

The Trumpet

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

Vol. 42, Issue 5

"We Grow in Christ to Serve Others"

May 2021

Worship Opportunities

- In person on Sundays at 9am & 11am in the Sanctuary
- Pre-recorded services on [Facebook](#) and [YouTube](#)
- [Live Stream](#) services online each Sunday at 9am



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And they were all filled with the

HOLY SPIRIT.

ACTS 2:4

Pentecost

May 23, 2021



Pastor Aaron's Message

Greetings, people of God!

In the midst of all the celebrations and gatherings (both online and in person this year) that happen in the month of May, there are two festivals that we celebrate in the church that have an incredible impact on our faith: *Ascension and Pentecost*.

Of the two, we hear more about Pentecost, but these two are connected to one another. Both take place in the first two chapters of the book of Acts, and they tell the story of how the followers of Jesus begin spreading the good news after the resurrection. At the Ascension (Acts 1), Jesus tells his followers that they will be given the power of the Holy Spirit and called to be witnesses in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and to the ends of the earth. And then Jesus ascends right in front of them, until he disappears behind a cloud. I always wonder how those disciples must feel: they lost Jesus to death on Good Friday, grieved his absence, and were reunited with him on Easter. And now, Jesus is not there. They are alone by themselves again, and now have to figure out how they are going to accomplish what Jesus asked them to do. How can they share their witness in Jerusalem, let alone to the ends of the earth?

But the story continues ten days later, as they sit in the room where Jesus first reappeared to them, with the sound and fury of a great wind and tongues of fire! And all are filled with the Holy Spirit and given the gift to speak in a variety of languages. This is the remarkable gift: they aren't alone! God's presence that moved over the waters at creation is now with them. The rest of the book of Acts and the New Testament tells the remarkable story of how the good news of Jesus is shared all throughout the world. It's not easy, and it can certainly be messy and painful. But it is this incredible cooperative work of the Holy Spirit and the disciples that started the Church, the gathering of God's people, that we find ourselves a part of now!



I love how these two stories complement each other. They move the message of God's grace and love in Jesus Christ from a small group of people in a small corner of the world as they begin to share it. They answer big questions for us today, such as: "Where is God?", "Are we alone?", and "How can we possibly be a part of what God is doing in the world?" The risen Jesus has ascended, but the Holy Spirit's presence is with us all the days of our lives. Working with the Holy Spirit, we can share the love, grace, and life of our crucified and risen Savior with the whole world.

So let us celebrate the ascended Jesus who gives us the Holy Spirit! With that wind pushing us and that fire inspiring us, what amazing things we can do!

2

Peace, Pastor Aaron

Greetings Members of Triumphant!

I hope this Easter Season has brought joy and hope to all of you and your families. It surely did for me, seeing the great work that was done by so many volunteers to bring the message of the Resurrection to those at home and our in-person services. The strong number of people who joined us in person and online reminds me how we all continue to recover from the challenges of the pandemic.

We will continue to grow our worship services, offerings for spiritual growth, and opportunities for fellowship throughout the remainder of the year. I hope you find a ministry team to join or help with the many ways our church is working in the community, so continue to be on the lookout for those opportunities. I have had members ask about our Saturday service and if it will return. The answer is that we will offer a third service, and we plan to reach out to those who have participated in this service in the past to gauge their interest and obtain feedback to help determine its format in the future. This service is vital to the health of our church, as it has traditionally supported around 15% of our congregation. The Council is also working on a congregational survey. We encourage everyone to participate so that we can have a good pulse on the future needs of the congregation and understand how to grow from the lessons of this past year. We will also be reaching out to everyone just to check in and answer any questions, so be on the look out over the next few months as we roll out these initiatives.

The Preschool repairs are almost completed, and we hope to have them done by May 1. The water damage repairs have turned out to be a great opportunity to make improvements, and is a reminder that out of adversity there is always hope.

With everything going on and as we move toward the summer, I am feeling a sense of renewal in our church. Renewal is a constant theme throughout the Bible in both the Old and New Testaments. It is in renewal that we find hope and purpose in our mission. **I hope you feel this same sense of renewal as you see this past year as an opportunity to reflect on where we were, where we are, and where we are going.** It is with this sense of renewal that I leave you with a Bible verse that you may be familiar with but rings very true — Psalm 51, Verse 10, “Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me.”

Many blessings to you this month!

John Gallo
TLC Council President



Council News

Property and Resources

This important ministry team lead is responsible for the care of the church grounds and buildings. Join John Gallo in the church library on Sunday, May 2 at 10:15am to find out more about this ministry.



Becky Sonnen

Congregational Life

Congregational Life provided hospitality and a nice dinner to the family and friends of Korrine Reger following her lovely funeral service. Thanks go out to Cathy Moser, Nancy Patchin, and Mary Feuge for helping me to serve the meal.

For Easter, we created Easter cards for our homebound members and delivered them personally. We also delivered DIY Easter Egg Hunt kits to congregational families with children. Thanks go out to Sandy Arneson, Jerry and D.K. Guebard, Michelle Salazar, Jenny Maun, Pastor Aaron, Deacon Chris, and Debbie Roberts for helping out with these very important deliveries.

Now we are looking forward to gathering in fellowship at our Church Picnic on Sunday, May 30. We will have one worship service that day at 10am, followed by the picnic at 11:15am. Come out and enjoy! All food will be provided, so just bring your mask and your appetite. Children are invited to bring bicycles, hula hoops, and other lawn games.



Jennifer Feutz

Early Childhood Programs

Update on Preschool Building Repairs: We are rounding the corner and headed to the finish line. In the next couple of weeks, the flooring will be professionally cleaned and waxed, the cabinetry rehung, and the furniture moved back into classrooms. When you see Don Kurtti, please be sure to thank him for all his hard work in overseeing the repair of our ECP buildings.

4

Registration for both Preschool and Mother's Day Out are underway for the fall. Summer camp registration is also open. Summer camp dates are:

June 7-11: Let's Go Camping

July 12-16: All About Pets

August 2-6: Dinosaurs, Mermaids, and Unicorns

The first week in May is Teacher Appreciation Week. Beautiful cards, handmade by Cindy Carlile, Chris Crawford, and Becky Sonnen, have been signed by the congregation and will be given to the staff, along with a luncheon on May 4. The teachers are the heart of our programs. They have faced a tough year thanks to Covid, the busted pipes and repairs, and then moving back into the classrooms. They handled all these challenges with grace all while continuing to teach the children. We sure do appreciate all their hard work and flexibility this year!



Amy Coronado

Servant Outreach

Young Adult Care Packages:

Thank you all for your donations to our young adult care packages. We hope that the completed packages bring smiles to the faces of our young adults!

Food Bank Service Opportunities:

In May and June, we have three service opportunities planned for the San Antonio Food Bank and the New Braunfels Food Bank. We hope you will be able to join us!

The San Antonio Food Bank Urban Farm is the largest urban agriculture initiative within the city of San Antonio. We will be volunteering at this 40+ acre farm on Saturday, May 8, from 8:30am - 11am.

The New Braunfels Food Bank was founded to more fully serve the surrounding community. On Saturday, June 26, we will be volunteering in the Warehouse as well as the Kitchen Table Pantry from 8:30am - 11am.

Let's give back by serving those in need!

[Sign Up to Help at the Food Bank](#)

Council News



Don Kurtti

Ministry Support



Ken Smith

Worship and Music



Lori O'Berg

Evangelism



Jessica Anderson

Stewardship



Aaron Theilengerdes

Discipleship

Council Executive Board

President: John Gallo

(281)435-9794, johngallo02@yahoo.com

Vice President: Barbara Wade

(210)379-7590, san7bkw@aol.com

Financial Secretary: Doug Hammerstrom

(210)473-8333, hawkeye_72@sbcglobal.net

Treasurer: Jim Moreland

(210)595-0090, james.p.moreland@gmail.com

Secretary: Nicholle Seiler

(210)213-9209, runnic55@hotmail.com

May Assisting Ministers & Readers

May 2

9 am Assisting Minister Walter Brown

9 am Reader Amy Coronado

11am Assisting Minister Isabella Garcia

11am Reader Nancy Molter

May 9

9 am Assisting Minister Ken Weber

9 am Reader Gordon Hengst

11am Assisting Minister Debbie Roberts

11am Reader Jim Moreland

May 16

9 am Assisting Minister Walter Brown

9 am Reader Paula Salazar

11am Assisting Minister Debbie Roberts

11am Reader Barb Wade

May 23

9 am Assisting Minister Ken Weber

9 am Reader John Schultz

11am Assisting Minister Doug Hammerstrom

11am Reader Lindy Hammerstrom

May 30

9 am Assisting Minister Rose-Marie Smith

9 am Reader Becky Sonnen

11am Assisting Minister Jackie Mitchell

11am Reader Lois Glazener

The Perfect Creation

When God fashioned Eve from the rib of a man, the image it brings is surreal.

There are many details not found in the Word the Almighty failed to reveal.

For as we all learned, this woman He made, would have countless traits near perfection.

She'd show compassion and love and kindness and warmth, and boundless amounts of affection.

This woman could master all manner of tasks, and juggle life's issues with ease.

She would create new humans within her own womb and raise them with great expertise.

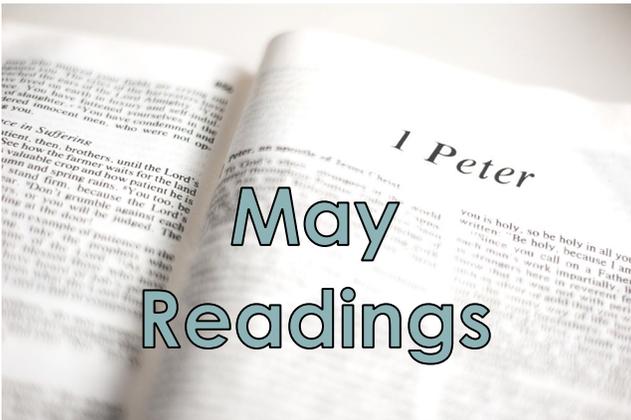
If you were lucky in life to know such a woman, near flawless in all her behaviors,

Then you witnessed a miracle, a wonder of perfection, the intent of our loving Savior.

On this day set aside, saluting Moms in the world, our good fortune we recognize now.

Without hesitation, we see the perfect creation, to God we say, "Take a bow!"

— Ken Smith



May Readings

May 2: [Acts 8:26 - 40](#)

[John 15:1 - 8](#)

"Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me."

May 9: [Acts 10:44 - 48](#)

[John 15:9 - 17](#)

"...the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles"

May 16: [Acts 1:1 - 11](#)

[Luke 24:44 - 53](#)

"...as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight."

May 23: [Acts 2:1 - 21](#)

[John 15:26 - 27; 16:4b - 15](#)

"And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, ... and all of them were filled with the Holy Spirit."

May 30: [Isaiah 6:1 - 8](#)

[John 3:1 - 17](#)

"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life."

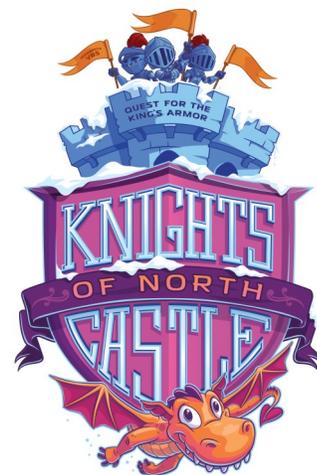
Knights of North Castle VBS

July 18 - 22, 2019

6pm - 9pm

At this summer's Vacation Bible School, children are invited to be the king's valiant knights on a quest in search of the king's armor, to be strong in the Lord, and to discover different pieces of protective armor—the Belt of Truth, the Breastplate of Justice, the Shoes of Peace, the Shield of Faith, and the Helmet of Salvation.

[Registration](#) will be available online through the church website soon! [Have questions? Send an email to Allison Moreland.](#)





I often like to look at hands; they are fascinating to me. Hard working and calloused, long, slim, graceful fingers, aged and deformed from arthritis, an infant's small hand lying atop a parent's palm, or folded in prayer – hands tell a story. We use them daily, in nearly everything we do – to write words, wash dishes, point, clap, eat, touch people and things, wipe away tears, etc.

Some fun facts: each person's hand has unique fingerprints, no two are the same; four fingers are weak, but add a thumb and there is strength; fingers don't have muscles – tendons in fingers are moved by the muscles in the forearm; hand surgeons say we need the index finger the least, so if you must lose a finger that would be the one; fingernails indicate oxygen levels, anemia, vitamin deficiency, etc.; and structurally, nails are actually modified hairs, taking six months to grow from root to tip.

God created our hands to do things, but also to advance His kingdom. We have two hands – one to help the other. God's will is for us to minister to others, to help each other. How do you use your hands to do His will? Here are a few ideas: serve as an usher or greeter; volunteer for Sunday School or other youth ministry; participate in a Bible study; go on a mission trip; share your faith with someone who doesn't know Jesus; invite someone to church with you; deliver a meal or help someone, such as shut-in or person-in-need, with a project.

We raise our hands in prayer and praise to exalt God – to seek Him. Raising hands symbolizes surrender, worship, and honor. The blind use hands to read braille and the deaf use hands for sign language, but we all use hands to communicate. We type on a keyboard, give high (and low) fives, clap, or rub someone's back to show we love them. We can even communicate negatively with rude gestures when we are angry.

Hands have long represented power, with the right hand the side of favor and honor. We count on our fingers, measure length and breath. In Biblical times, finger and palm widths were standard units of measure.

In Stephen Ministry we are called to be the hands and feet of God – to be a co-leader with Christ to love, to serve, to heal the broken hearted, hurting, and hopeless of this world, and to walk into someone's life when others seem to be walking out. Often Stephen Ministers set aside some of their personal comforts and interests to share this caring ministry. They are committed to trusting God and submitting to His authority, even if it's not comfortable or easy.

God is deeply invested in the maturity, growth, and transformation of His followers. Part of that growth involves being challenged and stretched, so that we can become more Christ-like daily. Often this stretching comes in the form of struggle and trial. Stephen Ministers come alongside others to support and encourage this growth. They respond to His call to share the light, forgiveness, presence, and hope of God amid people's crises. They are the hands of Christ wherever they go, but especially to their hurting, questioning, and struggling care receivers. Jesus is our example – He came to serve, not be served (Mark 10:43-45).

These acts of compassion spring from the love, grace, and mercy we have received from God, done through His power and general concern for the needs of others. Each Stephen Minister is grateful for the privilege to carry out this work and extend God's grace as they work humbly and expectantly together. It all begins, after 50 hours of training, with the laying on of hands – the anointing of the Holy Spirit, conferring their authority. They become the conduit God uses to connect and care for others. The power of touch is strong. It brings comfort, love, compassion, healing, concern, and connection.

What has God given you that you can open your hands and offer to another? How can you use your hands to serve others and give to those in physical and emotional pain and need? How can you actively be the hands of Christ to those in your world?

Church Life

“Share the Love” Quilt Raffle

Win this LOVELY handmade hearts quilt while supporting the youth at Triumphant Lutheran Church at the same time! All proceeds will create camperships so that more youth can attend summer camp.



Raffle tickets can be purchased online only from Sunday, April 4 — Sunday, May 9. Ticket sales end at 8:00am on May 9. The winner will be randomly drawn at 8:15am on May 9 and the winner will be announced at worship services that day.

To purchase raffle tickets: text “hearts2021” to (855)202-2100, use the church app, or click the button below.

[Buy Quilt Raffle Tickets](#)

Share this link to help spread the word!

<https://go.rallyup.com/sharethelove>

Final Curbside Communion

Communion kits are available for anyone worshipping online. Our final Curbside Communion times are as follows:

May 5 from 5 - 6pm

May 8 from 10am - 11:30am

Beginning May 10, communion kits will be available for pickup during regular office hours:
Monday - Friday from 8am - 4pm.

Graduation Sunday is May 23!

8

We will honor our high school and college graduates. Be sure to congratulate them and wish them the best in their future endeavors!

Memorial Day Church Picnic

We will hold one worship service at 10am, followed by the picnic at 11:15am. Come out and enjoy hot dogs and hamburgers! All food will be provided, so just bring your mask and your appetite. Children are invited to bring bicycles, hula hoops, and other lawn games. Let’s honor those who have died for our country by celebrating our freedom!



Donations from Amazon

A special thanks to all of you who use Amazon Smile and designate Triumphant Lutheran Church as your choice of charity. Last month, we received a donation of \$49.89 from your purchases using Amazon Smile. In fact, we have received \$264.32 total from your purchases. These donations are at no cost to any customers who use the Amazon Smile rather than just Amazon.

If you use Amazon for your shopping and do not yet use Amazon Smile, we ask you to consider doing so. Your shopping experience is no different than Amazon and it’s simple to start. Next time use smile.amazon.com and the website will prompt you to select your charity or charities to benefit from your shopping. Of course, Triumphant Lutheran Church is a choice we hope you’ll designate. If you have questions, please call Doug Hammerstrom at (210)651-9090 or [send him an email](#).

In Search of New Ushers!

With the return to two services each Sunday, we are in need of additional ushers. We would love to have older



youth, women, and men on the team! Ushers assist with our worship services by greeting people, helping them find seats, and handing out bulletins. If you may be interested, please call Leroy Albrecht at (210)651-9090.

The Good Steward

By Mary Gandolfo

"I am profitably engaged in reading the Bible. Take all of this Book that you can by reason, and the balance by faith, and you will live and die a better man." — Abraham Lincoln

This is the closing quote of a devotion I read recently. Abraham Lincoln is lifted up for many reasons in our history — as a leader, a man of conviction, a president, and a man of faith. It reminds me of my opportunity and privilege that I can read my Bible without fear of persecution or imprisonment. We are also encouraged by this quote to not only read the Bible, but also live by it. That is where we can fall into soooo many traps. Whose interpretation is the right one? Which advice should I follow, or better yet, whose should I ignore? Wow — so much to process!!!

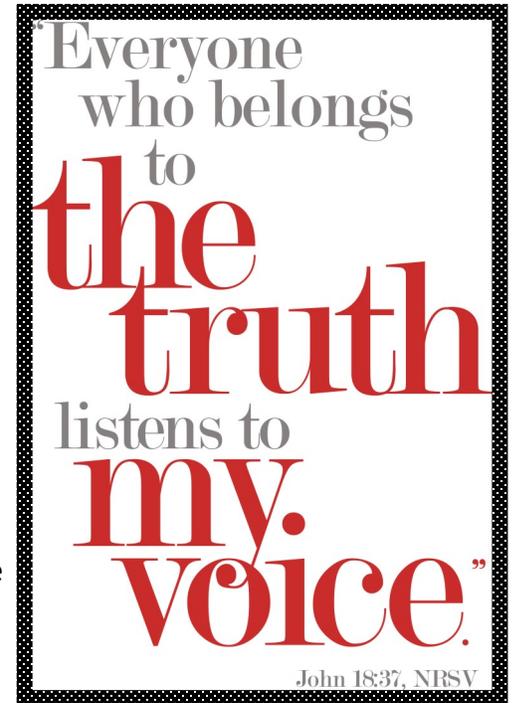
In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. — John 1:1 – 2 NIV

It is pretty obvious that God is the one who we should listen to all the time! But, how do we hear His voice? You have probably heard this before, so get ready to hear it again! God's word is available to any who take the time and effort to read it — the Holy Bible, Scriptures, the Good Book, whatever name you give it. The divinely inspired and recorded word of God as written is His story. It is also our story. It is the promise of being in communion and community with God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. Like Lincoln said, be engaged in reading the Bible and living by the words in it for it is good for you!

I have a daily habit before I close my eyes to sleep every night: saying the Lord's Prayer, the Apostles' Creed, and the 10 Commandments. I read about this idea in Martin Luther's writings, and it has given me so much peace over the years. It is my reminder to close my day in the presence of my Father and give the night to Him — that all I have is just what I need and all of my needs are met by the Triune God. Who do I listen to? God as He comes to me! This may be through friends, family, neighbors, or quiet time I spend just listening and watching the squirrels in my back yard, but mostly in my Bible.

The tempter came to him and said, "If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread." Jesus answered, "It is written: Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God." — Matthew 4:3 – 4 NIV

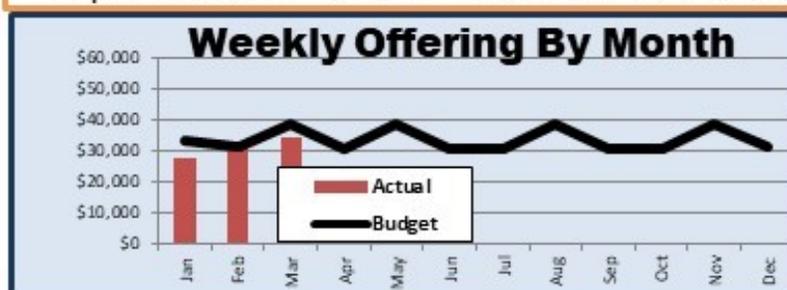
The Good Steward is one who sits and listens, and who takes in the presence of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. In this season of Easter, we also take in the incredible sacrifice made by God and his Son. I think Lincoln was right — if we follow God's advice, we will live well and die well and then live well again! We will all be better people for the life offered in God's words, so join me as I dive in and explore the world of God as I read about His story and my story. Amen.



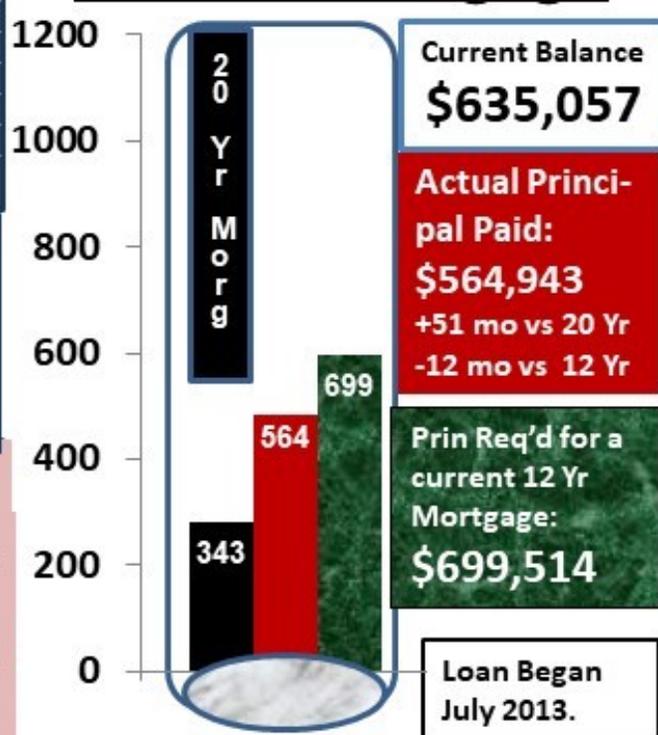
March 2021 Financials

KEY POINTS:

- ✦ **Bottom Line:** Total Net Income for **March** was -\$5,479. Total Net Income YTD is -\$10,720. See the Financial Summary bottom of page for more detail.
- ✦ **General Offering:** Weekly Offering through **March** was \$92,803, net -\$6,406 against programmed. ECP's Preschool program has restarted and is now helping, but this will likely be a slow rebuild, most of the year. Also, the big freeze damaged the ECP facilities quite a bit.
- ✦ **Building Fund:** Bldg Fund Income through **March** was \$23,377, net +\$601 against our required mortgage, thanks to some one-time gifts.
- ✦ **Going Forward:** We have strong reserves. That said, last year ended well because we received PPP loan benefits of \$87,600. **We do not qualify for the Round 2 PPP in 2021.** The ECP will be rebuilding in 2021, but it will take the whole year if not longer. **Bottom line, there will likely be a need to support normal operations with \$50-80K from Reserves in 2021, barring additional revenue from sources other than PPP.** We are exploring one other potential source now. It will not be as large as the 2020 PPP (possibly 1/3rd). Big Freeze repair costs also remain in front of us. Insurance will offset the costs somewhat.



\$1.2M Mortgage



March 2021 Month End Financial Summary

Column1	NET INCOME		ANNUAL BUDGET	
	March	Year To Date		
Operating Income	\$46,121	\$132,047	Operating Income	\$695,005
Operating Expenses	\$52,613	\$156,252	Bldg Fund Income	\$91,104
Net Operating Income	(\$6,492)	(\$24,205)	Other Income	\$4,488
Bldg & Designated Income	\$12,631	\$29,127	TOTAL INCOME	\$790,597
Bldg & Designated Expenses	\$11,618	\$15,642	Operating Expenses	\$729,808
Net Designated Income	\$1,013	\$13,485	Debt Service	\$91,104
TOTAL NET INCOME	(\$5,479)	(\$10,720)	TOTAL EXPENSES	\$820,912



May ANNIVERSARIES

- 2 Jim & Sharon St.Clair
- 3 Ruth & Jacob Zachary
- 7 Darryl & Jaclyn Fudge
- 14 Jeff & Renay Boyes
- 16 Todd & Leisa Skinner
- 18 Mark & Natalie Weinhardt
- 19 Lee & Linda Wilson
- 24 Roy & Freya Snyder
- 25 Neil & Jean Craigmile
- 28 Lee & Shirley Linscombe



May BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Natalie Grote, Jim Madison
- 2 Mindy Hengst
- 3 Kathy Pape
- 5 Dennis Feuge
- 6 Cindy Carlile
- 7 Hector Ballesteros, Robert Crawford, Miranda Johnston, Robert Pope
- 8 Joyce Cox
- 13 Karen Richter
- 17 Rossy Ballesteros, Angie Henk
- 18 Skip Courter, Margaret Robinson, Josh Williams
- 19 Ciarra Howe
- 20 Doug Hammerstrom, Joe Mardon
- 21 Brielle Beck, Thomas Erickson, Trey Garcia
- 22 Kathy Black
- 23 Allie Miller
- 24 Viola Dittfurth
- 25 Jana Gomez, Jeff Koch
- 26 Kianny Melendez, Carla Wagner
- 27 Shirley Garman, Betty Lynn Snyder
- 29 Charlie Maltby
- 31 Sergio Ballesteros

In Loving Memory

Louisa Groce (Friend of Aaron Richter)
+3-1-2021

Olive Sheckells (Aunt of Chris Crawford) +3-4-2021

Gail Bruckner (Friend of Debbie Silvas)
+3-31-2021

The June Trumpet Deadline
Sunday
May 23, 2021

Send Submissions to:
newsletter@triumphantlutheran.org

We Grow in Christ to Serve Others.



21315 Bat Cave Road
San Antonio, TX 78266

TRIUMPHANT
LUTHERAN CHURCH



We Grow
in Christ to
Serve
Others

Church Emails

Pastor Aaron Richter
pastoraaron@triumphantlutheran.org

Deacon Chris St. Clair
On Sabbatical through July 2021

Sharon Hopkins, Administrator
administrator@triumphantlutheran.org

Carol Snyder, Music Director
musicarol820@gmail.com

Sharilyn Krauss, Communications
newsletter@triumphantlutheran.org

Kristin Miller, Preschool Director
preschool@triumphantlutheran.org

Frank Fogg, Sexton
sexton@triumphantlutheran.org

Cindy Carlile, Accounts Payable
bookkeeper@triumphantlutheran.org

Triumphant Lutheran Worship Services

Sundays at 9am and 11am in the Sanctuary

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

[Live Stream Worship:](#) Sundays at 9:00am

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

[Preschool:](#) Monday - Friday, 9am - 1:45pm

[Mother's Day Out:](#) Returning in Fall 2021

Website: triumphantlutheran.org

(210) 651-9090

