounds Work Days.



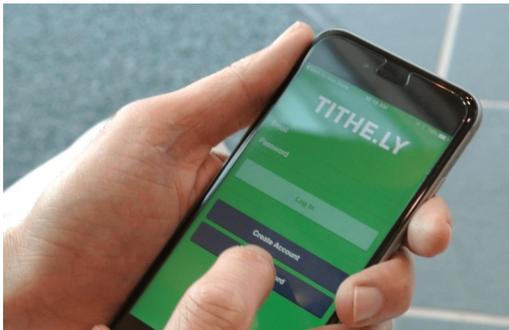
**Frank Fogg, TLC Sexton**

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# Stewardship

**A**t TLC, what does taking up the offering in worship have to do with kids going to camp? What does giving through the Tithe.ly app have to do with supporting missionaries in Australia? What does volunteering your time have to do with keeping up our space and property so that people can worship, children can attend MDO and preschool, and Bible studies can meet? The answer is Generosity! Our generosity with what God has given us makes ministry happen in our church, community, and around the world!

Stewardship has a simple premise, one that is found most clearly in Psalm 24, verse 1: *The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it, the world, and those who live in it.* That would include our money, our homes, our lives, our family, our world, and on and on. Everything is God's. So the work of stewardship is then to decide how to use these things that we have been blessed with by God, and to give as generously as God gives to us.



**Give through the Tithe.ly App**

This year, the Stewardship team has focused on our giving of time, spiritual gifts, and finances, and how that has connected to the ministry of TLC. Our work has focused on the ways that we ask, receive, and tell about these amazing connections. This has meant considering new ways for people to give, as more and more opportunities for online and digital giving become available.

Generosity is important, and makes a difference in our lives. *“By giving of my time, talents, and money, I feel closer to God. It gives me a wonderful feeling to know I help people and the church.”* — Nancy Hendricks, pointing out that generosity can improve our lives.

Tom Potter said it like this:  
*“Giving has supported my faith.”*



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Giving of what we ourselves have been given helps us in our faith lives, but also gives us a chance to show others how generosity helps us. *“It’s important for me to teach my children to be generous and let them see me giving, which encourages me to give more. After all, children mimic what they see,”* said Andrew Feutz. Being generous is a way of life that helps us to care more for our families, communities, and the world God loves.

Additionally in 2019, we resumed offering Dave Ramsey’s Financial Peace University program, run by Rob Crow. This amazing ministry helps people to understand their financial situation around debt, savings, giving, and budgets. The second class of the year began this fall, and is making an incredible difference to 9 families in our community! *“FPU not only has helped us with our finances, but it has improved our relationship and communication with each other. It improved our connection and reliance on God, and helped us get back to prioritizing things more through God’s eyes.”* — The Lleverino Family



As we look forward to 2020, our team is looking forward to sharing ways that we can grow in our generosity, and to follow our giving God: *“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.”* (John 3:16 NIV)

**Team Members:** Lead — John Schultz. Members — Pastor Aaron Richter, Bobbie White, Jim Moreland, Jerry Guebard, Andrew Feutz, and Dennis Feuge.



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# Congregational Life

**Matthew 18:10 NIV**

**“For where two or three are gathered in my name,  
there am I among them.”**

**T**he Congregational Life ministry is all about bringing the congregation of Triumphant Lutheran Church together to promote friendship, fellowship, and a desire to meet one another outside of worship. This is achieved through events, activities, and special gatherings. There are many groups that gather and are led by leaders throughout our church. Some of these groups are:

*Young Adults/Young Families Group:*

If you are a young adult or have a young family, this group is for you. This group gathers for the purpose of getting to know Christ as well as other people of faith that are the same age. There are many activities that range from Sunday evening Bible Studies to game nights, cook-offs and family retreats.



*Primetimers:*

If you are 60 years old or better, come join us! On the second Monday of each month from September through May, join members in the Fellowship Hall for lunch at noon. They enjoy each other’s company while celebrating a different theme each month, from Thanksgiving in the fall to Fiesta in the spring.



*Creative Blessings:*

Creative Blessings knits and crochets shawls, hats, and baby items. These lovingly handmade items are blessed through prayer then given to soldiers, chemotherapy patients, and others in need of comfort and an awareness of God’s presence in their lives. Learners are welcome to join and there are great teachers who can help you learn about this ministry!

*Meet Me At The Grill:*

Meet Me at the Grill is an opportunity to dine at our BBQ Hut on Saturdays from March through October after Saturday service. This is a great opportunity to meet and eat and have great fellowship with others.

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*Quilting Bees:*

The Quilting Bees meet to create colorful quillows for the girls at New Life Center, a temporary home for underage girls in difficult family situations. A quillow is a quilt that can be folded and tucked into its own pocket to create a pillow. Quilting supplies, laughter, and smiles are provided for a great opportunity for fellowship.



*Art Group:*

The Art Group meets to work on individual art projects while gathering with great company to promote artistic expression through faith and fellowship.

*Wednesday Night Live:*

Wednesday Night Live is an awesome time when we gather on Wednesday evenings from September through May. There is a meal in the Fellowship Hall followed by youth educational opportunities, choir practice, and other groups which gather together for special projects or activities that promote our mission as a congregation.

*Baptisms/Funerals/Special Events Team:*

Congregational Life also supports special events such as baptisms, funerals, and congregational potlucks and picnics. This team of dedicated members helps to coordinate these events and serve and prepare food for them.

*Sunday Morning Coffee Fellowship:*

This team sets up the after-worship refreshments (either store-bought or homemade) provided by volunteers.

All these groups help to promote a sense of togetherness within our Congregation. Through good times and difficult times, these ministries help to let others know they are not alone, and that God is with us wherever we are and a part of whatever we do. The budget for this ministry helps all these activities throughout the year. Along with the many gifts that members contribute — whether it is their time, skills, or money — this ministry will continue to thrive with the support of all members here at TLC.

**Team Members:** Lead (through August 2019) — Renay Boyes. Lead (August 2019 - present) — Church Council. Members — So many, the names won't fit on this page!

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## Conclusion

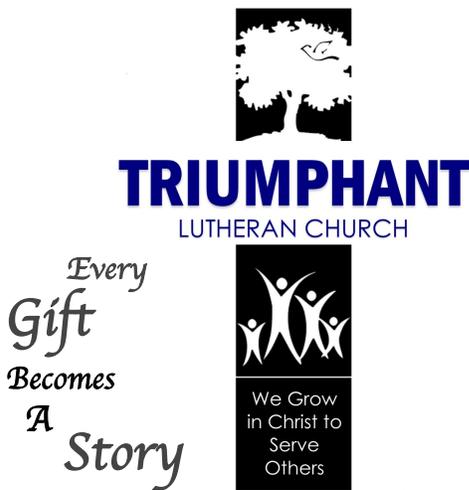
**T**hank you for taking the time to read, learn, and explore the ways that TLC is seeking to live out its call to “grow in Christ to serve others.” While this publication doesn’t tell all the stories of this past year, it does give us the opportunity to think about all that has happened and all that will happen in 2020 and beyond. As you consider how God might be calling and guiding you in 2020, we invite you to pray and wonder about how your gifts, time, resources, and all of who you are can help serve God in steadfast and new ways. May God’s gracious and guiding hand be with you and all of us in this community of faith of Triumphant Lutheran Church!

Triumphant Lutheran Church

We Grow in Christ  
to Serve Others.

As His disciples,  
we invite people to:

- Follow Jesus
- Listen for God’s will
- Grow in spiritual maturity
- Practice compassion and forgiveness
- Lead through servanthood



O God,  
you have called your servants to  
ventures of which we cannot see  
the ending, by paths as yet  
untrodden, through perils  
unknown. Give us faith to go out  
with good courage, not knowing  
where we go, but only that your  
hand is leading us and your love  
supporting us, through Jesus  
Christ our Lord. Amen.





# TRIUMPHANT

LUTHERAN CHURCH



We Grow  
in Christ to  
Serve  
Others