

LET THE
Word of Christ
DWELL
in you richly.

-Colossians 3:16

**Triumphant Lutheran Church
2021-2022 Narrative Budget
& Annual Report**

We Grow in Christ to Serve Others.

Table of Contents

Introduction 1

Proposed 2022 Budget..... 2-3

Church Council..... 4

Worship & Music..... 5-7

Discipleship 8-10

Servant Outreach 11-13

Ministry Support 14-15

Early Childhood Programs 16-17

Congregational Life..... 18-20

Stewardship 21

Property & Resources 22-23

Evangelism..... 24

Conclusion 25

To the Congregation of Triumphant Lutheran Church,

When I started the year as Church Council President, I was wondering what the year would entail. Little did I know that we would experience many challenges and blessings together as a Church. It has been a ride—from the Winter Storm back in February, to maneuvering through the continued Pandemic—and all the while seeing God truly at work. I was blessed to have great Council members this year that focused on their goals: to manage the business of the church and continue to grow and promote our many ministries that we have to offer.

This Annual Report/Narrative Budget is a testimony to the year we have had and the year to come. The hard work of so many throughout the year is truly seen in the ministries we have to offer. Whether that is helping out with many events we have put on this year, to helping with service every Sunday, to managing the finances of our church, we have so many ways that you can be involved.

There are also so many people we have to thank—of course thanks to Pastor Aaron for truly being a leader of faith who has brought so much to our church and been a constant source of comfort to so many. Also many thanks to Deacon Chris who is a true role model for our youth and who provides many opportunities for us to grow in our faith. I would also like to thank our amazing church staff who does so much to make our church operate on a daily basis. Mostly I would like to thank all of our members for truly giving so much this year, whether it is financially or through your time and your talent. It is great to see how diverse our congregation is with so many people having different talents and experiences that allow us to fulfill our mission.

As you read through the Narrative Budget, please focus on more than numbers, focus on the stories our ministry leaders are telling as well, and see where you may fit in and help.

This upcoming year is one that I am very excited about and I hope that you are just as excited for all the wonderful things God has in store for us!

Many Blessings,

John Gallo

TLC Council President

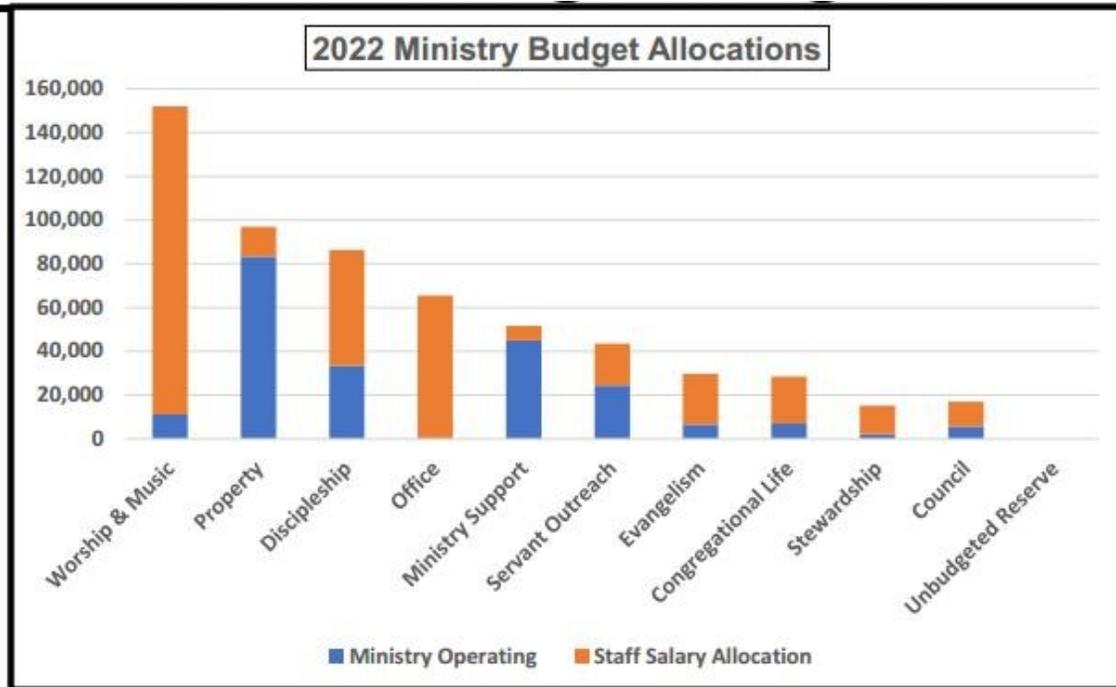
“Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.” - Acts 2:46-47

2022 Budget

The 2021 and 2022 budgets are a stepping out in faith that post-pandemic we will resume growing as a congregation, living up to our Mission Statement that We Grow In Christ To Serve Others. That means we will grow in ministry, in membership and attendance, and in giving. We have maintained our staff to assist in this purpose, and both the 2021 and 2022 budgets commit use of \$48,000 in Reserves as a buffer if needed to cover expenses while we pursue this path. We are pleased to report that Weekly Offering giving year over year is +\$24,000 at end September and that we are seeing the occasional new face. Our reserves are diminishing but generally holding and we are also super pleased to see the effort and growth in the ECP program. After enduring the pandemic and then the loss of all their facilities for half a year thanks to the Big Freeze, their path gives great indication the Preschool will be completely caught up as a ministry by end of 2022 -- which of course will be helpful to our finances as well. The MDO (beyond a nursery in 2022) requires facility upgrades not yet completed to achieve state requirements, a priority for 2022. Overall, we have much to be thankful for and can move forward with confidence in 2022 and beyond.

Ministry Budget Allocations	2021			2022		
	Ministry	Staff Alloc	Total	Ministry	Staff Alloc	Total
General Operating Income/Budget (Not ECP, Not Mortgage)						
Weekly Offering Income			396,837	Based on projections		433,605
Other Operating & Designated Income			8,716	from end Sept.		8,716
Total Operating & Designated Income			405,553			442,321
Worship & Music	8,784	124,031	132,815	11,114	140,945	152,059
Property	80,670	12,196	92,866	83,360	13,509	96,869
Discipleship	29,500	59,699	89,199	33,500	52,814	86,314
Office		59,644	59,644		65,559	65,559
Ministry Support	44,220	5,894	50,114	45,016	6,556	51,572
Servant Outreach	24,368	17,933	42,301	24,368	19,211	43,579
Evangelism	7,350	21,042	28,392	6,550	23,178	29,728
Congregational Life	6,400	19,631	26,031	7,000	21,424	28,424
Stewardship	2,070	11,788	13,858	2,070	13,112	15,182
Council	5,600	10,377	15,977	5,600	11,359	16,959
Unbudgeted Reserve	0		0			0
Operating Expenses	208,962	352,994	561,956	218,578	367,666	586,244
Operating Net Income			-156,403			-143,923
Early Childhood Prog Income/Budget						
MDO Income (Did not happen in 2021 due to the pandemic and need for facility upgrades to meet state req't's -- which are mostly still needed.)			67,522	(Nursery only in 2022. Other MDO spaces not state ready.)		18,570
Preschool Income			173,930			183,125
Projected ECP Income			241,452			201,695
MDO Expense Budget			43,409			13,079
Preschool Expense Budget			124,443			136,805
Projected ECP Budget			167,852			149,884
ECP Net (Spts Operating Exp)			73,600			51,811
Mortgage Income/Budget						
Building Fund Income			91,104			91,104
Debt Service Expense Budget			91,104			91,104
Mortgage Net			0			0
Other Income/Expenses			4,448			4,448
Reinput of Reserves as Income (if needed buffer)			48,000			48,000
TOTAL PROJECTED INCOME			790,557			787,568
TOTAL PROJECTED EXPENSE BUDGET			820,912			827,232
PROJECTED BREAK EVEN			-30,355			-39,664

2022 Budget, continued



Reserves

Leadership Reserve. Established several years ago when income could be seen to likely go down for a while. Provides buffer to maintain current ministries and staff levels while we grow sufficiently in both attendance and giving to support these areas without the need of a buffer. **No input at present.**

G.O. 3 Mo Emergency Reserve. Always maintain a running 3 month operating reserve in the event of emergency(ies); i.e., large storm damage, fire, sustained rates of down total income, etc.

Capital Reserves. A set aside continually banked for future facility and equipment upgrades, and to replace old or dead equipment beyond normal budgeted requirements. **No input at present.**

Building Fund Reserve. Maintain a 5 month reserve to ensure on-time monthly mortgage payment.

Mildred Morgan Fund.** Continuing Ed for Sr Pastor and Deacon, or o/w as directed by the Sr Pastor.

Other Specified Reserves. ** Ladies Bible Study, Young Family Ministry, Creative Blessings, WC & Liability Ins, Meditation Gardens, Memorial Fund, Backpacks, Local Outreach, Youth Holding Accts, MDO Reserve, Preschool Reserve, Congregational Care, etc.

Reserve Status

	Jan 2019	Jan 2020	Jan 2021	Sep 2021	Projected Dec 2021	
Leadership Reserve	81,878	66,264	66,264	56,264	46,264	***Operating Reserves
3 Mo Emergency Op Res	133,113	132,137	132,137	132,137	132,137	
Capital Reserves	140,746	94,979	59,688	48,311	48,000	Specific Use Reserves
Building Fund Reserve	32,500	37,960	37,960	37,960	37,960	
Ordained Cont Ed.**	26,553	30,742	30,888	44,463	44,000	
Other Specified Res	117,239	120,751	121,122	116,136	111,639	
** Mildred Morgan Fund	532,029	482,833	478,947	435,271	420,000	

*** Operating Reserves: The Leadership Reserve should be sufficient for 2022 and perhaps into 2023. The Emergency Operating Reserve remains available. We look forward to 2023 being a balanced or near balanced budget. There will be need to input into these reserves eventually.

2021 Church Council

President	John Gallo
Vice President	Barbara Wade
Secretary	Nicholle Seiler
Treasurer	Jim Moreland
Financial Secretary	Doug Hammerstrom
Worship & Music	Ken Smith
Discipleship	Aaron Theilengerdes
Servant Outreach	Amy Coronado
Ministry Support	Don Kurtti
Evangelism	Lori O'Berg
Early Childhood Programs	Jennifer Feutz
Congregational Life	Becky Sonnen
Property & Resources	OPEN
Stewardship	Jessica Anderson

Worship & Music

“Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God.” - Colossians 3:16

The heart and soul of serving God finds its foundation in a communal setting. Through regular worship and making a “joyful noise” in His presence, we find peace, comfort, and blessings.

TLC’s ministry of Worship and Music provides many ways to find a special niche to serve. There are ten programs under this ministry: Acolytes, Altar Guild, Ushers, Greeters, Readers, Assistant Ministers, Music, Sound and Live-Stream Team, Drama Programs, and the Puppet Ministry. Each of these wonderful volunteer programs offers a place to show your servant heart and to praise God in a valuable and fun way.

The ministry of acolytes has its roots in the Old Testament, where the prophet Samuel is seen assisting Eli, the Levite priest, and Elisha is seen assisting Elijah, the prophet. When serving as acolytes, our children at TLC are not only serving the church in an important ministry, but they are growing in their personal faith and confidence.



The ministry of the Altar Guild is deeply rooted in Scripture and church history. Altar Guilds serve the clergy and the congregation by preparing the Sanctuary for services and sacraments, much in the same way we prepare our homes for family and guests on special days. By serving the church in this important ministry, you also develop connections and friendships with other church members, working as a team to nurture and deepen your faith. TLC has been ably served by these behind-the-scenes lay ministers.

Always there to greet you with a smile and a handshake as you enter the church, the important ministries of ushers and greeters have a long history in the Christian church. In the Old Testament, there were positions addressed as "Doorkeepers" or "Gatekeepers," and their roles were very similar. As one of the oldest lay ministries in the Church, the ushers and greeters



Worship & Music, continued

of today have descended from a long line of people of God.

Readers and Assistant Ministers also serve TLC in an important way. Biblical history shows us the importance of temple servants who were part of the formal worship of God and how they assisted high priests and ecclesial ministry. Our talented Readers of the scripture, likewise, have history in our religion. Just as the Apostles spoke the word of God to all who would listen, our readers take these same words, now written in the Bible, and share the good news which is Jesus Christ.



Traditionally, music in the early Orthodox church is thought to be a direct descendent of the music used in the synagogues during the life of Jesus. Music was held in such high esteem in the early church because people believed that it was a "window to heaven." We can trace our modern religious musical heritage through Greek, Russian, Egyptian, Coptic, Ethiopian, and African Christian influences. But it is the themes we find in the Book of Psalms where the



foundation of modern theological music can be found. Whether it is our wonderful choir, Praise Band, Cantata, or guest performers, here at TLC, we are truly blessed with amazing musical leadership and the multiple talents of many musicians



and singers who carry on the long tradition of musical worship and praise.

Our wonderful Sound and Livestream Team quietly, but expertly, ensures that our church services are successful. The biggest change has been growing our ability to broadcast services through several means to folks at home. In the past few months, we have 75-100 people who tune in from home each week.



Recently, with Pastor Aaron's leadership, we have added opportunities for drama using talented actors, costuming, scene design and management, and skillful production filming. We look forward to the return of the wonderful Living Last Supper dramatization in Holy Week in 2022. (See the photo of 2019 Living Last Supper on page 10.)



Finally, our wonderful Hands of Triumphant Puppets deliver the Gospel and bring Biblical stories to life in a vibrant way. Both young and the young-at-heart find enjoyment and fulfillment from this ministry. We always welcome new puppeteers.

The Worship and Music budget covers most of the items necessary to perform our three worship services and other events such as baptisms, weddings, and funerals. From musical scores to communion sacraments; from flowers (Altar Flowers as well as seasonal poinsettias and lilies) to sound and light equipment repair and replacement; from cleaning robes to tuning pianos, from Polka Bands to Living Last Supper performances, all ten ministries operate close to historical costs averages which are fine tuned to be prudent and essential.

At the heart of Triumphant Lutheran's ministry of Worship and Music are people of all ages. People serving, people singing, and people giving of their time and talents in worship to our Lord. Serving others is the very essence of this ministry. As believers in Christ, we are called to ministry, and, therefore, we are all called to be servants for the glory of God. I would like to sincerely thank the many volunteers who lead and serve this ministry. It is through their wonderful efforts that our worship programs remain vibrant and worthwhile.

Team Members: Lead—Ken Smith. Leads of Worship and Music Groups:

Altar Guild – Helen Bauer; Music Director – Carol Snyder; Choir Director - Filiziti Pena; Greeters – D.K. Guebard; Assistant Minister and Reader Scheduling – Mary Langenes, Lori O'Berg, and Mary Fuege; Sound and Livestream Team - Jerry Guebard and Gordon Hengst; Hands of Triumphant Puppets – Gloria Kreuzler; Ushers – Leroy Albrecht; Acolytes – Ken Smith and Pastor Aaron Richter.

Discipleship

The core question when it comes to stewardship is, “What can I do with what I/we have been given?” It’s slightly odd that we start the DISCIPLESHIP narrative budget with a sentence about stewardship. However, it is a fitting question for 2021. Coming out of 2020, we wrestled with the reality that COVID brought, “Do we trust God in the good times and the bad?” In 2021, we got our bearings and helped the congregation “grow in Christ” through good stewardship – by doing what we can with what God has given us.

Much of our regular Wednesday Nite Live programming continued in 2021, due to the abundance of outdoor facilities at our church. The Elementary group enjoyed the playground and learned the core Bible stories through the video series “Holy Moly.” The Confirmation group learned what it means to be a disciple of Jesus around the fire-circle outside and inside the Fellowship Hall. The high school group did some topical studies on the basketball court while playing sports. In the fall, we were able to incorporate a meal again, which is a blessing to our families and WNL participants. Thanks to Kenneth Weber and his meal team, we have robust participation in our small groups.



Wednesday Nite Live

Our Sunday morning studies in the spring centered around Children’s Chapel on Facebook. This simple program has been a lively way for us to talk to kids in our community and beyond about faith. The videos have been a wonderful showcase for visitors and new families who are interested in getting involved in our congregation. They are able to view these videos on Facebook and on our YouTube page. We have continued Children’s Chapel online this fall, and encourage kids to participate in person, as well. We have adjusted to having both in-person and online participants and are learning as we go.



This fall we resumed offering Sunday School for other ages as well. The adults and teens studied the “Saints Alive” curriculum on generosity. The Lady’s Bible Study and Men’s Bible Study also to meet and foster hearty conversation and relationships. We have worked hard to continue to offer learning opportunities in addition to our

regularly programmed activities. In the seasons of Advent and Lent, we sent weekly emails with ideas and opportunities to learn at your own pace. From written devotionals to prepared music playlists, these emails presented ways to reflect and learn about what God is doing in the world. We plan to offer more learning options, both in-person and online, as we continue into 2022. The in-person opportunities are great ways to grow through conversation with others. The online opportunities allow us to stay connected and grow when life prevents our ability to gather.

In addition to our regular programs, we were able to host a variety of learning opportunities for the congregation. Kids attended summer camp, our high schoolers served on a mission trip, and our congregation was able to host Vacation Bible School. These are all annual events that give us opportunities to put our faith in action. At the end of 2020, we filmed and premiered our first Christmas Movie! With the leadership of Ryan Anderson, we put the Christmas story “on the big screen” and hosted a watching party in our parking lot. It remains our most popular video online, with people all over the country viewing and sharing it. Each of these events was a wonderful opportunity for us to learn and live-out our faith in a unique way.



In 2022, we will continue to grow in Christ by offering in-person and online learning opportunities. We plan to continue our regular programs, like Wednesday Nite Live and Sunday morning studies. We will try new formats, like in-person/online simultaneously, and offering the same study at different times.



In addition to our regular programs, we plan to host several events. We plan to offer an adult fall retreat – similar to the Gatherings the youth participate in – as an opportunity for adults to spend more significant time together. We also anticipate sending a dozen youth and adults to the ELCA Gathering in Minneapolis in July. We will be offering the Identity forums again, as these events help us see our faith in action in the midst of our lives.

Discipleship, continued

Toward the end of the story of Jesus' birth in Matthew, there is a sentence that relates to where we find ourselves today. After the Magi have met this baby Messiah, Matthew notes that they were warned in a dream and "went home by another way." Though our circumstances are quite different, we can't help but notice that we are "going home by another way." In so many ways, COVID has challenged us to do things differently – sometimes to our irritation and sometimes to blessing. Our challenge in 2022 is to continue our travels home (to life everlasting), but to do so by a new road. Trusting in the promises of God, we look forward to traveling the road God leads us down and the opportunities for discipleship along the way.

Team Members: Lead—Aaron Theilengerdes. Members: Deacon Chris St.Clair, Lois Glazener, Leon Henk, Marisol Whitaker, Cindy Walters, Ruth Garcia, Mellissa Zipp.



2019 Living Last Supper (Worship and Music)

Servant Outreach

Throughout the month of September, our congregation was able to learn more about living generously. As I was thinking about the many ways we can live generously in our daily lives, I found this quote by Pablo Picasso: “The meaning of life is to find your gift. The purpose of life is to give it away.” The members of our congregation have so many amazing gifts that they share with us as a church family and with those around us every single day. Serving others is one of those gifts. The Servant Outreach team has the great privilege of researching and coordinating activities that allow members of our congregation to use their gifts to serve others through the giving of our time, talents, and treasure. Throughout 2021, we have seen the generosity that our congregation has shown as we continue to grow in Christ and serve others.

For our Lenten Service Project, we collected donations for RACAP. During each week of Lent, we focused on collecting specific items including dish soap, muffin mixes, and boxed meat helpers. We were able to collect many items to help families in our local area.



In April, we collected items for our young adult care packages. Beginning Easter Sunday, members of the congregation were able to select tags with specific items to purchase. Special positive messages and Bible verses were attached to each of the items, and about 30 of our young adults were surprised with these packages.

In May and June, we focused on service opportunities with the San Antonio Food Bank and the New Braunfels Food Bank. The San Antonio Food Bank Urban Farm is the largest urban agriculture initiative within the city of San Antonio. The New Braunfels Food Bank was founded to more fully serve the surrounding community. We were able to help many people through the giving of our time and talents.

Servant Outreach, continued

With the start of school just around the corner, we took the opportunity in July to collect school supply kits to donate to Communities in Schools (CIS). CIS is an organization that works directly with students in our local schools to provide mentoring, academic support, basic needs and much more. We were able to fill many bags with school supplies needed to help students have a great start to the school year. CIS was grateful for the donations, and we know the families who received them were very appreciative as well.

“The beginning of the year always has a big need for supplies, so we can use all the help we can get! Thank you so much for your generosity!!”

~Elise Bruinsma, Communities in Schools

September was focused on “God’s Work. Our Hands.” weekend, an annual opportunity for ELCA members across the country to engage in service work to



make a positive change in their communities, build and deepen relationships, and share God’s love. This year, we chose a variety of service opportunities that included both activities that could be completed at church as well as in our community. On

Saturday, we worked in the warehouse at the New Braunfels Food Bank where we were able to prepare 432 food boxes for those in need. We also volunteered at the Ronald McDonald House, a temporary home for critically ill children and their families. We were able to serve a taco bar along with sides, drinks, and desserts. We had great conversations with families staying there, and they were very appreciative of the meal. On Sunday, cards were decorated and sent to



members of our US military to show appreciation for their dedication and service to our country. Bubble and chalk play kits were put together and delivered to local parks to spread joy to children. Packets of coins and laundry pods were put together and left as blessings at laundromats in the surrounding area. The playground here at church was cleaned and gravel was moved to help our preschool students begin the new school year. Meals were

also prepared and delivered to shut-in members of our congregation.

Participants of all ages made this weekend a successful time of helping others.



The holiday season provides us with even more opportunities to help those in need. In October and early November, we are collecting food items for the Randolph Area Christian Assistance Program (RACAP) Thanksgiving Baskets. We hope to collect enough food items to provide 75

families with a great Thanksgiving meal. In December, we will provide gifts for children in our community with our Angel Tree.

We are so thankful for the amazing generosity of our church family! In 2022, we will continue to find ways to use our time, talents, and treasures to serve. Thank you for always being willing to share your gifts and honor God through your incredible service to others.



Team Members: Lead—Amy Coronado. Members: Deacon Chris St.Clair, Amanda Henderson, Carole Meyer, Debbie Roberts, Bruce Kilhefner, Sarah Richter, and Kaylie Skaggs; plus all of the members of our amazing church family!

Ministry Support

The Ministry Support Team is responsible for meeting Triumphant's on-going needs, the needs of the church staff, and the financial needs of the church. The church finances are overseen through the diligent work of the Finance Committee, which is by no means an easy task. Going into the second year of the pandemic, we are continually reviewing the donated income and daily expenses to ensure that we are on track with the annual budget. All of the ministry teams have been judicious in recommending projects that will improve TLC. We thank the members of Triumphant Lutheran Church for their trust in us and the increased donations that were provided in 2021.

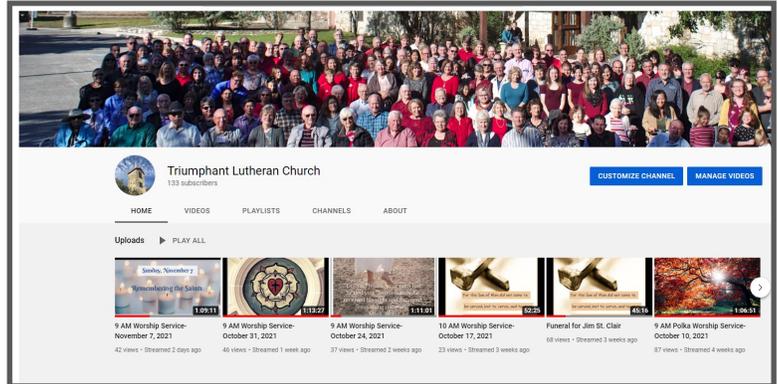


Triumphant Lutheran Church has had a tumultuous year, as we all have, faced with the pandemic and all of its nuisances, not to mention the broken pipe leading to the flooding of the Preschool building during the Big Freeze in February. My personal thanks to all of the individuals who found the leak, shut off the water, and removed the 2 inches of water throughout the building. Many thanks to the numerous volunteers who moved the furniture from one building to another, removed 27 classroom carpets and placed them on the rails and walkway to dry, and too many other tasks to list here. Our numerous volunteers deserve a round of applause for giving of their time and efforts, which exceeded hundreds of hours.

We had two contractors on-site within 48 hours to begin the process of identifying what needed to happen to get the building back in shape, so that classes could resume there as soon as possible. The demo and reconstruction process took approximately three months; our Preschool classes were able to move back into the spaces in late April. Church Mutual, our insurance company, worked diligently with us and covered the costs resulting from the water leak, over \$100,000.00.

Our IT Team continually strives to improve our IT utilization. This year, we have installed cameras in the Fellowship Hall and Sanctuary. We have purchased and installed new computers and placed the original computers

where they could be better utilized. Stronger conduction cables have been installed to allow TLC to livestream our services to the world. These improvements allow those who cannot attend in person or chose to worship at home to take part in our services. We can also pre-record services and classes to be utilized at a future date.



TLC's insurance coverage for 2022, through Church Mutual, is increasing approximately 14%. This increase is to be expected with the rising cost of building materials and labor, as evidenced by the increase with the Big Freeze that affected Texas and other locations. At one point, building materials alone increased over 400% in 2021.

Our hard-working staff deserves a great round of applause. They are amazing. Their work through the pandemic and the Big Freeze is second to none. Please thank the Pastor, Deacon, and the staff the next time that you see them for their hard work and for whatever support they provided to you during this time.

Your continuing support in 2022 is greatly needed. Our goal for the next year is that you will keep Triumphant Lutheran Church as one of the best in the Southwest Texas Synod.

Team Members: Lead— Don Kurtti. Members: Dennis Feuge, John Gallo, Jerry Guebard, Doug Hammerstrom, Jim Moreland, Tom O’Berg, John Schultz, Marilyn Winters, Pastor Aaron Richter: **IT Team:** Gordon Hengst, Brian Krauss, and Jeff Boyes.

**ARE YOU USING
TLC APP?**



Early Childhood Programs

“Children are a gift from the Lord; they are a reward from him.”

- Psalm 127:3

While challenges have presented themselves this year, our purpose remains the same. Our Early Childhood Programs provide an age-appropriate, Christian-based environment where children grow socially, academically, physically and emotionally.

School operations during Covid-19 continued, but with modifications such as wearing masks and following state-mandated protocols for safety. Even with the difficulties that Covid-19 brought, the joy remained. Classes celebrated



Valentine’s Day and then “Snovid” happened. The extremely cold weather for a longer duration caused a 1 ¾ inch inlet water pipe in Education B to burst.

Most of the damage occurred in Education B where the majority of the classes located.



For repairs to happen, classes had to be moved to Heimer Hall and the Nursery. Our flexible and resilient teachers made the move with grace. Church volunteers brought the helping hands to remove water-logged classroom furniture and teacher materials. Materials that were deemed not salvageable included classroom cabinets, cubbies, damaged books, and the director’s office desk and computer. These items have been replaced through



Church Mutual Insurance. The main repairs done were removing and replacing water-soaked wall board and petitions, painting the entire building (ceiling and walls), replacing insulation in damaged classrooms and associated hallways, cleaning of classroom rugs, and waxing of all the

floors throughout the building. This was quite the undertaking and kept and kept the classes in their temporary areas until May.

Week-long summer camps were offered in June, July and August. They were well attended and served as an opportunity to support current families, as well as showcase our program to potential future students.



The first day of school for 2021-2022 was September 7, with 61 enrolled students and 11 staff members. Mother's Day Out (MDO) is not officially operating. However, children 18 months and up are being served under the Preschool. The plan is for MDO to begin in January, or when there are numbers to sustain the cost of operations.



We are pleased that the Early Childhood Programs can once again contribute financially to the Triumphant mission. We are cautious that Covid-19 could still provide challenges if there are positive cases within the classrooms, staff or students. The ECP budget represents stronger numbers moving forward with a hint of conservativeness.



Team Members: Leads—Jennifer Feutz & Marilyn Winters. Members: Preschool Director Kristin Miller, Ruth Garcia, Nancy Hendricks, Sandy Arneson, and Pastor Aaron Richter.

Congregational Life

“For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them.” - Matthew 18:10 NIV

The main focus of the Congregational Life ministry is fellowship. Being around other believers provides us with opportunities to grow in our faith. As we gather outside of worship, we discover shared interests, promote the formation of new friendships, uplift one another, share ideas, backgrounds, and faith stories, and enjoy each other’s company.



In 2021, in spite of continuing to experience the restrictions of an occurring pandemic, we found

ways to engage in some special activities – a DIY Easter Egg Hunt delivery, a congregational picnic, and an ice cream social, to name a few. In the upcoming year, we plan to have our annual Cowboy Breakfast, a Fiesta brunch, a little surprise for our next picnic, and so much more. We always welcome new ideas and input into ways to create fellowship opportunities.



“Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling. Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God’s grace in its various forms.” - 1 Peter 4: 9-10 NIV

There are many opportunities to meet people, forge new friendships, and contribute in some way. We encourage you to consider the following groups in addressing your needs, engaging your interests, matching your skills, experience, and passion, and discovering how you can contribute in serving others. Be sure to look at our monthly calendar in *The Trumpet* (hardcopy or online) for scheduled meetings and activities.

Wednesday Night Live (WNL)

This is an awesome time when we gather on Wednesday evenings from September through May. There is a meal in the Fellowship Hall followed by youth educational opportunities, choir practice, and other projects or activities that promote our mission as a congregation.

Primetimers

On the second Monday of each month from September through May, join others that are 60 years or better in the Fellowship Hall for lunch at noon. They enjoy each other's company while celebrating a different theme each month.

Quilting Bees

This group meets to create colorful quillows for the girls at New Life Center, a temporary home for underage girls in difficult family situations. A quillow is a quilt that can be folded and tucked into its own pocket to create a pillow. Quilting supplies, laughter, and smiles are provided for a great opportunity for fellowship.



Creative Blessings

This group knits and crochets shawls, hats, and baby items. These lovingly handmade items are blessed through prayer then given to chemotherapy patients, soldiers, and others in need of comfort and an awareness of God's presence in their lives. Beginners are welcome, and there are terrific teachers who can help you learn about this ministry!

Love in the Mail

This is a group that sends cards to express loving thoughts and wishes to congregational members on their birthdays, anniversaries, when they are ill, bereaved, need cheering or encouragement, or just have not been seen in a while. Some perform this loving service from home, while others gather on Wednesdays at 4pm in the church library to enjoy fellowship while sending out their expressions of love, hope, and faith.



Art Group

This group meets to work on individual art projects while gathering with great company to promote artistic expression through faith and fellowship.

Prayer Team

This team meets on Wednesday afternoons at 5pm in the church library to pray for congregational members, friends, and acquaintances who are in need of prayer and the power of God's healing love.

Congregational Life, continued

Sunday Morning Coffee Fellowship

This team sets up the after-worship refreshments provided by volunteers and cleans up afterwards. Generally, a couple of volunteers are scheduled for once every two months. They also request refreshments when needed. Refreshments can be either homemade or store-bought.



Baptisms/Funerals/Special Events Team

This team of dedicated members helps to coordinate, prepare food, serve, and clean up for special events, such as baptisms, funerals, graduation, and more. These events are not activities that occur each month or week; therefore, the team must coordinate as the events occur.



Young Adults/Young Families Group

This group gathers for the purpose of getting to know Christ as well as other people of faith that are the same age. There are many activities that range from group Bible Studies to game nights, cook-offs, and family retreats.

Meet Me at The Grill

This group meets at our BBQ Hut, grilling their own meat and sharing sides and dessert. It is often accompanied by games or just good conversation. This group hopes to resume in 2022.

All these groups help to promote a sense of togetherness within our Congregation. Through good times and difficult times, these ministries often coordinate with other TLC ministries to let others know they are not alone and that God is with us wherever we are and a part of whatever we do. The budget for this ministry helps all these activities throughout the year. Along with the many gifts that members contribute, whether it is their time, skills, or money, this ministry will continue to thrive with the support of all TLC members.

Team Members: Lead – Becky Sonnen. Members: Pastor Aaron Richter, Marilyn Winters, Barbara Wade, Jackie Mitchell, Kenneth Weber, Chris Crawford, Cindy Carlile, Jerry and D.K. Guebard, Carol Snyder, Nancy Hendricks, and all who volunteer for special events, food, and refreshments.

Stewardship

The Stewardship Team's purpose is sharing ways we grow in our discipleship through generosity. We strive to share our stories to show how our giving of time, spiritual gifts, and finances are connected to the ministry of TLC.

First off, we want to give thanks for the incredible generosity of the TLC family, whether it is with your time, talent, or resources. As we seek to grow in Christ to serve others, being generous provides a faithful foundation in serving God and the people God loves.

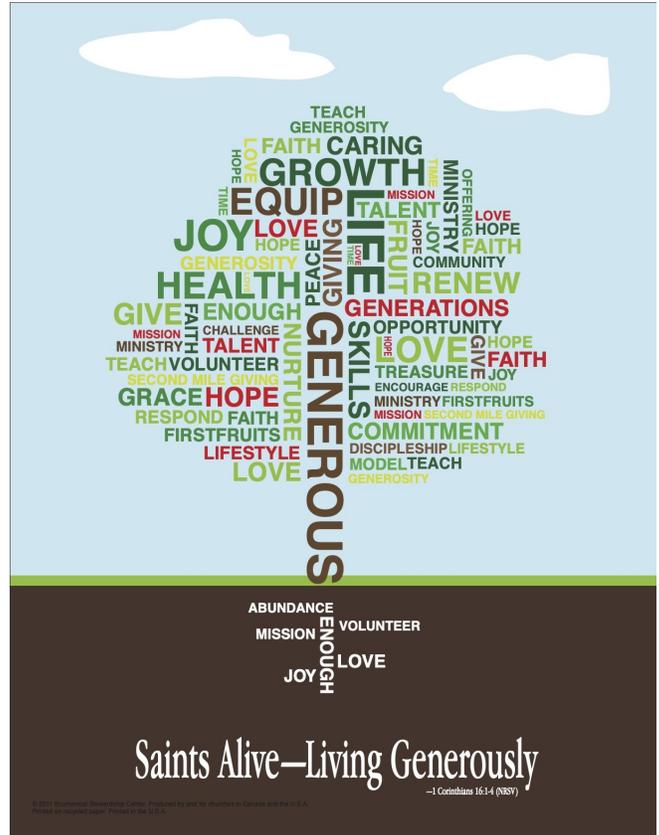
During the month of September, a variety of ministry teams worked together to host the giving campaign, *Saints Alive!* The Worship & Music team along with Pastor Aaron created wonderful worship experiences. Servant Outreach hosted a life

giving Sunday of service in conjunction with *God's Work, Our Hands*.

Discipleship hosted weekly Bible studies to dive into conversation about what it means to be generous. And Congregational Life hosted a celebration of food and fellowship to honor the generosity of the people of Triumphant. We are incredibly grateful that this opportunity to learn about generosity was blessed and supported by the generosity of these other ministry teams!

We are grateful to the people of Triumphant Lutheran in the ways you have been generous with your time, in sharing your God-given gifts, and through your continued financial support. It is through your giving that allows our church family to thrive and be a reflection of God's love in this world.

Team Members: Lead – Jessica Anderson. Members: Pastor Aaron Richter, Bobbie White, Kim Hinze, Jerry Guebard, Bobbie White, and Andrew Feutz.



Property & Resources

The Property and Resources Team's purpose is to maintain our amazing campus so that all members and guests have a warm and inviting experience during church services and other TLC activities. There are many functions within this team that we focus on, which include: Grounds Maintenance, Facility Maintenance, HVAC maintenance, Set-Up and Take-Down for events, Access and Security, and Janitorial Support.

None of these functions can be managed without Frank Fogg, our Church Sexton. Frank has been a blessing over the years he has worked at TLC, managing the day-to-day maintenance of the facility and assisting with long-term projects to enhance our campus. Frank, along with the Properties and Resources Coordinator Council, manages the contracts that support our vital systems as well as coordinates volunteer work days as they arise. A special thanks to Jackie Mitchell and Jerry Guebard for coordinating the grounds work days at the church while the Properties and Resources Coordinator position remained vacant.

Accomplishments:

This year, the team had many challenges, starting with the impacts of the winter storm back in February. The Preschool building suffered broken pipes, which led to extensive damage throughout the building. This caused our Preschool classes to have move to other parts of the church while repairs were undertaken. With the help of Ministry Support Lead Don Kurtti, Frank Fogg and many volunteers, we moved rapidly to coordinate with our insurance company and hired a contractor to start repairs immediately. By May, the building had been renovated and classes resumed before the end of the school year. The winter storm also damaged much of our landscaping around the campus. Many



volunteers came out and helped clean up all the dead plants so that we could start fresh. We have started to see many of those plants grow back.

Two main projects were undertaken after the Preschool repair to enhance the facilities. The first was the refinishing and repair of our front doors. They had taken a beating over the years, and a professional door company was hired to rejuvenate the doors so that we can



continue to provide the friendly first impression to our visitors and community. The second project that was undertaken was the repair, sealing and painting of our parking lot. This had been one of the top complaints for many years from Preschool parents and members of the church. After extensive research, we were able to find a great company to partner with to finally deliver this project. The new parking lot not only meets safety and ADA standards, but provides a more welcoming feel to the campus.

Next year, the Property & Resources team will focus on a new sign for the church that posts our service hours, a renovation of Heimer Hall, and new landscaping for the Preschool building.

None of this would be possible without the many gifts the church receives, whether through financial giving or volunteer hours. If you are interested in joining this team and love to work with your hands and get a little dirty from time to time, please reach out. We would love to include you!



Team Members: Building Maintenance Leads—Frank Fogg and John Gallo; Grounds Maintenance Leads: Jackie Mitchell and Jerry Guebard. Members: Larry Beierle, Kathy Beierle, Wes Wade, Barbara Wade, and all who volunteer on Property work days!

Evangelism

The Evangelism Team focuses on how we communicate our faith and mission, “We grow in Christ to serve others,” both within and outside of our church. We also strive to support people in our community, especially those who are isolated in their homes.

Through the pandemic, there has been a shift as our congregation and the world around us has moved toward attending worship online as well as in person. This has provided an interesting lesson from this past year: when people are interested in learning or getting to know TLC, they will check us out online first. And there have been many ways for them to learn about us!



With livestreamed worship, people from our local area and all around the country have been able to worship together, and we are grateful to the Worship and Music team, and particularly the Sound and Livestream Team, for their efforts to give us capability to livestreaming our worship services. There have also been opportunities for both children and adults to learn together. Our social media posts have seen increases in the amount of engagement and followers.

Moving forward, how we communicate our faith (evangelism) must continue to adapt. This means connecting and sharing moments of hospitality in both physical (in-person) and digital spaces. Sharing Facebook posts, texting words of support, or posting a picture that connects you with God are great ways to be faithful sharers of the good news of Jesus Christ. In this new world, how we listen to God and help others to see our faith and membership in TLC will help us grow in our faith and serve others.



Team Members: Lead—Lori O’Berg. Members: Pastor Aaron Richter and Nancy Molter.

Conclusion

Thank you for taking the time to read, learn, and explore the stories of TLC! In this past year, we have witnessed the amazing power of God as we transition and move forward in our call to "grow in Christ to serve others." As we begin this new journey forward, may God's gracious and guiding hand be with all of us in this community of faith of Triumphant Lutheran Church!

May God's peace be with you,

Pastor Aaron Richter



