

2018 ANNUAL REPORT

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TRIUMPHANT
LUTHERAN CHURCH



We Grow
in Christ to
Serve
Others

Triumphant Lutheran Church

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2018 Annual Report

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Staff 2018

Pastor	Rev. Aaron Richter
Minister of Faith Formation and Service	Deacon Chris St.Clair
Administrator.....	Sharon Hopkins
Music Director	Carol Snyder
Director of Communications.....	Sharilyn Krauss
Preschool Director	Kristin Miller
Mother's Day Out Director	Vernell Theilengerdes
Sexton.....	Frank Fogg
Youth Communications & Support Specialist.....	Britny Rodriguez

Church Council 2018

President	Brian Krauss
Vice President	Marilyn Winters
Secretary (January through May)	Linda Braun
(June through October).....	open
(November through December)	Jerry Guebard
Treasurer	Tom O'Berg
Financial Secretary.....	Marty Dumpys
Worship and Music	Paula Salazar
Evangelism.....	Nancy Molter
Discipleship.....	Leon Henk
MDO/Preschool	Dennis Feuge
Congregational Life	open
Servant Outreach (January through September).....	Mary Gandolfo
(October through December).....	open
Stewardship.....	John Schultz
Ministry Support.....	Mike McDonald
Resources and Property	Jackie Mitchell

Mission Statement: **“We grow in Christ to serve others.”**

Council President's Report

by Brian Krauss

This year's annual report summarizes the activities over the past year as we continue to grow in Christ to serve others. In this annual report, you will find a summary of the key activities, efforts, and achievements brought about by our congregation. This summary of the past year is just that, a summary. I encourage you to see past the text and recognize the efforts of our staff and hundreds of volunteers serving our communities.

This year's focus was on guiding Triumphant in understanding and living out our mission statement. The council held 2 retreats this year to establish new goals for Triumphant that were aligned with our letter of call to Pastor Aaron, our new senior pastor. The goals we established were limited and oriented toward encouraging and equipping our congregation to seek ways to serve. This approach was a departure from goals established by previous councils that, while worthwhile, were too many and too broad to be achievable. This year, the council established 2 goals; one for service and one for growth.

Our service goal culminated in the establishment of our Stephen Ministry and supporting Trulight 127 with labor and funds. Our Stephen Ministry is led by Rose-Marie Smith who, along with Pastor Aaron, attended Stephen Ministry leader training this year. The Trulight 127 service involved opportunities for our congregation to provide hands-on support and deciding that a portion of the funds raised during our Oktoberfest celebration were directed to Trulight 127.

The growth goal took the form of informing our congregation of the many opportunities available to serve at Triumphant and throughout the community. We held 2 ministry fairs during the year and constantly sought feedback from the members. The ministry fairs were held in the Narthex as opposed to the Fellowship Hall. This was done to increase exposure. The format was well received but work is still needed to find ways to encourage members to get involved and get excited about opportunities.

This year the congregation approved providing an updated letter of call to Deacon Chris St.Clair as our Minister of Word and Service. The updated call aligned Deacon Chris' call with Pastor Aaron's and expanded his role and responsibilities as Deacon. The call was accepted by Deacon Chris and Triumphant has 2 permanent, full-time rostered staff members for the first time in its history.

Over the past year the council had vacancies in some of the ministry lead positions. The Congregational Life ministry team became open early in the year, followed by the Secretary and Servant Outreach positions. The council took on the responsibilities of these positions while they remained vacant. The Secretary position was filled in December when the council approved Jerry Guebard as the new Secretary to close out the year. All council positions have been filled by volunteers duly elected by the congregation for 2019.

These were the major operating and governance accomplishments for 2018. Much more was accomplished by the ministry teams and congregation overall. Those accomplishments and activities are included in the remainder of this report so I encourage you to read on and see all the good works that this congregation is doing while we grow in Christ to serve others.

Pastor's Report

by Pastor Aaron Richter

As I write this report, we are entering 18 months of being a pastor and congregation together. How time flies! With God's grace alongside us, we have gone through the annual patterns of this faith community, working together as we learn where God is leading us!

Annual reports provide a way to reflect and to share observations that are helpful as we move forward. As this is my first full year at Triumphant, my report includes looking at what has happened in the past and discovering how God has been guiding Triumphant Lutheran Church throughout its time. My hope is that this allows us to see the blessings and challenges as we move ahead.

First off, a few things that I have realized about being a pastor here which differ from my previous calls. My previous call was working in the New Jersey Synod office, which meant traveling throughout the state and handling most work on my own. Being at Triumphant has meant getting used to working out of our office and with our amazing staff. Previously, I traveled and met with many congregations, so I have enjoyed growing deeper relationships with members of this congregation. It is a continuing effort to strike the right balance between work, family, and health.

As I get to know people in our congregation and hear stories of TLC, several characteristics stand out to me. Here we go!

1. **Welcoming:** One of the more apparent gifts of this congregation is the ways that we welcome people into our community. I'm always amazed and impressed that I'm the second or third person to talk to visitors. People feel welcomed and want to become part of this community.
2. **Change:** As I mentioned in a newsletter article a few months ago, change is happening all the time. Our congregation has changed over the last 10-20 years, matching the community around us that has changed significantly (and will continue to change.) How do we deal with all that change, recognizing the challenges and blessings that come from it?
3. **Young people:** There has been incredible ministry with young people that has taken place in a variety of ways. The early childhood programs, youth group, and Christian education offerings have made this congregation well-known for lifting up and supporting young people.
4. **Leadership Development:** When I first read the paperwork for TLC, I was struck by how often the need for people being empowered and enabled came up. It's also been reflected in council and congregational goals for a number of years.
5. **Growing as a Community of Faith:** I have been amazed by the joy in our gathering together, and how well we have handled issues that have come up. This has been wonderful to witness, though we also need to acknowledge the conflict that has happened in the history of the congregation. Some of that has been between the pastor and members of the congregation, and others between members. Handling conflict in healthy ways is a great indicator of congregational health, so working on this is important.

So that's the history, but where do we go from here? I feel the Holy Spirit inspiring and guiding us through our mission statement "*growing in Christ to serve others*" and the two pieces that are included. When we *grow in Christ*, we seek to deepen and strengthen our relationship to God, which can happen in a variety of ways like engaging in worship, learning God's story, developing a strong prayer life, and looking for the ways that God is active in our lives and world. When we serve others, we try to bring God's love to someone else and may be the way that God is active in someone else's life, whether inside or outside this congregation. This might be becoming a Stephen Minister, going on the Gulf Coast Service Trip, welcoming a visitor to worship, or caring for a loved one who is hurting.

As we celebrate 40 years of Triumphant Lutheran Church this year, my hope is that this opportunity allows us to give thanks for the ways God has been guiding us in our history and also to seek how God is calling us into the future. Together, as *we grow in Christ to serve others*, may God continue to bless, inspire and lead us to share the incredible good news of Jesus Christ.

Deacon's Report

By Chris St.Clair

Many annual reports take an opportunity to chronicle the past year, taking note of the highlights and the experiences of that particular group. If I were to spend my report looking back, I would note the important youth ministry events and celebrations that we had. We took our high school youth to the Youth Gathering in Houston. We hosted our first evening VBS, and succeeded in learning and eating a meal with members of our community. We sent our youth to camp, including our first LYLE camper in 7 years. We had over 20 of our adult leaders attend a training event for faith formation. We ended the year with our annual retreats and the congregation calling me as Deacon of Faith Formation and Service.

While looking back at accomplishment is important, I feel that this moment, as Triumphant begins the journey with a called deacon, inspires us to look ahead. For the remainder of the report, I would like to look ahead at the assets and perils that lay before us as they pertain to my two main foci – faith formation and service.

FAITH FORMATION

The purpose of faith formation is to learn to listen and respond to the voice of God. Throughout scripture, God is named as our shepherd and we are named as God's sheep. The role of the shepherd is to feed, tend, and protect the sheep – which God does faithfully through grace. The role of the sheep is to learn to recognize the voice of their shepherd so they can respond when the shepherd calls for them and keeps them from danger – which we struggle to do through vocation.

Looking ahead, here are the faith formation assets ahead:

- We have a variety of opportunities for learning including Sunday school, Wednesday Nite Live, and several small groups. The opportunities for learning are numerous.
- We have gifted adults who can teach and lead faith formation. With the right resources and curriculum, we have the leaders who can lead.
- There is an embedded sense of adventure in our current faith formation programs. Trying a new form of VBS, sampling curriculums and crafting a creative Christmas program all mean that we are not stuck in our own system.

We have a wonderful foundation to work with. As we move ahead, here are the faith formation hazards that we will need to navigate:

- We must acknowledge that **faith formation** is not solely the job of the youth, but is the job of all believers. We spend our lifetime listening and responding to the voice of God, and experience both intimacy and loneliness in our lifelong walk with God. We must rediscover the importance of learning for all generations and make this learning a priority for the entire congregation.
- The **role of teaching** is not solely the job of parents and young adults. It is the task of the whole church to teach others when and where God is speaking. We do not age out of this role. We must use leaders from all generations to teach all generations.
- We understand **WHAT** faith formation is, but we do not have a clear understanding of **HOW** to do it. We look at what other churches are doing and try to find success by duplicating it. We must look

past new tools and curriculums and instead spend time learning, wrestling, and planning programs that fit our needs so we know what, how and why we do what we do.

SERVICE

The purpose of service in the life of the church is to shine a light in the darkness by being present with people who are experiencing brokenness. Commonly, the church has focused on serving by listening, feeding, clothing, providing shelter, and being an advocate for those who are in need. While we are unable to heal the entire world, each church community is called to listen for God speaking and to respond to the needs which God makes visible. Tied to service is our understanding of **vocation** which is how we use our gifts and resources to serve Christ's church. Vocation is the task of identifying our gifts and letting God use them to bring life to the world.

Going forward, here are the service assets we have:

- We have a wide variety of organizations and people whom we currently support through our service. From RACAP to ELCA missionaries, and from camps to Lutheran World Relief, we support both local and global causes.
- We have a wide variety of adults and a wide variety of **gifts**. The possibilities of service are wide-ranging which means that we can offer to help in a lot of different ways.
- The participation of all members (or laity) in the life of the church is engrained in the DNA of Triumphant. Triumphant's story is one which highlights our members as key contributors into shaping and guiding who we are today.

While we have many positive aspects of service at Triumphant, there are a few challenges that we must tend to:

- We must define the difference between ministry and charity. While it is important to support individuals and organizations that help those in need (charity), we need to remember God's call for the church to walk WITH people and organizations in need (ministry). We must think through how our service opportunities provide chances for us to connect as persons with those whom we serve.
- We wrestle with the cost of service in Triumphant's ministry to the community. We have shown the willingness to give financially to organizations, but are we willing to give our time and gifts to organizations. Are we willing to forgo other priorities in order to truly have a relationship with those whom are in need? We ought to find the proper balance of opportunities to serve which utilize our time, gifts, and resources.
- We must do better to use the gifts of the members of our community without burning them out in the process. We need to consider how we ask for volunteers and how we make ourselves available to help in the life of our church.

I am truly excited about my role as Deacon of Triumphant. I have found fulfillment in the first 8+ years of ministry here. While I am, at times, nervous about this new endeavor and my new ministry focus, I am comforted knowing that I have the prayers, encouragement, and support of the entire congregation as my role at Triumphant transforms and follows where God is calling us.

Worship and Music

By Paula Salazar

January began with the end of the Christmas church season and with our thanks to God for the many volunteers working behind the scenes to ensure that all service requirements are done. As usual, we began the new year with new servant volunteer schedules. We are especially thankful for each committee leader: Music-Carol Snyder; Altar Guild-Tom O'Berg; Acolytes-Isabella Garcia and Megan Lleverino; Greeters-Donna Guebard; Ushers-Gary Hendricks; Readers-Lori O'Berg, Mary Fuege, and Mary Langenes. These leaders and all the volunteers make sure that all who walk through our door are welcomed and that each of us has a great spiritual blessing as we hear Pastor's sermons. This month, we again started our Church "Time After Epiphany" (Jan 7-Feb 13) season with the Baptism of our Lord.

February continued our "Time After Epiphany" season which led to the Remembrance of the Transfiguration of Our Lord and which also coincided with the church traditional Western Sunday. As usual, the congregation was encouraged to wear their hats and boots as we praised the Lord to a western beat. A Cowboy breakfast, petting zoo, trick roper and photos on a longhorn steer were also part of Western Sunday. "Lent" (Feb 14-Mar 28) season began with Ash Wednesday on February 14th. Wednesday evening Lent services were preceded by a Lenten meal throughout our Lent Season.

March's first three Wednesdays continued our Lent Season leading into our Holy Week. Palm Sunday the congregation was given palms. On Maundy Thursday Pastor led us through a Seder Worship Service which included the story of Passover and the purpose of the Seder meal. Afterward the service, the Altar was stripped of all paraments and the cross was draped with a black cloth. Good Friday services are held at noon and 7pm. Easter Vigil Service began outside with the lighting of the Paschal candles and the lighting of the congregation vigil candles. Again, thanks for the behind the scenes volunteers that get these candles ready. After the service, volunteers got the sanctuary ready for Easter Sunday by replacing the paraments, draping the Altar cross with a white cloth and placing the Easter lilies around the Altar. (Easter lilies were delivered during Holy Week and the Bible Study ladies help unpack them on Thursday)

Our church "Easter Season" (Apr 1-May 20) started with Easter Sunrise service at 7am followed by the 8:30 Traditional and 11 am contemporary services. A pancake breakfast and Easter egg hunt were also part of the church activities. Many thanks go to Gary Hendricks and his crew of ushers and volunteers who set up chairs for the outdoor Sunrise service. The last Sunday in April, our congregation joined the community by celebrating "Fiesta Sunday". Goodies were brought in by Carol Snyder, Music Director.

May once again saw all the Mothers in our congregation given a pink carnation. Mothers' Day our sanctuary was adorned with quilts handcrafted by the church Quilting bees and Creative Blessings. The ordering, pick-up and preparing of the carnations is done by Worship and Music Chairperson and distributed by the ushers. Our church season of "Time after Pentecost" began at the end of May and Altar Guild changed the paraments to green.

During the months of "Time after Pentecost" season (May 21-Nov 28), Worship and Music committees continued to support all the behind the scenes requirements for each service held. During June, we celebrated Fathers' Day by giving each Dad a Snickers Bar. On October 14th, we honored some of the congregation's German heritage by having Polka Sunday. A polka band named "Polka Spirit" led by Ronnie Bruns played some of our hymns. On November 18th, we had one combined service to accommodate the

church member attendance to our annual congregational meeting and potluck dinner. During November, Altar Guild set up garland and the Chrismon Trees.

Our Advent season (Dec 3-Dec 24) began on the 1st Sunday of December. As usual, the Women's Bible study ladies helped decorate the Altar and chancel with poinsettias prior to our Cantata. Cantata was held 8 and 9 December at all three services. Thanks to the tremendous effort and hard work by Carol Snyder, Music Director and Feliziti Landin, Choir Director and also to all the choir members. On December 16th, the Christmas Program was presented during the 11am service. This program was amazing with actors of all ages recounting the birth of Jesus. Congratulations to Melanie Lleverino who directs this play. This year Baby Jesus was played by Pastor Aaron's son of less than a year old and he did not cry during the entire performance. Saturday, December 22d was a Service of Remembrance which many of our members truly enjoyed. Christmas Eve service was a Candlelight service which again brought in record numbers. Thanks to Altar Guild who prepared the vigil candles for this service. It is a true blessing to be at church for "Christmas Day Service". Our last Saturday and Sunday for 2018 calendar year ended with our Festival of Carols service.

Evangelism

By Nancy Molter

The Evangelism Ministry team supervises and coordinates activities that seek to welcome visitors and new members, and to encourage active members to conduct community outreach, shepherd new members and connect with inactive members and those members not able to physically attend church.

Advertising of our church and church events is a major task of this ministry. Thanks to all the hard work on the part of Mary Feuge, ads were placed for key events such as the Barn Dance, Western Weekend, Easter, Oktoberfest, and Christmas. Ads were also place for MDO and preschool. We also branched out to advertise in the Northeast Herald. We did not only ads but an article for the on-line edition related to Oktoberfest. In addition, we piloted Facebook ads and found we have a significant reach with these for relatively little money. These will continue in 2019. We bought new banners for Christmas and Oktoberfest. This year we developed a bookmark with Luther's Morning and Evening prayers to give out at Easter services. A wooden Christmas ornament was purchased to give out at Christmas Services.

We had two new member classes and welcomed new members and encouraged them to become active in TLC. One new member was elected to council this year. A big thanks to DK Guebard and Gary Hendricks for coordinating greeters and ushers. They are the first impressions of our church at the services! We continue to welcome prospective new members with a TLC mug. We also continued our presence at the Garden Ridge National Night Out.

We started the process of reactivating the Stephen Ministry at TLC. Rose-Marie Smith and Pastor Aaron became trained leaders and have started the program to assist TLC members and members of the community who need assistance during a period of need in their lives.

Discipleship

By Leon Henk

First, I'd like to say I've enjoyed being on council with a great group of people for the last two years. The whole experience I can say was very eye opening and really gave me a real respect for the people that sit on council in the various positions and help run our church and serve the congregation. I'd also like to thank everyone that helped me with discipleship.

We started out the year looking towards VBS which sounds kind of crazy when it's not till June but it definitely takes time to get everything set up. Melanie Lleverino headed up VBS and with lots of help did an amazing job. The biggest change though was we had it at night this year, which we had a few hiccups we need to tweak, but overall went really well, over 60 kids.

We then began looking forward to the Sunday School year, have a great group of teachers, but only a small group of children, just wish we had more of the children show up, a problem we're having a hard time finding a solution to.

We finished the year with the Christmas program that was a big hit. Over 65 TLC members of all ages participated in some way. Melanie Lleverino coordinated the program again this year and had lots of help from the congregation's adults and children.

Hope you all had a great year and an amazing one to come. Thanks again everyone.

Early Childhood Programs

By Dennis Feuge

The Early Childhood Ministry of Triumphant Lutheran Church continues to thrive. Our great reputation in the community continues to be a tremendous asset and also helps foster a steady influx of children to receive the basics of early school learning and to hear the teachings and word of God.

2018 continued the several year trend of having the honor and trust of parents to prepare for the next step and care for:

- A bit over 90 of their children ages 3-4-5 for the Preschool, offering programs two days per week, three days per week, and five days per week.
- A bit over 70 of their children ages 6 weeks – 4 years, offering a two day per week program on Monday and Wednesday each week.

While we do some minimal advertising, most of these children continue to arrive via word of mouth out in the community. Academically, our parents continue to send word about how well our graduates do immediately in their new schools. Also, we hear that our students understand school manners very well, a quality that kindergarten and 1st grade teachers highly value.

As well, both our Preschool and Mother's Day Out are solid contributors to the financial position of the church. These programs are both wonderful ministries and centers of excellence in Triumphant Lutheran Church.

Servant Outreach

By Mary Gandolfo

The Servant Outreach team was able to support many local and global programs throughout the year. The programs listed below are some of the ones we supported:

Randolph Area Christian Assistance Program (RACAP): This program is supported throughout the year with our monthly food drives for the RACAP Food Pantry. In August, we were able to support the RACAP Back-to-School Shoe and School Supplies Program. Through this program, children in need received a one-time-use gift card from Payless Shoes as well as a bag of basic school supplies. Our monetary donations helped provide shoes, and members of our congregation also donated many bags of school supplies. In November, we were able to provide over 50 boxes of canned goods for the RACAP Thanksgiving Meal Baskets. A cash donation was given along with the boxes of canned goods to help cover the purchase of the perishable items.

Operation Backpack Meal Program: We were able to support the local community with this program which provides meals for children in school over the weekends. This program helped many students during the 2017-2018 school year.

Lenten Good Gifts: This program was new this year and very successful. A giving tree was located in the narthex, and members of our congregation were able to select items to purchase through a monetary donation to the ELCA. All donated funds went toward supporting needs such as feeding the hungry and providing livestock for people in our global community.

College Student Care Packages: This was a great opportunity to help the youth in our congregation. More than 20 finals survival kits were sent to our college students which included gift cards, snacks, mugs from our church, and handmade cards from our Sunday school students.

Water to Thrive: This is a program where we collected funds which were used to help provide wells to communities in need of fresh water in rural Africa. Our Vacation Bible School participants also contributed to this collection by bringing in donations of coins. We were able to raise over \$500 for this program.

God's Work Our Hands: This was a very fun, busy day! Cookies were made and delivered to local police and fire departments, fleece blankets were made and health kits were assembled for Lutheran World Relief, handmade cards were created and sent to troops and homebound members, kindness rocks were painted and decorated to spread cheer to our community, painting was done in the TruLight 127's new building, and the chairs were cleaned for the fellowship hall. Participants of all ages made this day a great success!

TruLight 127 Angel Tree: We supported this ministry with gifts and funds for families in need in our community. Families received gift cards as well as family gift bags which included family movies, games, books, and gingerbread house kits.

With the continued support of our wonderful congregation, we look forward to another great year of serving others in 2019!

Resources and Property

By Jackie Mitchell

Property and Resources is responsible for TLC facilities, furniture, fixtures, equipment, and maintenance of same, securing building supplies, coordinating equipment repairs and replacement, grounds maintenance, custodial service and general support for the Mother's Day Out program as well as the Preschool.

A major change occurred during 2018 as a new Sexton was hired to replace Sam Dennis who retired. Frank Fogg joined the team on April 23rd. and began the task of review and repair of equipment needing attention as well as monitoring the results of the cleaning company to insure that the facilities are as clean as possible per contract.

Major accomplishments during 2018 include entering into a maintenance contract for the 20 AC Units and 9 furnaces, trimming of tree limbs off the roof to prevent roof damage, recycling of old electronics equipment, replaced 5 ton AC unit in MDO that had failed, repair of fencing in various places around the property, floor waxing and buffing in the Preschool, review and repair of the sprinkler system, and yard maintenance by TLC volunteers.

The day to day job of maintaining the property is handled by the Sexton which includes a gradual conversion to LED lights across the facilities, filters changed as needed in certain sections of the facility or quarterly in others, established monthly maintenance of the coolers and freezer, as well as responding to needs of MDO and Preschool and users of Heimer Hall.

Stewardship

By John Schultz

During 2018, the stewardship efforts included presentations to the congregation during services as well as monthly articles in the Trumpet newsletter and weekly bulletin quotes. The articles included material from the Inspiring Stewardship program. The focus of the program was on viewing stewardship as service to our community and less on stewardship as a financial offering. This focus aligned with our mission statement emphasizing service to others. There was a survey taken in January to see what stewardship meant to the congregation with most thinking only of financial needs. A skit entitled "A Talk with God" was presented in October, stressing the need for increasing your tithing.

Ministry Support

By Mike McDonald

The Ministry Support Team is responsible for maintaining the ongoing functions of the church including finances, staff support and technology. In 2018, this was accomplished through the Finance team, Automation team and other business-related functions.

- The Finance team is responsible for all financial aspects of church operations including, but not limited to, budgets, insurance, debt, and contracts.
- The Automation team is responsible for supporting the information technology systems of the church.

FINANCE TEAM:

- Met each month to review financial results of Triumphant
- Worked with Ministry Team leaders to create 2019 Budget
- Reviewed Deacon compensation package
- Reviewed capital improvement expenditures
- Reviewed bank balances and transferred funds as needed to insure all church funds are covered by FDIC insurance limits

IT/AUTOMATION TEAM:

- Analyzed current IT infrastructure and upgraded several church computers
- Maintained software and hardware
- Provided support for TLC Staff as needed

PERSONNEL:

- Worked with Deacon on new compensation package
- Worked with Deacon on job description for new Youth Ministry CSS

OTHER NEEDS:

- Reviewed Liability and Workers Compensation Insurance renewals
- Reviewed contracts as needed
- Handled Administration and HR issues as needed

Congregational Life

The Congregation Life Team is responsible for coordinating fellowship events for the congregation of Triumphant Lutheran Church.

We have dedicated volunteers who assist with the following tasks and events that occur throughout the year:

- Sunday morning coffee and refreshments
- Clean-up after Sunday morning refreshments
- New Member Class luncheons
- Funeral receptions
- Cakes for Baptisms, New Members, Graduates, and Confirmands
- Maintain coffee supplies and fellowship hall supplies
- Schedule, furnish, and prepare Wednesday Nite Live meals
- Clean up after special events

We also celebrated many special occasions in 2018 including the following:

- February - Western Weekend, Lenten Meals
- March - Lenten Meals
- April – Fiesta Weekend, Barn Dance and Spaghetti Dinner
- May – Memorial Day Picnic
- June – Missionary visit and Potluck
- October – Oktoberfest
- November – Congregational Meeting and Potluck
- December – Cantata, Christmas Pageant, and Chili Cookoff

It takes many volunteers to put on all of these events and we want to thank everyone who helped this year. We are always looking for volunteers so let us know if you would like to join our team.

Congregational Meeting Minutes

Annual Congregational Meeting – November 18, 2018

Triumphant Lutheran Church

Quorum: 364 Voting Members -- 89 Voting Members Signed In



President Brian Krauss called the Annual Meeting to Order at 12:41pm

First Item on Agenda:

Dennis Feuge (Finance Chairman) briefed the congregation on the proposed 2019 budget and answered questions from the floor.

Motion to accept budget made by Jim Moreland, seconded by Doug Hammerstrom. No further discussion.

Vote was unanimous, 89 – 0 to approve 2019 budget.

Second Item on Agenda:

Brian Krauss presented the slate of officers for 2019 Church Council. There were no additions from the congregation to the ballot.

Voting results (attached) : 2019 Church Council

President - Dennis Feuge	Ministry Support – Jerry Guebard
V.P. – John Gallo	Property & Resources – Jackie Mitchell
Secretary – Brian Krauss	ECP – Marilyn Winters
Treasurer – Tom O’Berg	Evangelism – Nancy Molter
Fin Secretary – Marty Dumpys	Stewardship – John Schultz
Discipleship – Aaron Theilengerdes	Servant Outreach – Amy Coronado
Worship & Music – Ken Smith	Congregational Life – Renay Boyes

Motion to Adjourn made by Doyle Krauss, seconded by Tom O’Berg.

Vote unanimous...Meeting adjourned at 1:09pm

Jerry Guebard

Council Secretary, Triumphant Lutheran Church

Congregational Meeting November 18, 2018

Subject: Call Deacon Chris St. Clair to Ministry of Word and Service at Triumphant Lutheran Church

Meeting called to order by President Brian Krauss

Quorum was in attendance:

364 eligible voters -- 89 voters in attendance

Synod Representatives: John and Patti Kassel

President Krauss reviewed the process and how Pastor Aaron Richter and Deacon St. Clair had formed the basis for the Call.

President Krauss then reviewed the slide presentation and went into detail on the four areas of concentration for Deacon St. Clair.

Questions were invited.

Motion made by Jerry Guebard, seconded by Cody Whitaker to Call Deacon St. Clair to Triumphant.

Congregational vote: 86 For -- 1 Against

Second Part of this meeting: Compensation Package

President Brian Krauss presented the compensation package. One question about size of increase...answered at \$12K+

Motion made by Mickey Sanders, seconded by Paula Salazar to accept package

Congregational vote: 86 For -- 1 Against

Motion to Close this congregational meeting made by Jackie Mitchell, seconded by Rob Crow. Meeting Adjourned at 12:40pm

Jerry Guebard,

Council Secretary, Triumphant Lutheran Church

Profit Loss Budget Performance - 2018

	Jan - Dec 18 Actual	Annual Budget
Ordinary Income/Expense		
Income		
Events	1,256.50	4,596.00
Interest/Credits	3,720.06	1,380.00
MDO Income	83,086.47	95,436.00
Other	13.75	
Preschool Income	189,528.11	216,541.00
Re-input Leadership Reserve	0.00	48,000.00
Weekly Offering	379,142.68	375,718.00
Total Income	656,747.57	741,671.00
Expense		
Administration & Finance	33,395.82	37,574.00
Budgeted Reserves	0.00	0.00
Congregational Life	5,046.41	8,280.00
Council	9,561.54	17,900.00
Discipleship	23,486.54	28,760.00
Evangelism	5,835.86	8,595.00
MDO Expense	51,386.57	60,599.00
Non-Budgeted Reserve	0.00	15,868.00
Payroll Expenses	306,996.34	309,135.00
Preschool Expense	134,542.12	157,768.00
Property/Building	67,547.92	71,120.00
Servant Outreach	23,587.40	24,368.00
Stewardship	1,408.19	2,070.00
Worship & Music	8,678.21	8,784.00
Total Expense	671,472.92	750,821.00
Net Ordinary Income	-14,725.35	-9,150.00
Other Income/Expense		
Other Income		
Building Fund	99,269.66	91,104.00
Designated & Other Income	39,661.41	9,150.00
Oktoberfest-Non.Budgeted Income	12,459.79	
Total Other Income	151,390.86	100,254.00
Other Expense		
Accelerated Debt Reduction	18,195.86	
Debt Service	81,189.35	91,104.00
Designated & Other Expenses	37,037.63	
Total Other Expense	136,422.84	91,104.00
Net Other Income	14,968.02	9,150.00
TOTAL NET INCOME	242.67	0.00

Beginning and Ending Balance Sheets - 2018

	Jan. 1, 2018	Dec. 31, 2018	Balance Sheet Notes
FINANCIAL ASSETS			
Checking/Savings			
First United Bank & Trust - Money Market	307,194.65	196,971.00	
First United Bank & Trust - General Checking	46,252.50	29,059.94	
Thrivent FCU	200,889.62	203,042.58	
RBFCU	0.00	75,396.22	
USAA Investment Acct	755.24	1,005.73	
Total Checking/Savings	555,092.01	505,475.47	
Other Financial Assets			
TOTAL FINANCIAL ASSETS	555,092.01	505,475.47	(1) (1) TOTAL FINANCIAL ASSETS remain solid at slightly over half a million dollars. While there was a reduction from the beginning of the year, the majority of this (almost \$30K) is a success story due to some wonderful 4th QTR 2017 Bldg Fund gifts which were used to pay ahead on our mortgage in Jan 2018. There were also some necessary larger facility maintenance items paid for from our two Capital Fund Reserves. Details follow.
RESERVES and GENERAL OPERATING FUND			
Designated Reserves			
Decig. Reserves-Bldgs/Facil Capital Imprvs.	118,244.83	116,744.83	(2) (2) A \$1,500 final payment on roof and rain repair.
Decig. Reserves-Bldgs/Facil Youth Center	21,739.86	21,739.86	
Decig. Reserves-Bldgs/Facil Bldg Fund Stand Res.	32,500.00	32,500.00	
Decig. Reserves-Bldgs/Facil Bldg Fund Curr. Exo.	29,306.42	1,117.30	(3) (3) The beginning balance of \$29K is due to 4th Qtr. 2017 Bldg. Fund gifts, including \$25K from one donor. This \$29K was paid on the mortgage in Jan 2018. The 12/31/18 balance of \$1,117 was paid on the mortgage in Jan 2019. During 2018, we received over \$8K in excess Bldg. Fund donations, all of which was used to pay down the mortgage balance.
Decig. Reserves-Bldgs/Facil Capital Replacement	30,871.14	24,001.14	(4) (4) This reduction in reserve reflects the replacement of one of our AC units. We have several units over 20 years old, so we may have additional replacement expense in the future. We do have semi-annual maintenance performed on these units.
Decig. Reserves-PreSch/MD Preschool	10,016.94	10,533.68	
Decig. Reserves-PreSch/MD MDO	5,014.24	5,056.24	
Decig. Reserves-PR/Benefit Youth Dir Conf. Edu	617.23	443.56	
Decig. Reserves-PR/Benefit Leadership Reserve	90,411.00	90,411.00	
Decig. Reserves-PR/Benefit PIR Liabilities	10.00	0.00	
Decig. Reserves-PR/Benefit Pastor Conf. Edu.	6,819.34	7,162.18	
Decign. Reserves-Other CPS Youth	42.43	0.00	
Decign. Reserves-Other Ladies Bible Study	309.00	309.00	
Decign. Reserves-Other Young Family Ministry	3,759.97	4,704.48	
Decign. Reserves-Other Creative Blessings	905.67	919.67	
Decign. Reserves-Other Lib/WC Inc	11,594.00	11,717.00	
Decign. Reserves-Other Med. Grdnc/Columb.	6,650.64	6,637.41	
Decign. Reserves-Other Memorial Fund	6,446.70	6,511.70	
Decign. Reserves-Other SA Food Backpacks	749.61	1,469.61	
Decign. Reserves-Other Local Outreach	5,007.11	1,508.46	
Decign. Reserves-Other Estate Income	10.00	10.00	
Decign. Reserves-Other Other Holding	4,797.42	8,381.07	
TOTAL DESIGNATED RESERVES	385,823.55	351,878.13	
Holding Accts-Olderbert	7,564.30	0.00	
Holding Accts-Youth	3,590.57	4,015.75	
TOTAL HOLDING ACCOUNTS	11,154.87	4,015.75	
Total Designated Reserves AND Holding Accounts	396,978.42	355,893.94	
Non-Discretionary Standing Reserve	133,113.59	133,113.59	
General Operating Account			
2018 Opening General Operating Balance	25,000.00	25,000.00	
2018 Retained Earnings & Designated Income	0.00	-8,774.73	
2018 Profit and Loss Net Income	0.00	242.67	
Uncommitted General Operating Funds	25,000.00	16,467.94	
TOTAL OPERATING FUNDS AND RESERVES	555,092.01	505,475.47	(5) (5) Our Mortgage Balance continues to go down and we continue to pay ahead. Currently 41 payments ahead plus a 4 payment standing reserve.
* Thrivent Mortgage Loan Balance	\$ 881,186.82	\$ 790,917.99	(6) (6) 4th QTR stock market losses.
* Mildred Morgan Account Balance	\$ 27,064.84	\$ 26,553.45	



CONGREGATIONAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2018

FORM **A**

This report can be filed online. Connect to the website (www.ELCA.org/congregationreport) and enter your congregation's ID and password (printed below). If you are unable to file electronically, complete this paper form and return it to your synod office by February 15, 2019.

Latest report on file: 2017

1. Baptized Membership at end of 2017		539
2. Baptized Members received during 2018		
a. By Baptism: children (15 yrs. and younger)	3	
b. By Baptism: adults (16 yrs. and older)	0	
c. By affirmation of faith	18	
d. By transfer	20	
e. From other sources and statistical adjustment	6	
f. Total members received this year	+ 47	
3. Baptized Members removed during 2018		
a. By death	4	
b. By transfer	11	
c. For other reasons and statistical adjustment	66	
d. Total members removed this year	- 81	
4. Baptized Membership, end of 2018		505
5. Total Confirmed Membership, end of 2018	417	
6. Number of baptized youth who were confirmed in 2018	6	
7. Average weekly worship attendance in 2018	218	
8. Total number of people (including children) actively participating in the life of the congregation in 2018	774	
9. Race / ethnic origin of ACTIVE PARTICIPANTS.		

Must equal active participants on line 8:

African American/Black	African National/Caribbean	American Indian/Alaska Native	Arab/Middle Eastern	Asian/Pacific Islander	Latino/Hispanic	Multi-racial	White/Caucasian	Other	TOTAL
13	1	0	0	9	110	43	0	598	774

Congregation ID#: 16163 Online Password (2018 only): 3728490
 Synod: Southwestern Texas Synod, ELCA
 Conference: 4E05-Gbolo Creek

14. Location address describes where the church or place of worship is physically located. This may differ from the mailing address, but must identify a street name. Corrections should be made below:

Triumphant Lutheran Church
21315 Bat Cave Rd

Garden Ridge, Texas 78266-2099

Verify the following congregation information; correct as necessary.

- 16. Phone: (210) 651-9090
- 18. Fax: (210) 651-9139
- 17. Email: administrator@triumphantlutheran.org
- 18. Website: Corrections can be made [online](http://www.ELCA.org/tools/updateCongregation) (www.ELCA.org/tools/updateCongregation)

<http://www.triumphantlutheran.org>

18. Please tell us how each phrase describes this congregation:

	Hardly at all	Some-what	Very well
a. Worship nurtures people's faith.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
b. There is a clear sense of mission here.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
c. There is excitement about the future here.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
d. This congregation is a positive force in the community.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
e. This congregation is always ready to try something new.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
f. This congregation works for social justice/advocacy.	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
g. This congregation helps people deepen their relationship with God.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>

20. Please tell us how this congregation is at the following:

	Poor	Moderately good	Great
a. Building strong, healthy relationships among members.	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
b. Incorporating newcomers into the congregation's life.	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
c. Seeking out and using the gifts of members of all ages.	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
d. Equipping members to share their faith with others.	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
e. Addressing social concerns (helping those in need).	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
f. Managing disagreements in a healthy, respectful manner.	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
g. Interacting with the local community.	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
h. Helping members live out their faith in their daily lives.	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

INFORMATION ABOUT THIS CONGREGATION'S FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP
 (Please round all figures to nearest dollar. Omit cents.)

10. Receipts during 2018	
a. Regular giving	\$ 478,412
b. Designated giving	\$ 48,732
c. Earned income (any source)	\$ 279,571
d. Grants (any source)	\$ 0
e. All other receipts	\$ 1,256
f. TOTAL RECEIPTS	\$ 807,971
11. Total indebtedness as of Dec. 31, 2018	\$ 790,918
12. Budgeted/Projected 2019 Mission Support	\$ 10,800
13. Disbursements during 2018	
a. Current operating expenses	\$ 495,377
b. Capital improvements	\$ 0
c. Payments on debts	\$ 99,381
d. Mission Support (regular synod benevolence)	\$ 10,800
e. Other benevolence sent directly to the synod (for any synod OR churchwide appeal including ELCA World Hunger, Lutheran Disaster Response, Missionary Sponsorship, etc.)	\$ 5,400
f. Other benevolence sent directly to the churchwide office (for any churchwide appeal including ELCA World Hunger, Disaster Response, Missionary Sponsorship, etc.)	\$ 2,450
g. Benevolence sent directly to any of the following	
1. an activity in another country including a missionary, a congregation, a companion synod, a hunger program, disaster response, etc.	\$ 8,586
2. camps	\$ 0
3. colleges	\$ 0
4. seminaries	\$ 0
5. social service group, agency or institution	\$ 0
6. campus ministry	\$ 0
h. All other benevolence sent directly to the recipient	\$ 0
i. Other expenses and realized losses	\$ 185,928
j. TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS	\$ 807,922



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

INFORMATION ABOUT THIS CONGREGATION'S PROGRAM FOR THE YEAR ENDING 2018

Congregation ID Number: 16163
Online Password: 3728490
Synod: 4E

FORM C

- 30. Educational ministry provided by this congregation: Did this congregation have Christian education (Sunday school, Bible studies, confirmation) in 2018?
31. Languages in which this congregation regularly conducts liturgies
32. What assistance does this congregation provide to people with disabilities?
33. Does this congregation interact with Lutheran social ministry organizations?
34. Did this congregation participate in "God's work. Our hands." Sunday, the day of service?
35. Does this congregation have an endowment fund?
36. Does this congregation offer organized women's activities or ministries?
37. Does this congregation operate a weekday early childhood education center, kindergarten, and/or school?
38. How often is Holy Communion celebrated in this congregation?
39. In the past year, did the pastor, deacon, or a member of the Congregation Council encourage members/friends of this congregation to consider rostered ministry in the ELCA?
40. Is this congregation familiar with the ELCA Young Adults in Global Mission program?
41. Is this congregation considering embarking on a building project within the next two years?
42. Is this congregation considering conducting a capital campaign within the next two years?

Congregation's mailing address (corrections can be made below or emailed to congreinfo@elca.org)
Triumphant Lutheran Church
21315 Bat Cave Rd
Garden Ridge TX 78268-2099

If you do not file electronically, return Forms A and C to the synod office at:
Southwestern Texas Synod, ELCA
1090 Oestreich Dr
Sequin TX 78155-3403