



The Trumpet

*A publication of Triumphant Lutheran Church,
a congregation of the ELCA*

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"We Grow in Christ to Serve Others"

June 2020

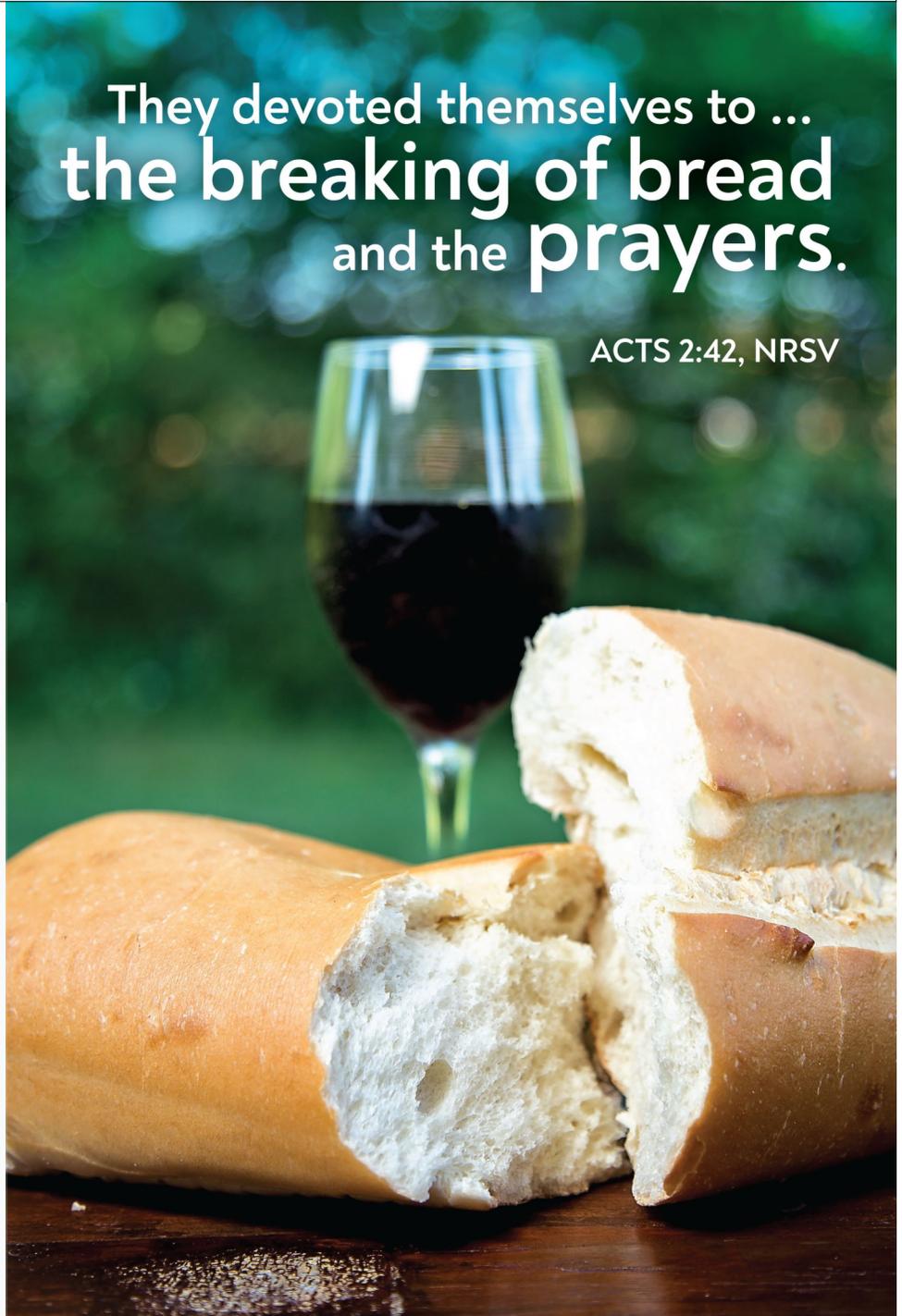
We are preparing for in-person worship to resume, possibly later this month.

Sunday Worship Services are available online. We hope you enjoy worshipping with us from the comfort of your home!

[Visit the church website for our weekly online worship and up-to-date information.](#)

They devoted themselves to ...
the breaking of bread
and the **prayers.**

ACTS 2:42, NRSV



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FROM PASTOR AARON



Greetings, people of God!

Starting May 31st, **we began celebrating communion each week in our online worship, and we will schedule a drive-thru every two weeks to hand out the communion elements.** A few people have asked me some questions about our communion practices for worshiping in our homes, so I want to take a moment to

describe and explain these practices to help make your communion experience meaningful and fulfilling.

The central element is still the same: this is the body and blood of Jesus Christ, given and shed for you.

Communion is one of two sacraments that the Lutheran church practices (quiz time: what's the other? *Answer is below), and has a central role in our worship life. In the Bible, Jesus instructs us to celebrate communion several times. The sharing of bread and wine bears the promise of Jesus' eternal life and forgiveness of sins. So every time we gather, hear the words "In the night in which he was betrayed..." and receive the body and blood of Jesus Christ, we proclaim the good news of what God is doing in the world by bringing resurrection life.

And that promise is seen most clearly in the words spoken when we receive communion. This is for you: this is the promise of God given for each and every one of us, the abundant life of Jesus Christ in bread and wine. For you!

This celebration of communion is a practice that we take in community, surrounded by the Body of Christ that worships with us. While we see part of that when we worship together, we are also brought together by the Holy Spirit with all Christians around the world when we share in this meal.

So how do we share communion now when we are separated physically? I actually think it is very similar to our regular practice in-person. When we come forward to the altar to receive the body and blood of Jesus Christ in the bread and wine, it is handed to each of us individually, and we share the meal together. In much the same way, the drive-thru communion kits will come from our Altar to be shared with you in your homes. Now our altar rail has just gotten a whole lot bigger, stretching from Garden Ridge to San Antonio to New Braunfels and everywhere in between!

But the central element of communion is still the same: this is the body and blood of Jesus Christ, given and shed for you. And no matter how we gather, whether all together or in our homes around the area, that promise is always there. It's always for you.

May God's life-giving gift of grace bless and sustain you!

Peace,

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Pastor Aaron Richter

* Baptism



President's Perspective:

By Dennis Feuge, President

(210) 365-3184

dmfeuge47@gmail.com

Safety & Resuming In-Person Activities

Your church leadership has been meeting every week or two via Zoom. We have educated ourselves and discussed the factors surrounding resuming in-person worship. We are paying very specific attention to the Covid-19 data. We have also listened to you, our congregation, very closely. The overall sentiment is clear. Summarized, almost everybody would “like” to return to in-person activities, especially worship services, but the overall sentiment is concern over safety. Safety for those most potentially compromised (over 65 and/or those with underlying health conditions), safety for our children, and safety for our staff and worship leaders. Until safety can be reasonably assured, the majority of you do not plan to attend in-person services. We hear you and we agree.

Our congregation is also not hurting for the means to worship. Thanks to Pastor Aaron and Deacon Chris and their very talented supporting group of musical, sound, and choreographing virtuosos, we have the ability to worship online from our places of safety. It is not in-person church, but it is certainly great church. By instituting online worship, they have given us a new capability that will continue even after we meet in-person again. Everybody really lauds and speaks extremely highly of this effort. A Big Thank You!

Above, I mentioned that we are paying close attention to the data. As of this writing (May 23), the data is not yet favorable. Note the following: Neither the number of local new cases per day nor the number of active cases (*total cases, less those that have recovered or died*) are as yet showing the downward trend that we need to see. More the opposite, a Texas A&M epidemiologist's article states that while Texas data continue to fluctuate, it does not appear that we have reached a crest and are coming down the other side. Further, a Washington Post article shows Texas to be at the top of the list of the 24 states still deemed to have uncontrolled coronavirus spread as a state.

Council Decision: Your leadership has agreed to respect the current data showing, as yet, no relief (or at least a 14- day downward trend) and also the current sentiment of the congregation regarding the need for a very healthy abundance of safety. Therefore, there will likely (sometimes things change) be no in-person worship services or activities until sometime in the second half of June at the earliest. The current leadership sentiment is also that we may well start with outside worship of some kind, again as a safety precaution. From there, we may transition initially to the Fellowship Hall (our largest indoor space for safe distancing), depending on a number of factors. You may be able to tell from the wording here that we are preparing for multiple outcomes.

While attending in-person worship:

- **Masks will be required.** To be blunt, if you do not wish to wear a mask for the sake of your fellow parishioners, or are too ill to get through a service wearing a face covering, please stay home and enjoy worship services as they are now being presented.
- **If you know you are ill** in any way, again, please stay home. In any case, we may well be making touchless temperature checks and asking how you feel.
- There will be **hand sanitizing stations** at the entries to the services, and **hand sanitizing soap** in the bathrooms. Please use them.
- There will be **safe-distancing between rows of chairs.** Same household families may sit on the same row together, but otherwise sit at least two chairs from the nearest person.

In closing, this is not exactly a fun time, but all is hardly lost. Together, we will continue taking care of each other and staying connected, and together we will come out of this stronger as a body of Christ serving in this time and place. 'Til then: Be Well, Be Safe, and yes, let's all look out for each other.

Council News

The Church Council is meeting via conference call on a regular basis to assess the current health situation and make decisions for the upcoming weeks. Be sure to check our [website](#) and [facebook page](#) for current information.

Each week, the [worship services will be available online](#). You can find the links to these services on our website as well. We hope you join us in worshipping the Lord — online! — as we all make our way through this time of “social distancing.”

We look forward to being able to gather together in person again!



Early Childhood Programs
Marilyn Winters

We look forward to returning to serve our ECP families and our community. For updates, please check the [church website](#).

Preschool's spring session ended on May 20 with a drive-thru graduation for the kids starting Kindergarten in the fall. Preschool has two camps scheduled in July:

- **All About Pets on July 13 - 17**
- **The Rainforest on July 20 - 24**

For more details, please [send an email to Kristin Miller, Preschool Director](#).

Mother's Day Out remains closed through the month of June. We hope to open the summer session in July.

Preschool and Mother's Day Out registration is open. Registration instructions and forms are available on our website. [Click here for Preschool registration](#). [Click here for MDO registration](#). Registration will continue until all classes are full. If you have any questions, please send an email to [Preschool Director Kristin Miller](#) or [MDO Director Vernell Theilengerdes](#).

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Servant Outreach
Amy Coronado

Ways You Can Serve

We hope you are enjoying the ideas for serving others during this time and that you have been able to find just the perfect ones to suit you! Please continue to check our [Facebook page](#) on Tuesdays and Saturdays for new suggestions of ways to serve others. You may also check the [weekly announcements](#) for these ideas.

Resources for Women Baby Bottle Campaign

Thank you so much for your generous contributions to the Baby Bottle Campaign. With your support, we are able to help this Christ-centered ministry as they help many women and families. If you haven't turned in your baby bottle, you may do so at the next “Communion Element Pick Up” event. Watch your email for a SignUp Genius so you can participate in communion with the rest of your church family.



Ministry Support
Jerry Guebard

I would like to say a big “Thank You” to all of you who have continued to financially support TLC during these difficult times. In addition, I want to remind everyone about the [Triumphant Lutheran Cares Fund](#). We know some of our TLC families that have been negatively affected by the current economic environment, and we want to support them. If you would like to help some TLC families, please consider donating to the fund, perhaps all or part of your government stimulus check. See page 6 for more information.

In addition, the Ministry Support Team will be working on developing a Sabbatical policy for our rostered staff. We hope to have this ready for our congregational meeting in November.

Stay safe — enjoy the summer — and I hope to see everyone very soon.

Council News



Ken Smith

Worship and Music



Cody Whitaker

Property and Resources

The Property and Resource team has completed the following during May:

- Reset Sanctuary chairs after carpet cleaning
- New LED lights installed
- Installed additional exterior lights at Education B entrance
- Located water line leak
- Obtained estimate for parking lot sealing, crack repairs, and failed asphalt
- Approved Vallance Security to install new alarm system



Aaron Theilengerdes

Discipleship



Nancy Molter

Evangelism



Jessica Anderson

Stewardship



Becky Sonnen

Congregational Life

Council Executive Board



Dennis Feuge

President



John Gallo

Vice President



Brian Krauss

Secretary



Doug Hammerstrom

Financial Secretary



Jim Moreland

Treasurer

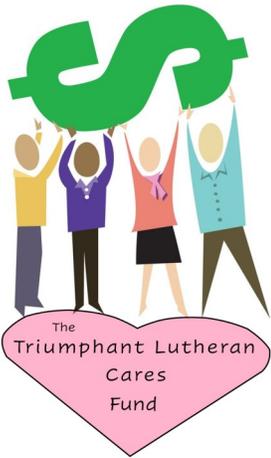
**Note the Deadline for the
July 2020 Trumpet**

**Monday
June 22, 2020**

Send Submissions to:

newsletter@triumphatlutheran.org

Church Life Updates



The [Triumphant Lutheran Cares Fund](#) has been established to help TLC members in need due to the extraordinary circumstances of the COVID-19 economic situation. Anyone may donate as they feel called, whether from a stimulus check or other resources. Funds will then be shared with TLC members in need. To donate to this fund, please include "Triumphant Lutheran Cares Fund" in the

memo of your check or online giving method. To get financial help from this fund, please call Pastor Aaron at (210)816-4038 or [send him an email](#).

new PLANS

2020 Senior High Mission Trip

Deacon Chris continues to search for ways for the Senior High youth to experience this summer's mission trip. Due to the pandemic, YouthWorks had to cancel mission trips to Blackfoot Nation in northern Montana and to the alternate location of Waco. Deacon Chris is exploring options of having a youth mission day (or days!) of serving those in our local community. More on this development in the near future!

2020 Youth Summer Camp

The Bad News: The Triumphant group summer camp sessions at Camp Chrysalis have been cancelled.

The Good News: Individuals who wish to attend camp STILL CAN! [Email Deacon Chris for details.](#)

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**Take control of your money
with
Financial Peace University!**

This nine-lesson course uses biblical wisdom and common sense to help you tackle budgeting, pay off debt, and make your money work for you! FPU includes a year of free online resources through Financial Peace Membership. Join today!

Our next course begins on Sunday, June 21. It will be held on Sundays from 4pm — 5:30pm in the Fellowship Hall, where there is plenty of room for everyone to spread out.

[Click here to register or get details.](#)



Vacation Bible School

July 26 - 30, 2020
5:15pm - 8:00pm
Dinner is included

The Quest for the King's Armor invites kids to be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his power by exploring how we put on the armor of God.

Kids will take on the role of brave knights and begin their quest each session by opening the King's Book. They will discover different pieces of protective armor:

- the Belt of Truth
- the Breastplate of Justice
- the Shoes of Peace
- the Shield of Faith
- the Helmet of Salvation

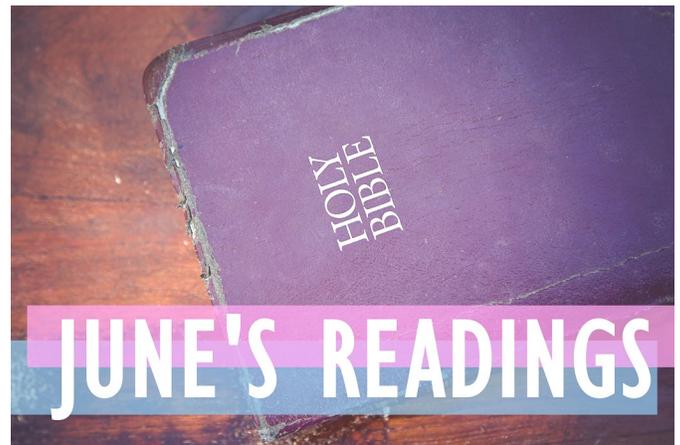


They will learn how God's protective armor is at work in the lives of familiar Bible characters, and explore how that armor works in their own lives as they follow and serve God.

[Registration is online-only on the church website.](#) No payment is due at registration. More information on payment (\$10 per child) will be available at a later date.

Volunteers Needed:

We're searching for knights who are adults or older youth (14 and up) interested in volunteering. There are needs to fit any skill — such as decorating, assisting with a class, cooking meals, and helping prepare materials behind the scenes. [Send an email to Lois Glazener](#) if you're interested in joining our quest as a volunteer. You are needed!



June 7: Acts 2:42 - 47
Psalm 23
2 Corinthians 13:11 - 13
Matthew 28:16 - 20

Today is Holy Trinity Sunday, the first Sunday after Pentecost. We celebrate the Holy Trinity of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. We worship God and give thanks for all the Trinity has done to save us from our sins.

June 14: Exodus 19:2 - 8a
Psalm 100
Romans 5:1 - 8
Matthew 9:35 - 10:23

June 21: Jeremiah 20:7 - 13
Psalm 69:7 - 18
Romans 6:1b - 11
Matthew 10:24 - 39

June 28: Jeremiah 28:5 - 9
Psalm 89:1 - 4, 15 - 18
Romans 6:12 - 23
Matthew 10:40 - 42

Seeing 2020

By Rose-Marie Smith

As this virus continues, millions of lives have encountered major disruption, and so many questions remain unanswered. As believers, we are called not to be anxious while we take the necessary and proper precautions. We rest in the hope and peace of our sovereign Lord. We must trust Him as we navigate our lives and families through these challenging times. The Lord is our ultimate source of comfort and guidance. In that intimate relationship, we can claim victory, hope, and freedom apart from our circumstances. What a great time this is to stand on the promises of God.

Jesus tells us to be thankful in all circumstances, not just when things are going our way.

I've learned that self-pity in these circumstances should be avoided. Self-pity is an attitude, mindset, or habit we can slip into when we're sad, lonely, or bored. In this time of social distancing and forced separation from loved ones and activities, it's easy to slide into self-pity. Poor me, I'm not allowed to go anywhere. Poor me, I'm worried about getting sick. Poor me, I'm worried about running out of toilet paper. *(Insert your worry here.)* The problem with this thinking is that it leads to bitterness, which produces anger, fear, selfishness, and despair. Our eyes are taken off Christ and put upon ourselves and our situation. We are hindered from reaching out to care for others and acting from a servant's heart. This blinds us from the truths of His promises such as: He'll

never leave or forsake us; He's working all these hard things out for our good and His purposes; He's in charge of life, death, viruses, and the entire universe.

In these times, where is your hope? Think about it for a minute. What does the other side of the virus' peak look like? Is it in school resuming? Is it vacations this summer? Is it the ability to return to work? Our true hope is in the person and promises of Jesus. In [1 Thessalonians 5:18](#), Jesus tells us to be thankful in all circumstances, not just when things are going our way. However, self-pity stops us from gratitude. It is hard to be thankful and self-pitying at the same time. There is always something to be thankful for, but we must strive to find the good in daily blessings.

A friend recently told me that 20/20 is considered perfect vision. Maybe God is using 2020 for us to clearly see that HE is in control and the only one who can help us. I think He has the world's attention. He is opening eyes and pointing all to the salvation for a starving world – Jesus Christ.

Be vigilant and intentional about what you're thinking about. Pray and ask Jesus to make you aware whenever you're slipping into negative thinking -- to transform your thoughts. Train yourself to notice daily the things that you're grateful for – no matter how small or mundane. (Take your thoughts captive – see [2 Corinthians 10:5](#).)

To paraphrase T.D. Jakes, "In the hardships, don't let the voice of God be drowned out."

Our Missionaries

Triumphant sponsors missionaries around the world. Currently, our missionaries are Rev. Kim Crawford and Rev. Henry Martinez of Young Adults for Global Mission (YAGM).

Deacon Chris interviewed Pastors Henry and Kim about their own story and the work they do spreading the Good News about God's love.

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[Click here to watch the interview and learn more about our missionaries.](#)

The Good Steward

By Mary Gandolfo

Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters. — Genesis 1:2 NIV

Have you ever been in a place where you felt like everything was going crazy? Wait a minute, I just described our last couple of months! I read a devotion recently about the natural kingdom and how animals reacted to the total eclipse of the sun — things were completely out of whack for them! The birds described by the writer seemed to be thrown off their regular schedule and, as a result, sort of went into a bird panic. Once the sun came out, their world was back to right and they settled down. That reading has really stuck with me and it got me thinking — you shouldn't be surprised by that!



"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." — Jeremiah 29:11 NIV

We are just like those birds, our schedules — our regular lives — have been completely knocked out of whack! Seemingly simple things like going out the front door, getting in the car, going to the grocery store, visiting with a neighbor, and going to church have sent us into a sort of bird panic! Should I go? Do I really need that toilet paper? Simple daily decisions have been called into question. What do we do next? As most of you know by now, I turn to my sewing machine and seek out my "normal" there. That is where the sun comes out for me. BUT, as I was putting a border on my latest quilt, I thought about the sun — and then thought about the SON.

Ironically, my daily reading recently told me this: "Your purpose as a twentieth century apostle is the purpose of any century: to bear witness to the Light. From beginning to end, the true Hero of Scriptures is not men; it is God." (Martin Luther Koehneke from *My Sons and Daughters in Christ*.) I have tried to change my focus away from the chaos and onto the Light, to release my bird panic and live in the now of Jesus the Christ.

*Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and **do not be afraid**.* — John 14:27 NIV (emphasis mine)

The Good Steward is, and always will be, pulled from all sides to conform to something. When we let the Son rise on us, there is no eclipse that can knock us out of whack. Just as the birds settled back into life, so we settle back into the peace that comes from our Savior and Lord, Jesus the Christ. We have nothing to fear because we have someone in our corner that has seen it all. He is ready, willing, and able to join us in our struggles and bring us through to the other side. Join me as I learn daily to walk in peace and to not fear my future!

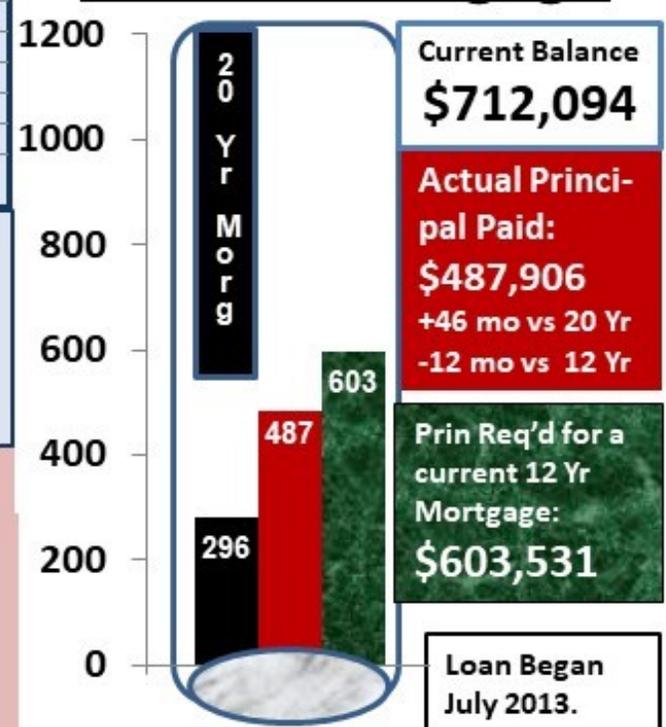
April 2020 Financials

KEY POINTS:

- ✦ **Bottom Line:** **Total Net Income** for **April** was \$4,376. **Total Net Income YTD** is -\$25,309, a slight improvement over last month. See Financial Summary at the bottom of this page.
- ✦ **General Offering:** Weekly Offering through **April** was -\$24K. Much of the remaining shortfall was ECP Income, closed since mid-March due to the 10 person limit on gatherings.
- ✦ **Building Fund:** **Bldg Fund Income** through **April** was \$25.9K, about -\$1,100 short/mo of our mortgage requirement. The Bldg Fund Standing Reserve was used to ensure on-time mortgage payments. Counting our reserve, we are 46 months ahead on our 20-Yr Mortgage. That's \$162K in interest saved to date. FYI, our 12-Yr Payoff Goal would save \$266K in interest. See the larger mortgage chart.
- ✦ **Going Forward:** We are not in trouble financially. We have strong reserves. We have also secured a PPP loan which has minimized use of reserves so far. We encourage all members to again begin giving at their prior rate before current events began, insofar as current circumstances allow. We also encourage the use of automatic payment plans for ease in giving.



\$1.2M Mortgage



APRIL 2020 Month End Financial Summary

	NET INCOME		ANNUAL BUDGET	
	April**	Year To Date**		
Includes \$32,890.98 from PPP				
Operating Income	\$59,388	\$206,366	Operating Income	\$743,175
Operating Expenses	\$54,983	\$237,718	Bldg Fund Income	\$91,104
Net Operating Income	\$4,405	(\$31,352)	Other Income	\$7,950
Bldg & Designated Income	\$9,794	\$46,973	TOTAL INCOME	\$842,229
Bldg & Designated Expenses	\$9,823	\$40,931	Operating Expenses	\$765,175
Net Designated Income	(\$29)	\$6,042	Debt Service	\$91,104
TOTAL NET INCOME	\$4,376	(\$25,309)	TOTAL EXPENSES	\$842,229

June Anniversaries & Birthdays

- 1 Ron & Judy Pratt
- 1 Bill & Marilyn Winters
- 2 Donald & Mellissa Zipp
- 3 Andrew & Jennifer Feutz
- 4 Melinda Cruz-Balderas & Jim Balderas
- 4 Bill & Judie Waechter
- 6 Dorothy & Charles Mire
- 6 Aaron & Vernell Theilengerdes
- 7 Bob & Janice Pfothenauer
- 8 David & Beth Abraham
- 8 Caleb & Alex Geleske
- 9 Rodney & Corina Leachman
- 13 Joyce & Jerry Cox
- 20 Amy & Danny Coronado
- 21 Rick & Lisa Andersen
- 21 Skip & Karen Courter
- 21 Dennis & Mary Feuge
- 23 Bill & Kathy Cuddy
- 23 Lars & Mary Langenes
- 27 Tim & Sheila Fetter
- 27 Chris & Silke Williams
- 30 Charles & Amy Beierle



- 2 Landon Theilengerdes
- 4 Brian Krauss
- 6 Will Denton, Ron Glazener, Raymond Pape, Adam Richter, Caryn Skaggs, Cody Whitaker
- 7 Jaycee Feutz, Hannelore Kestler, Jo Ann Mattison
- 8 Mary Ellen Cavitt, Cheryl Cox
- 9 Jessica Anderson, Terry Frost, Jason Henderson
- 14 Shelley Wilcox
- 15 Gryphon Skaggs, Chris St.Clair, Dave Titus
- 16 Eugene Huhndorf, Kenneth Weber
- 17 Rose Huhndorf
- 19 Lisa Gallo, Sebastian Lleverino, Charles Snyder
- 20 Wesley Wade, Josh Weinhardt
- 22 John Schultz, Alex Webster
- 25 Emily Gonzales, Micah Haug
- 27 Tristan Arvidson, Helen Pratt
- 28 Sandra Royston
- 30 Tammy Pope



With Sympathy

Tim Reilly (Friend of the Krausses) **+4-23-20**

Darryl Surman (Friend of the Baumanns)
+4-23-2020

Charles Briggs (Grandfather of Jennifer Spreen) **+5-3-2020**

Carl W. Campbell (Father of Carla Wagner)
+5-7-2020

Rod Leachman, Sr. (Father of Rod Leachman) **+5-10-2020**

Loraine Hilbrich (Mother of Brenda Albrecht)
+5-21-2020

We Grow in Christ to Serve Others.



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Triumphant Lutheran Worship Services

[Click here for online worship on YouTube.](#)

[Facebook Premiere Worship](#): Sundays at 8:30am
[Facebook Premiere Worship](#): Sundays at 11:00am

[Preschool](#): Temporarily Closed due to COVID-19
[MDO](#): Temporarily Closed due to COVID-19

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