

The Trumpet

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

Vol. 42, Issue 2

"We Grow in Christ to Serve Others"

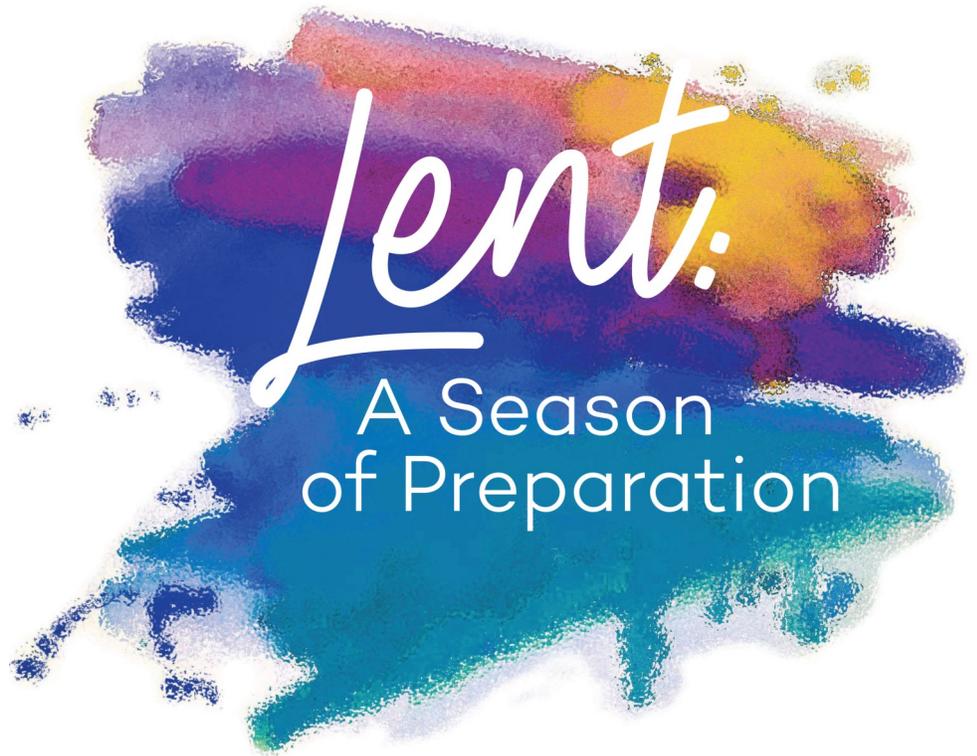
February 2021

Worship Opportunities

- In person on Sundays at 10am
- Pre-recorded services on [Facebook](#) and [YouTube](#)
- [Live Stream](#) services online each Sunday at 10am

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**Join us for
Worship in the Sanctuary
Beginning on
Ash Wednesday, Feb. 17**

See pages 2 & 8



Pastor Aaron's Message

Greetings, people of God, as we enter into the season of Lent!

Several years ago, I was blessed to go on a Holy Land pilgrimage, where we traveled to various holy places and locations around Palestine and Israel, focusing especially on those connected to Jesus. Near the end of the two-week trip, we headed to Jerusalem and walked the Via Dolorosa ("Way of Sorrow"), which follows the movement of Jesus on Maundy Thursday and Good Friday. The walk takes place through busy streets, moving through cathedrals and roads where each station of the cross happened. And it ends at the Church of the Holy Sepulcher, which was built on the spot where both the cross and tomb of Jesus are believed to have been. It was incredibly moving and jarring, but as I stood next to where the cross had been, I realized that every place on this pilgrimage was focused here. Whether it was Jesus' birth, baptism, miracles, or preaching, Jesus' entire life pointed to this one spot, a cross on a hill.

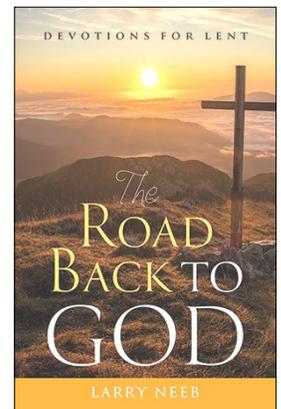
The Way to the Cross

Beginning Ash Wednesday, we enter into the season of Lent, a time that focuses on our need for God to graciously bless us with forgiveness and eternal life. Lent is a time for all of us to walk alongside Jesus as he faces toward Jerusalem and the cross. It is a time for us to reflect and place on the cross all of the things that we deal with and that we have to put away, so that the blessings and calling of God can take their place in our lives. Our theme for Lent is "The Way to the Cross," keeping the focus on the cross of Jesus throughout this season in our worship and learning.

Lenten Walking to the Cross

Here are some ways that we can mark this season together:

- **Worship in the Sanctuary** — With the beginning of Lent, we will move our in-person 10am Sunday worship to the Sanctuary, and will continue to have live-stream and online worship from there as well. We will still be following our guidelines for gathering, and, as Council President John Gallo's article explains, we will begin adding other services as the number of people attending in-person gatherings grows.
- **Mid-Week Lenten Worship** — On Wednesdays at 6:30pm, we will also have another chance to worship with Holden Evening Prayer, and special monologues from those around the cross.
- **Devotion** — "The Road Back to God" — This special daily devotion booklet will help us pray, learn, and reflect together. Look for it at the in-person worship services and at Curbside Communion Pick Up. I will also lead a weekly Zoom gathering, where we will share prayer and conversation about this book. More information coming soon!
- **Resources from Deacon Chris** — Deacon Chris will also offer a weekly e-newsletter where you can engage with different resources to "grow in Christ." Keep an eye out for it!



May this season of Lent guide you alongside Jesus toward the life-giving cross!

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In God's Peace,

Pastor Aaron Richter

Greetings Members of TLC!

This month, I want to give you an update on what Council is currently working on and on our plans for worship services and activities. First, the Church Council had a very productive retreat and workshop last month. We met to discuss ways to increase our number of volunteers, help formulate opportunities, and set goals for this year. For goal-setting, our main theme was focusing on helping our ministries to grow fellowship opportunities. As we have reached almost a year since this pandemic has affected our lives, we wanted to look forward and plan for new and creative opportunities for fellowship. We recognize how important that is for a healthy church, so that we can strengthen our bonds, reach out to our community, and grow our message that God has provided. The process we are using to formulate these goals is called Balance Scorecard. Balance Scorecards use four measurable pillars: Financial, Business Process, Learning/Growth, and Customers. Each Ministry Team leader will work with their team to set four goals, one for each pillar. We look forward to sharing our goals with you over the next few months, and creating opportunities for us all to work together to achieve them.



I also want to update you on the plans for worship and activities. As we move out of the winter months and see the roll out of vaccinations, many of our decisions will be based on recommendations from our community leaders. The health and safety of our congregation is always a priority. Currently, we have in-person worship at 10:00am in the Fellowship Hall, but we plan to move back to the Sanctuary starting on Ash Wednesday, February 17. We will still have only one service at 10:00am until we see the average in-person attendance exceed 90 people. Once we achieve that number, we will resume having two services on Sunday. We will bring back the Saturday service once each of those services reach an average of around 90 as well, but we may bring it back earlier if there is a need. The online services (pre-recorded and live streaming) will also continue. These plans follow current attendance guideline recommendations. Wednesday Night Live will resume on February 3, and we hope to roll out more gathering opportunities soon once we iron out the details. The campus is available for use as long as our protocols are followed and space reservations are made with our Administrator, Sharon Hopkins.

Being one of the few churches in our synod holding in-person worship is a reflection on everyone doing their part, and I am extremely grateful for everyone's patience and prayers. It is the teamwork this congregation shows that really gives me hope as we move forward. It is in that spirit that I share my Bible verse with you this month, 1 Corinthians 1:10, "Now I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you be in agreement and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same purpose." We are all one body in Christ, and our continued work to grow our congregation and our mission is essential. Communication will be key in these efforts. As your Council President, I am committed to that in sharing your Council's thoughts and plans. Many blessings to everyone this month!

John Gallo, TLC Council President

Council News

Property and Resources

OPEN

This important ministry team lead is responsible for the care of the church grounds and buildings. If you feel called to help the church in this ministry or just have questions about it, please call John Gallo at (210)651-9090 or [send him an email](#). Thank you!



Becky Sonnen

Congregational Life



Amy Coronado

Servant Outreach

Lenten Giving: RACAP

This year, for our Lenten Service Project, we will be collecting donations for Randolph Area Christian Assistance Program (RACAP). RACAP helps so many families in our local area, and they are in need of several items to help fill their shelves. Each week during Lent, we will focus on collecting a specific item or items. You may drop off your donations at church during in-person worship or during curbside communion pick up. Thank you in advance for your generous donations to help families in need!

Week 1 (Feb. 17-23): Liquid dish soap or laundry pods

Week 2 (Feb.24-Mar 2): Canned fruits

Week 3 (Mar 3-9): Muffin mixes

Week 4 (Mar 10-16): Boxed meat helpers

Week 5 (Mar 17-23): Boxed Jell-o products or Jelly

Week 6 (Mar 24-30): Canned tomato products

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Jennifer Feutz

Early Childhood Programs

The Early Childhood Programs are **facing** exciting times and I am thankful for the opportunity to serve as the ECP council member. My background is in Deaf Studies and Special Education and Rehabilitation, which led me to be an educational interpreter. I followed that by becoming a stay-at-home mom, and then I ventured on to teaching preschool (3-year-olds are my people). Through it all, my love of children has remained because I truly believe it is my calling. The calling continues as I serve our church and our Early Childhood programs.

With the merging of Mother's Day Out (MDO) and Preschool under the directorship of Kristin Miller, we are taking the opportunity to streamline these programs during Covid and determine how to best meet the needs of the ECP community. The preschool is open and enrollment remains steady. MDO has no registered students at this time, although we hope to begin accepting students in the next few months. The nursery renovations are complete, and now we turn towards Heimer Hall and the needed updates there. By looking at facility improvement needs and advertising opportunities, we are hopeful to get MDO restarted in God's timing.

The ECP Board meets the second Tuesday of the month, currently via Zoom. If God is calling you to serve Him by serving the "Little" others of His Kingdom, please let me know. We'd love to have you!



Ken Smith

Worship and Music



Lori O'Berg

Evangelism

Council News



Don Kurtti

Ministry Support



Jessica Anderson

Stewardship



Aaron Theilengerdes

Discipleship

Council Executive Board

President



John Gallo

Vice President



Barbara Wade

Financial Secretary



Doug Hammerstrom

Treasurer



Jim Moreland

Secretary



Nicholle Seiler

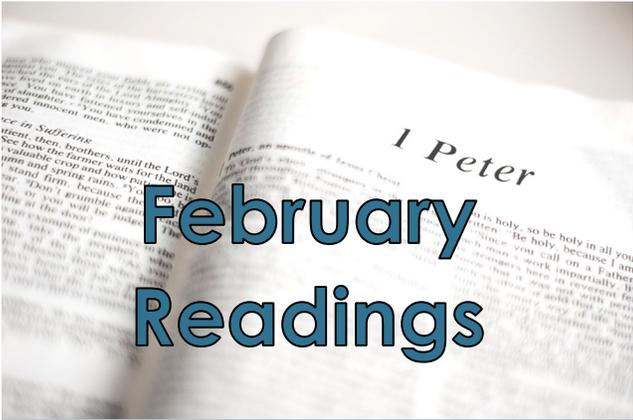
Triumphant's Narrative Budget



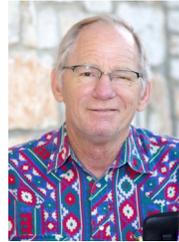
In November, our Council published the Narrative Budget, which highlights what God has done in and through TLC in 2020. It also describes how this relates to the resources entrusted to us (and given by you). It is our TLC story! If you missed reading through it, we encourage you to get a copy and read it. Feel free to take an extra copy to share with a friend or neighbor. Who knows? They may be looking for a church community. Copies are available on the kiosk in the Narthex, in the church office, and at our in-person worship services each Sunday. It is also available on the church website at

triumphantlutheran.org/narrativebudget.

 Triumphant Lutheran Church
Narrative Budget
2020-2021



Sam Dennis



Former TLC member and Sexton, Sam Dennis, passed away on Friday, January 15. Sam was an integral part of life here at Triumphant Lutheran Church for many years, helping with upkeep of the church grounds, as part of the Sound and Light Team (SALT), and volunteering on Church Council. He and his wife, Sandra, were married in our Sanctuary in November 2015. He will be missed! A memorial service will be held at Beitel Memorial Church on a future date. Condolences can be sent to Sandra at: 321 Buffalo Springs Road, New Braunfels, Texas 78132.

Meals on Wheels

- Feb 7:** [Mark 1:29-39](#)
Jesus Heals Many
“he cured many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons”
- Feb 14:** [Mark 9:2 - 9](#)
Transfiguration of Jesus
“from the cloud there came a voice, ‘This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!’”
- Feb 17:** [Isaiah 58:1-12](#)
[Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21](#)
“Beware of practicing your piety before others in order to be seen by them; for then you have no reward from your Father in heaven. [For] where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”
- Feb 21:** [Mark 1:9 - 15](#)
Temptation of Jesus
“He was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan”
- Feb 28:** [Mark 8:31 - 38](#)
Jesus Foretells His Death and Resurrection
“For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life?”

Dear Triumphant Congregation,

On behalf of the Board of Directors and staff of Comal County Senior Citizens Foundation, we would like to thank Triumphant Lutheran Church for the continuing support of our organization and the Meals on Wheels Program with the very generous donation of \$5,977.72. We are amazed again at the generosity of this church and the support for seniors in the communities that we serve.

Last year, we provided meals to 1381 unduplicated seniors, veterans, and disabled adults. We served them 121,713 meals. Due to the pandemic, all our fundraisers were cancelled. Grant funds were limited also due to the pandemic. We are truly blessed to receive donations from individual donors, and from organizations like Triumphant Lutheran Church. Your generosity is allowing us to continue to provide these important services to these vulnerable seniors in our community.

Thank you for helping us “Enrich the Lives of Aging Adults.”

Best regards,
Ken Lowery
CCSCF Executive Director

“No one is more cherished in this world than someone who lightens the burden of another.”
— Author Unknown



God's Love Guides Us

By Rose-Marie Smith

When one thinks of February, one thinks of Valentine's Day and love. Then the first Bible verse which comes to mind is John 3:16, "For God so loved the world. . . ." God is the source of love. It is His very character.

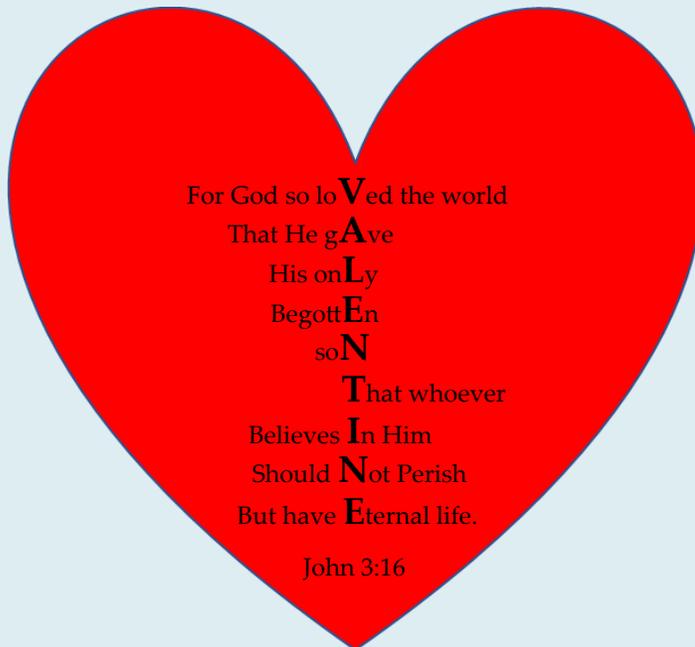
On the Ponte de Arts bridge in Paris (a pedestrian bridge which crosses the Seine River), hundreds of thousands of padlocks, each engraved with sweethearts' initials, were attached to every imaginable part of the bridge. It was inundated with all these symbols of love, of couples' declarations of forever commitments. In 2014, these love locks were estimated to weigh a staggering 50 tons! This caused portions of the bridge to collapse, necessitating the locks removal. The presence of so many locks points to the deep longing we have as humans for our assurance that our love is secure. However, humans can be fickle. The locks were removed.

Out of His endless, deep, and unconditional love, God gave His only begotten Son as the ultimate sacrifice for the salvation of humanity. While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. He did not wait until we could earn or deserve it. He did it because He loves us unconditionally, even before we could love Him. This is hard to fully comprehend with our human minds because we are so accustomed to earning or deserving everything in our lives. God, however, is rich in mercy and has such a wonderful and intense love for us that He willingly poured out His life for us. This love draws us, and others, to Him. Jesus' spirit lives within each believer – permanently sealed. This demonstrates God's never-ending love for each of His children.

We are called to appreciate what love is and then express it to others. We are empowered as Christians by God to do this. Love is revered in action, especially in what we do in the interest of others. He wants us to love others as He loves us — fully and without hesitation. With the love of God within us, as believers

we can let that love freely flow out to others without limits or conditions. Man's love fails, but God's love never ends. We may not be able to love a person with our **human** strength, but we are able to because of **God's love in us.**

God's true love does not depend on feelings, but on decision. So, we are free to love people without asking if they deserve it. This type of love is both beautiful and impactful. What joy this brings to all!



For God so lo**V**ed the world
That He g**A**ve
His on**L**y
Begott**E**n
so**N**
That whoever
Believes **I**n Him
Should **N**ot Perish
But have **E**ternal life.
John 3:16

Last month, a new class of Stephen Ministers responded to God's call and began their training. Each has stepped out of their comfort zones in faith and love to answer His call to serve. Without exception, each is motivated to give back some of this Godly love shown them throughout their lives. They are willing to sacrifice on behalf of others. **How are we to love? We are to love as God loves us.** We are each uniquely made and should appreciate each other's uniqueness, to see everyone through the filter of God's love for us.

How have you experienced the love of God? How might you allow His love to guide and encourage you and your actions today? Won't you ask God to empower you to love all the people around you daily with His perfect love?

Church Life

NEW Security System

The church has a new security system, by Vallance Security Systems. If you have a key to the church, please contact the church office for instructions on how it works!



Curbside Communion

You can participate in communion during the online services by picking up communion kits on the following dates:

February 4 & 6

February 18 & 20

Thursday pickups are from 5 - 6pm and Saturday pickups are from 10am - 11:30am.

Western Music Sunday

Howdy! February in San Antonio means time to rodeo! For us at TLC this year, it means Western



Music Sunday instead of Cowboy Sunday. We will have a mini Cowboy Sunday service while dressed in Western duds, singing those 'get along little dogie' songs and

enjoying some western decorations in the Fellowship Hall. We hope you will participate by sending a picture of your family to Sharilyn Krauss at newsletter@triumphantlutheran.org. We're looking for photos of families dressed in cowboy attire, participating in a past Cowboy Sunday, or on a ranch or farm with a horse, cow, chicken, etc. I, like so many others, miss seeing our church family members, so sending in pictures to share will help

keep us feeling connected to each

other. Your picture will be shared during the prelude, special music, or postlude.

Git Along Now!

— Carol Snyder, Music Director

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Worship Moving to the Sanctuary

Great News! Our worship services are moving back to the Sanctuary on Ash Wednesday, February 17!



Lent: The Way to the Cross

Ash Wednesday Services

Wednesday, February 17 at Noon and 7pm: We will begin the season of Lent with this worship service focused on confession and repentance.

Ashes are placed on the forehead in the sign of the cross as a symbol of our repentance, our mortality, and Christ's redemption.

Ashes To Go Drive-Thru

Wednesday, February 17 from 5:00 - 6:30pm

Participants will drive through this worship service, stopping at stations including welcome, confession and the imposition of ashes, reading of the Word, communion, and blessing.

Lenten Services

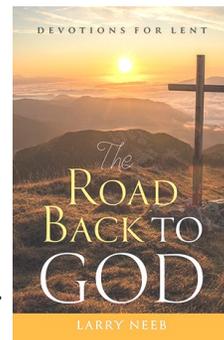
Wednesdays, February 24 - March 24

6:30pm - 7pm

We gather in person and online each Wednesday of Lent to join in the Holden Evening Prayer service and scripture readings.

Lenten Devotion Book

"The Road Back to God" by Larry Neeb will be available at in-person worship and communion pick up. Discover a deeper and richer relationship with God through inspiring daily reflections, scripture, and prayer.



The Good Steward

By Mary Gandolfo

“In a certain desert, where there was no sign of water, there was a tree with green leaves bearing fruit. The reason was that the long roots of the tree found a secret spring of water deep under the ground and thus were nourished by it. Prayer is the hidden root which goes to the hidden spring which is God. Through prayer we receive life from God and strength to bear fruit” — Sadhu Sundar Singh (life dates 1889 – 1929)

I have been using a GREAT devotional resource for the past few years. It is called *For All the Saints* and is published by the American Lutheran Publicity Bureau. Pastor Brady recommended it to me while he was Interim Pastor at Triumphant and I have, in turn, recommended it to a few folks. Every day, I find a jewel and



reread it so I don't forget the message. The quote above is one of those jewels — and I just could NOT help myself — so I am passing it on to you.

We all have heard about the power of prayer and what it can mean for us and those we care about — at least those of us who have been around any faith community for a while! That said, many of us are just like the disciples and need to learn *how* to pray. For reasons known only to ourselves, we don't always think we pray correctly. So Jesus teaches us about prayer:

This then is how you should pray: “Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our debts, as we also forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.” — Matthew 6:9 – 13 NIV

This is really a starting point for our prayer life. It took me a while, but I have developed an ongoing conversation with my LORD. This, to me, is prayer. It isn't always with words (see [Romans 8:26](#)). I talk to God all day long through every action and word I utter. Sometimes I am not as gracious as I should be, and when I think about it, I am sorry. But, sometimes I get it right — and that is solely by the grace of God.

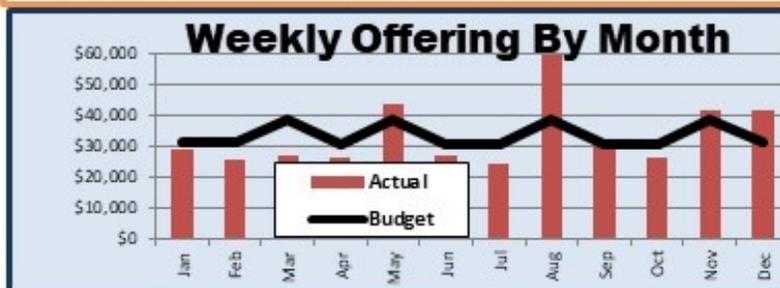
And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight.
— Philippians 1:9 NIV

The Good Steward is a person of prayer. **We are called to pray for so many things, some of which we will never see or understand why our prayer is so important.** That does not lessen the importance of our voice blending with those of every place and time to seek God and make Him known. And in making Him known, we lift the kingdom to all those around us. Want to walk and talk with our LORD? Invite Him into your life and talk to Him!! He is waiting for the conversation to begin, and in some cases, to continue. I look forward to joining you in the conversation.

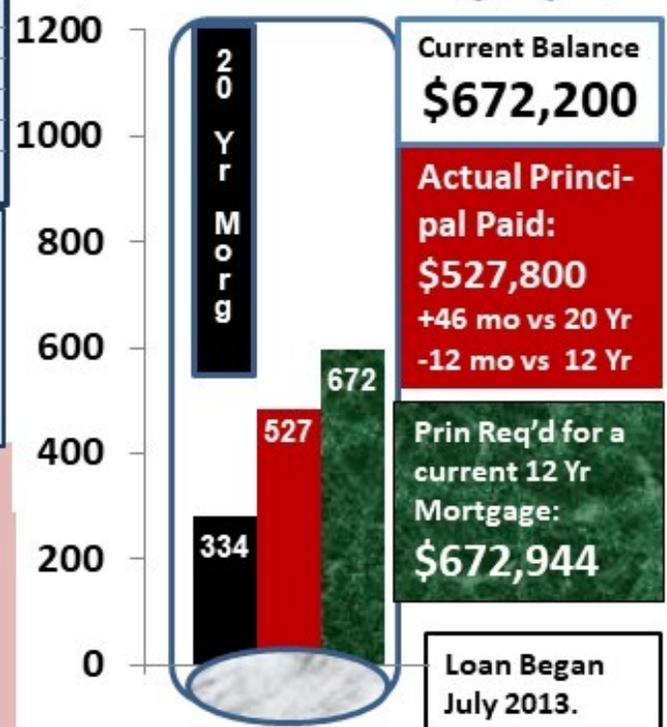
December 2020 Financials

KEY POINTS:

- ✦ **Bottom Line:** **Net Income** for **December** was \$7,509 and **Total Net Income** for **2020** is -\$1,280, both of which include PPP proceeds of \$87.6K. Importantly, we did not have to lay off any employees. See the Financial Summary below for more detail.
- ✦ **General Offering:** Weekly Offering through **December** was net +\$37. The people of Triumphant really stepped up in this most unusual of years. Thank you. ECP's Preschool program has resumed and is now helping, but PPP proceeds have kept us afloat.
- ✦ **Building Fund:** **Bldg Fund Income** through **December** was \$112K, well above our requirement. The overage will pay ahead on our mortgage and save interest.
- ✦ **Going Forward:** Considering Covid, we have done very well this year. We also have strong reserves. That said, this year ended well because we received PPP loan benefits, which made up for our lost ECP Income. The ECP will be rebuilding in 2021. **Bottom line, there will likely be a need to support normal operations with \$50-80K from Reserves in 2021, barring additional revenue from another round of PPP or other income.** That also assumes the ECP rebuild is mostly successful.



\$1.2M Mortgage



DECEMBER 2020 Month End Financial Summary - YEAR END SUMMARY

	NET INCOME		ANNUAL BUDGET	
	December	Year To Date**		
Includes \$87,600 Income from PPP **				
Operating Income	\$50,906	\$512,768	Operating Income	\$743,175
Operating Expenses	\$48,046	\$608,181	Bldg Fund Income	\$91,104
Net Operating Income	\$2,860	(\$95,413)	Other Income	\$7,950
Bldg & Designated Income	\$122,964	\$249,749	TOTAL INCOME	\$842,229
Bldg & Designated Expenses	\$35,466	\$155,616	Operating Expenses	\$765,175
Net Designated Income	\$87,498	\$94,133	Debt Service	\$91,104
TOTAL NET INCOME	\$90,358	(\$1,280)	TOTAL EXPENSES	\$842,229

Anniversaries & Birthdays



- 3 Robert & Rose Carlson
- 9 Bill & Janet Weeper
- 16 Brian & Sharilyn Krauss
- 20 Jan & Carla Wagner
- 24 Rodney & Elizabeth Lee
- 27 Andy & Debbie Still



- Ronnie Gerth** (Friend of the Baumanns)
+12-22-2020
- Julie Reese** (Friend of Margaret
Robinson) +12-25-2020
- Sam Dennis** (Former TLC Member)
+1-15-2021

The March Trumpet Deadline
Sunday
February 21, 2021

Send Submissions to:
newsletter@triumphantlutheran.org

FEBRUARY



- 1 Ainsley DuParc, Briley Fudge,
Abelardo Salazar, Silke Williams
- 2 Allie Farris
- 3 Kelli Haug
- 5 Jacob Mattison, Kristin Miller
- 7 Nancy DuParc, Nicolas Etheridge,
Brad Tellander
- 9 Sam Gordon
- 11 Mary Feuge, Ella Jean Holland
- 15 Cadence Cantwell
- 16 Marisol Whitaker
- 17 Theresa Fuller, Josef Leachman
- 18 Nancy Patchin
- 19 Addy Bazaldua, Brian Schlameus
- 20 Danny Coronado
- 21 Don Braun, Ted Royston
- 23 Linda Shuler
- 24 Michael Fernandez, Jason Gordon
- 26 Shellie Garman, Molly Richter
- 28 Ron Pratt
- 29 Tom Potter

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

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Frank Fogg, Sexton
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Cindy Carlile, Accounts Payable
bookkeeper@triumphantlutheran.org

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

[MDO](#): Re-opening Soon!

Website: triumphantlutheran.org

(210) 651-9090

