



The Trumpet

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

Vol. 42, Issue 8

"We Grow in Christ to Serve Others"

August 2021

Worship and Learning Opportunities

- In person on Sundays at 9am, 11am, & 5pm in the Sanctuary
- [Livestream](#) services online each Sunday at 9am and on YouTube afterwards
- Sunday School begins on August 22

In This Issue

Pastor's Message	2
President's Perspective	3
Council News	4
VBS Photos	5
Assistants & Readers	5
August Readings	6
Bummer Lambs	6
Did You Say Something?	7
Church Life	8
The Good Steward	9
Financials	10
Anniversaries & Birthdays	11
In Loving Memory	11
Sept Trumpet Deadline	11
Contact Us	12



Vacation Bible School 2021

Knights of North Castle

See photos on page 5.



Pastor's Message

Dear people of God,

As we approach the fall and all the events that go along with it, there is a word that I have been thinking about: **RESET**. It's a word that can be used for electronics, broken bones, or even jewelry. To reset is just to set again. We've had a chaotic and difficult last year and a half between a

global pandemic, a complicated and turbulent election, and an increasingly divided nation and world, and many of these ongoing issues persist. I think it's time to stop being tossed around by these forces, and instead consider how our lives need to be reset or refocused so that we can, in the words of 1 Timothy 6, "take hold of the life that really is life."

After times of shifting sands and unclear futures, we've always tried to determine the new ways our lives can be grounded. In Scripture, it seems like God is always calling people to refocus and set their lives in new directions. One of my favorite verses, Micah 6:8, is in response to all the craziness that is going on in Jerusalem. Micah reminds the people: *what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?* Jesus continually calls people to reset their lives on what God is doing, whether it is in the way they worship, the way they relate to one another, or what they value.



When I think about how we can **RESET** as a community, I think about our congregation's mission statement: We Grow in Christ to Serve Others. There are three focuses that always draw my attention and can help guide us in our resetting:

- **Fellowship and community (We)** — connect to others and deepen relationships
- **Worship and discipleship (Grow in Christ)** — connect to God in praise and learning
- **Service (Serve Others)** — focus on those in need in our community and around the world

As we think about resetting our lives, I think these three paths can give us some direction, and I'd like to invite you to think about how you can connect as we enter the last part of 2021. Looking for opportunities to connect as a community, worship and learn, and serve others will help us **RESET** and find a life-giving foundation.

As we are planning for the fall, we realize that all of us are in different places regarding the ongoing pandemic, and so we are trying to continually expand our online presence. We continue to livestream to YouTube and Facebook, and are hoping to provide this on our website as well. We are looking at several learning opportunities that will be online, as well as some times of fellowship and fun. If you have any ideas, please let me know!

As we make our way through this time, with all the changes and craziness, we can take comfort, refuge, and strength in our God, whose presence is with us through it all. As we **RESET** and move forward, we can be certain that nothing "will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord."

President's Perspective

By John Gallo
Council President

Greetings Members of TLC,

As we approach the dog days of summer, it can feel like August lasts forever. With the heat and the anticipation of autumn, it just seems to drag on and on. It can be depressing and a little frustrating, but it's also good to know that just around the corner things are about to change. Change is a constant in our lives whether we like it or not, as our lives are determined by God's plan and not ours. Sometimes we can see change coming and sometimes it sneaks up on us. As a Congregation, we should always be prepared and mindful for both. The Council is always prepared to meet the changes we face, and we appreciate everyone's prayers and support when we have to make decisions to address the changes that come our way. **The "Check In Questionnaire" that was sent out last month will be a huge help in determining how we can address the changes we face and learn from the past year and a half. Your voice and thoughts are always greatly appreciated so feel free to reach out to Council anytime with questions or just to voice your thoughts.** The results of this survey will be analyzed and sent out to the congregation.

We have also started planning for next year. The Council is working on the annual narrative budget and looking at filling some Council positions, including Stewardship, Treasurer, and Property. If you are interested in serving and want more information, please call Council Vice President Barbara Wade (210)651-9090. Or [send her an email](#).

As always, I want to thank everyone for all the work over the summer in helping with worship services, coming to property work days, volunteering for VBS, and the many other ways you all serve. We are very blessed to have such a giving congregation.

I would like to close with a Bible verse from James 1, Verse 17 — "Every good thing given and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shifting shadow." I hope everyone has a great rest of the summer and start to a new school year!

Many Blessings,

John Gallo

TLC Council President



Council News

Property and Resources

This ministry team lead is responsible for organizing the care of the church grounds and buildings, and then reporting to the Church Council. Please consider helping coordinate the upkeep of our church property. [Send an email to John Gallo](#) if you are interested or have any questions. Thank you!



Early Childhood Programs

Jennifer Feutz

Let the little children come to me! Thanks be to God that our Preschool and Mother's Day Out programs are growing. That means we are growing the staff of our ECP, too. Please see page 8 for our job openings. If you would like to join the ECP family or just get some more information, please call Director Kristin Miller at (210)651-9090 x2, or [send her an email](#).



Servant Outreach

Amy Coronado

School Supply Drive: Thank you so much for your very generous donations to our school supply drive! We know that the families in our community are very grateful!

God's Work. Our Hands.: Mark your calendars for the weekend of September 12, when ELCA churches all over the country spend time serving the local communities. Be on the lookout for opportunities to serve others with your church family!

4

Ministry Support



Don Kurtti



Becky Sonnen



Ken Smith



Lori O'Berg



Jessica Anderson



Aaron Theilengerdes

Congregational Life

Worship and Music

Evangelism

Stewardship

Discipleship

Council Executive Board

President: John Gallo

Vice President: Barbara Wade

Financial Secretary: Doug Hammerstrom

Treasurer: Jim Moreland

Secretary: Nicholle Seiler

VBS Fun Fotos

August Readers & Assisting Ministers



August 1

9am Assisting Minister	Walter Brown
9am Reader	Nicholle Seiler
11am Assisting Minister	Isabella Garcia
11am Reader	Nicholle Seiler
5pm Reader/Comm Asst	Mary Gandolfo

August 8

9am Assisting Minister	Ken Weber
9am Reader	Becky Sonnen
11am Assisting Minister	James Fuller
11am Reader	Jim Moreland
5pm Communion Asst	Mickey Sanders
5pm Reader	Bobbie White

August 15

9am Assisting Minister	Walter Brown
9am Reader	Gordon Hengst
11am Assisting Minister	Amanda Henderson
11am Reader	Sam Neuzil
5pm Reader/Comm Asst	Kathy Beierle

August 22

9am Assisting Minister	Ken Weber
9am Reader	Paula Salazar
11am Assisting Minister	Dean Neuzil
11am Reader	Mary Jane Cornell
5pm Reader/Comm Asst	Marshall Gomez

August 29

9am Assisting Minister	Tom O'Berg
9am Reader	Lori O'Berg
11am Assisting Minister	James Fuller
11am Reader	Dave Brinkman
5pm Communion Asst	Mickey Sanders
5pm Reader	Mary Gandolfo

Bummer Lambs

Every once in a while, a ewe will give birth to a lamb and reject it. If the lamb is returned to the ewe, the mother may even kick the poor animal away. Once a ewe rejects one of her lambs, she will never change her mind.

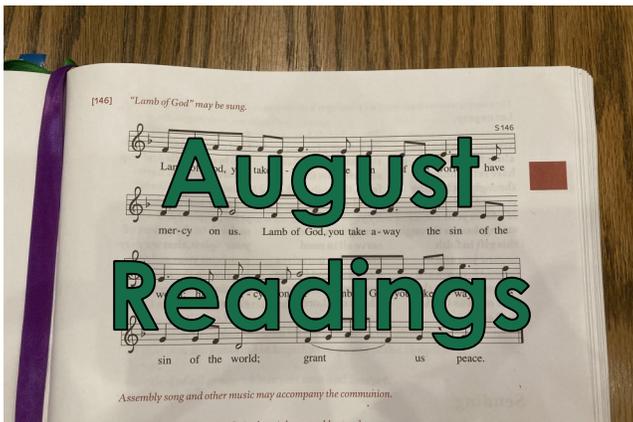
These little lambs will hang their heads so low that it looks like something is wrong with their necks. Their spirits are broken. These lambs are called “bummer lambs.”

Unless the shepherd intervenes, that lamb will die, rejected and alone. So, do you know what the shepherd does? He takes that rejected little one into his home, hand-feeds it, and keeps it warm by the fire. He wraps it with blankets and holds it to his chest so the bummer lamb can hear his heartbeat.

Once the lamb is strong enough, the shepherd will place it back in the field with the rest of the flock. But that sheep never forgets how the shepherd cared for him when his mother rejected him.

When the shepherd calls for the flock, guess who runs to him first? That is right, the bummer sheep. He knows the shepherd’s voice intimately. It is not that the bummer lamb is loved more, it just knows intimately the one who loves it.

So many of us are bummer lambs, rejected and broken. But He is the Good Shepherd. He cares for our every need and holds us close to His heart so we can hear His heartbeat. We may be broken, but we are deeply loved by the Shepherd.



Aug 1: [Judges 4:4 - 9](#)

[Matthew 28:16 - 20](#)

“At that time Deborah, a prophetess, wife of Lappidoth, was judging Israel. She used to sit under the palm of Deborah between Ramah and Bethel in the hill country of Ephraim; and the Israelites came up to her for judgment.”

Aug 8: [2 Samuel 12:1 - 9](#)

[Matthew 18:10 - 20](#)

“(David) said to Nathan, “As the Lord lives, the man who has done this deserves to die; he shall restore the lamb fourfold, because he did this thing, and because he had no pity.”

Aug 15: [Psalm 145:10 - 18](#)

[John 6:1 - 21](#)

“It is I; do not be afraid.”

Aug 22: [Exodus 16:2 - 15](#)

[John 6:24 - 35](#)

“I am the bread of life.”

Aug 29: [James 1:17 - 27](#)

[Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23](#)

“There is nothing outside a person that by going in can defile, but the things that come out are what defile.”



I'm Sorry, Did You Say Something?

By Ken Smith

We live in a very noisy world. Every day, we are bombarded with the sounds of life, from the quiet hum of an engine to a jet flying overhead, from the soft sound of a gentle rain to the cacophony of loud thunder, or from a beautiful violin concerto to a deafening rock and roll band. These are the noises of life. We hear them. But sometimes it gets so noisy that we stop listening.

This is especially present in person-to-person communications. Our mouths can certainly make lots of noise — soft and mellow to loud and bold — gentle whispers to emotion-driven outbursts — voices singing in beautiful harmony to screams in a scary movie — sermons spoken earnestly to loud arguments with differing opinions. Or the voice of a friend pouring out their soul to you. We hear. But do we always listen?

Are we using our ears? Phoenician philosopher Zeno of Citium said, “We have two ears and one mouth, so we should listen more than we say.” That makes sense.

Of all our senses, God doubled us up on hearing implements. Is God telling us to listen better?

Good listening is an art. Most of us are not very good at it. My wife, Rose-Marie, thinks I am deaf when I fail to respond. Although, that could be selective listening. Today’s modern management guru Stephen Covey, who wrote the *7 Habits of Highly Effective People*, says, “Most people do not listen with the intent to understand; they listen with the intent to reply.” I often find myself starting to react to someone’s words with a quick response. But did I really hear what that person was saying? Did I understand the person’s emotions,

position, feelings, or intent? Did I take the time to really listen?

Listening to God is like listening to a friend — before you can hear Him, you must be ready to listen. God does speak to us. We don’t always hear Him. Just as in a conversation, you cannot hear the other person if you are talking or if your mind is distracted. So it is with God. If you want to hear Him speak, you must be quiet and you must be focused on what He is saying.

Much of the wonderful training in the Stephen Ministry program is geared toward making you a good

listener. What little “talking” you do as a Stephen Minister is the result of good listening. Stephen Ministers are not counselors; we are not psychotherapists, and we are not personal advisors. We are listeners. Most of the time, that is all the talker needs — a listening ear; a reassuring, accepting, non-judgmental ear.



Won’t you consider being a part of this fulfilling Christian ministry? It will transform your life and just may transform the life of another. Contact [Pastor Aaron](#) or [Rose-Marie Smith](#) if you have any questions.

As we all learn to listen to God better, we should also work on our listening skills in our personal interactions. Good listening is a skill that anyone can learn and even master. To hear is easy, to understand and comprehend is the true task, but listening with your heart is the ultimate goal.

“To answer before listening — that is folly and shame.”

— Proverbs 18:13

Church Life

Fantasy Football

Are you ready for some football? The TLC Fantasy Football league is preparing for this year's NFL football season. If you are interested in "coaching" a team, please [send an email to Doug Hammerstrom](#) to let him know. The draft will be held in the Fellowship Hall on Sunday, August 29 at 2pm.

Nursery Attendant Job Opening!

We are looking for a qualified individual to fill the Nursery Attendant position from 8:30am to 12:30pm every Sunday. Applicants must be 18 years or older and have experience caring for and nurturing infants and young children. Please [email Sharon Hopkins](#) to recommend an individual for this position.



Preschool Position Open!

Kids can do the cutest and funniest things! Do you enjoy caring for and working with infants and toddlers? Triumphant's Early Childhood Program has openings for a teacher and assistant for a class for our youngest pupils, for 10-15 hours per week. Qualified applicants must have at least a high school diploma. The new school year begins on September 7, and job training will be completed in advance. Call Preschool Director Kristin Miller at (210)651-9090 x2 for more information.

Preschool & Mother's Day Out News

Preschool registration for the 2021 - 2022 school year is open. All recommended CDC guidelines for health and safety will be followed. [Visit the preschool page of our website for registration instructions and forms.](#) If you have any questions, please send an email to [Preschool Director Kristin Miller](#).

Interested in a program for your younger child? [Visit our Mother's Day Out webpage](#) for information on this program for children 6 to 18 months.

Preschool and MDO classes begin on Tuesday, September 7.

8

Men's Bible Study

Friday Mornings at 7am
at IHOP in Schertz

The Men's early-morning Bible Study is back! The group is studying the Minor Prophets, starting with Hosea. Come join the guys each Friday at the IHOP on I-35 at 3009 (by Lowes) for breakfast and God's Word.



Sunday School Resumes August 22

Bring the whole family on Sunday, August 22, as we gather for a new Sunday School year! Classes will be held from 10:15 - 10:45am for ALL AGES. [Click here](#) to learn more about the Spark Curriculum for Sunday School.

Wednesday Nite Live Resumes Sept 1

You will find a variety of activities such as Confirmation Class, High School Bible study and topic discussion, Choir, and age-appropriate learning fun for Elementary kids. [WNL](#) dinner returns at 5:45pm followed by activities at 6:30pm. Hand sanitizer will be provided and the meal will be served. We look forward to seeing you!

Oktoberfest 2021 is Happening!

October 16 from 4pm - 8pm

After having to cancel last year's Oktoberfest celebration, we are excited to announce plans for our 2021 event! If you are new to Triumphant in the last 2 years, you are in for a treat!

BBQ Meal Tickets: \$10 for 12 and older, \$5 for those under 12. Hot dogs will be an option for those under 12. Entrance and all activities at Oktoberfest are FREE!

BBQ Meal Tickets will be for sale soon. Please plan to buy yours early to help us plan for enough food.

Volunteers are needed for set-up, food prep, food service, and clean-up. Watch for information on how you can be a part of making this Oktoberfest special!

Enjoy fellowship with your church family, and invite your friends and neighbors to celebrate TLC's 42nd anniversary!! [Get up-to-date details here.](#)

The Good Steward

By Mary Gandolfo

Accordingly, in brief, hope is nothing else than the expectation of those things which faith has believed to have been truly promised by God. Hope strengthens faith — Hope refreshes faith — it invigorates faith again and again with perseverance. — John Calvin (1509 – 1564)

We hear a lot about hope these days. With all the challenges we have had in the past year, hope is a very bright light for us to focus on. Every night before the lights go out, I read from my devotional *For All the Saints*. I have mentioned this publication before, and I heartily recommend it for those who want a little bit more from their time in the Word. I read the above quote in one of these readings. Hope — a gift — a very real sense that everything will be okay — a partner to our faith — a way of coping with all that life throws at us.

We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure. It enters the inner sanctuary behind the curtain, where Jesus, who went before us, has entered on our behalf. — Hebrews 6: 19 - 20a NIV

Hope leads us into faith as surely as water makes the grass grow. And faith strengthens our hope when we really take time to understand the life Jesus lived. He left the comfort and confines of life with His Father —that is the sacrifice that God and Jesus made for us in HOPE! God let Jesus go and Jesus came and got us. Sometimes I can't wrap my head around the heart that does the sacrifice necessary for me to say, "I believe." During the season of Easter, we talk about and learn about the process of Jesus coming to get us and save us, such as His ministry years, and specifically, His commitment to the plans made before He left home. He felt pain and anguish, joy and fulfillment, death and life. He felt all this in the very last week of this season we call Lent.

Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see. — Hebrews 11:1 NIV

The Good Steward lives in the sure and firm grip of hope. We live in the tension of not being able to see it, but at the same time, we feel it. Sort of like the breeze in the trees, we see the leaves move because the air is moving. We see the amazing world God has created because it is right in front of us. After the winter storm, leaves are growing on trees, lawns are getting greener, people are walking with a little more spring in their step. That is what hope looks like, at least for me it is.

Every time I walk down my street, I smile and shake my head at all I see happening around me. Join me as I walk and appreciate and live in the hope that only the Son of God can give.



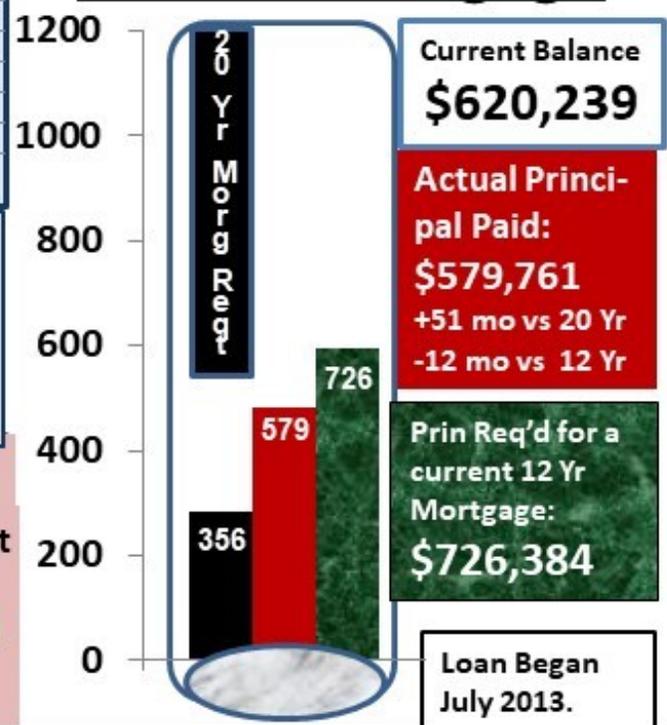
June 2021 Financials

KEY POINTS:

- ✦ **Bottom Line:** Total Net Income for **June** was +\$18,121. Total Net Income YTD is -\$13,060. See the Financial Summary at the bottom of the page for more detail.
- ✦ **General Offering and Income:** Weekly General Offering through **June** was \$197,621, net -\$797 against budgeted, thanks a \$21K gift in June. Total Income through **June** was \$277,691, net -\$79,382 against budgeted, as other income sources continue to lag.
- ✦ **Building Fund:** Bldg Fund Income through **June** was \$49,094, net +\$3,542 against our required mortgage, thanks to some one-time gifts. Very helpful going into the summer.
- ✦ **Going Forward:** We have to-date had over \$100K of remediation on the two Education buildings. Most of that will be covered by insurance. We do not qualify for the Round 2 PPP in 2021. **So, we have started using our Reserves and that will likely continue, barring Total Income increasing or additional revenue from some other source.** As we look forward, all that combined may cause consideration of downward changes to our budget for next year. Note above that we are net -\$79K from all income sources vs budget at mid-year.



\$1.2M Mortgage



June 2021 Month End Financial Summary

Description	NET INCOME		ANNUAL BUDGET	
	June	Year To Date		
Operating Income	\$58,907	\$277,691	Operating Income	\$695,005
Operating Expenses	\$41,156	\$295,241	Bldg Fund Income	\$91,104
Net Operating Income	\$17,751	(\$17,550)	Other Income	\$4,488
Bldg & Designated Income	\$11,129	\$140,780	TOTAL INCOME	\$790,597
Bldg & Designated Expenses	\$10,759	\$136,290	Operating Expenses	\$729,808
Net Designated Income	\$370	\$4,490	Debt Service	\$91,104
TOTAL NET INCOME	\$18,121	(\$13,060)	TOTAL EXPENSES	\$820,912



- 3 Andrew & Megan Johnston
- 4 Raymond & Kathy Pape
- 5 Doug & Lindy Hammerstrom
- 7 Steven & Jennifer Spreen
- 9 Aaron & Sarah Richter
- 13 Abelardo & Paula Salazar
- 14 Leroy & Brenda Albrecht
- 14 Bob & Chris Crawford
- 14 Gery & Nancy DuParc
- 15 Wesley & Barb Wade
- 17 Kurtis & Shelly Wilcox
- 18 Les & Rube Mude
- 20 Don & Linda Braun
- 23 Terry & Kathy Frost
- 27 Jay & Jennifer Markus
- 31 Bob & Bev Braun



- 1 Janelle Oberg
- 2 Kathy Borelli, Dorothy Mire
- 3 Bev Braun, Tom Cullison, Ruth Garcia
- 4 Mary Jane Cornell
- 6 Lee Linscombe, Jennifer Markus
- 7 Blaine Halamuda, Nancy Hendricks
- 8 Gery DuParc
- 9 Ken Smith
- 10 Kevin Black
- 11 DK Guebard, Susan Weber
- 12 Kathy Cuddy, Lars Langenes, Cindy McCaffrey, Kaylie Skaggs
- 13 Aaron Scruggs
- 14 Dale Seiler
- 16 Linda Knowlson
- 17 Jill Altman, Bill Waechter
- 18 Brooklynn Wells
- 19 Caleb Geleske, Jeanne Johnson
- 20 Marlee Etrheim, Carol Snyder
- 22 Ty Bazaldua, Andrew Johnston
- 23 Laura Milstein
- 24 Sergio Ballesteros
- 25 Kathy Beierle, Jaclyn Fudge
- 27 Veronica Wilcox
- 28 Jim Balderas, Gloria Kreuzler, Andrew Montoya, Jim Moreland
- 29 Leroy Albrecht, Colton Milstein, Sarah Richter, Steven Spreen, Lee Wilson
- 31 Debbie Still

In Loving Memory

Velton Walker (Relative of Carol Snyder)
+7-5-21

Clarice Speck (Mother of Doug Hammerstrom) +7-19-21



The September Trumpet Deadline

Tuesday
August 24, 2021

Send Submissions to:
newsletter@triumphantlutheran.org

We Grow in Christ to Serve Others.



21315 Bat Cave Road
San Antonio, TX 78266



Jesus Loves...

Church Emails

Pastor Aaron Richter
pastoraaron@triumphantlutheran.org

Deacon Chris St. Clair
deaconchris@triumphantlutheran.org

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, 11am, and 5pm in the Sanctuary

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

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

[Preschool:](#) Classes begin September 7, 2021.

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

Website: triumphantlutheran.org

(210) 651-9090

