



The Trumpet

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

Vol. 42, Issue 11

"We Grow in Christ to Serve Others"

November 2021



November 7th at 1am

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Upcoming Events

ALL SAINTS' SUNDAY

Nov 7th

WELCOME COOKOUT

Nov 7th

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

NOV 14th

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

NOV 28





Pastor Aaron's Message

Greetings, people of God!

Recently, we hosted a Communion 1-2-3 workshop, with young people learning more about this life-giving sacrament of love and grace. One of our activities in the class was tossing a spool of yarn from person to person, connecting all the participants. This is a great demonstration of how the communion meal reaches beyond us, bringing us together with people all over the world and throughout time.

Mary Gandolfo (author of "The Good Steward" on page 8) shared an email newsletter with me about church history, and it contained a story that shows how far communion reaches:

But probably the most unique setting ever for a service of Communion was out of this world.

Astronaut Buzz Aldrin, who was also an elder of Webster Presbyterian church near Houston, had obtained permission from the Presbyterian General Assembly to serve Communion to himself during the first moon landing. He took a small chalice, bread, and wine. He had arranged to synchronize the observance as nearly as possible with his home church.

At the designated moment **on this day, July 20, 1969**, he said into the radio, "Houston, this is Eagle. This is the LM Pilot speaking. I would like to request a few moments of silence. I would like to invite each person listening in, wherever and whomever he may be, to contemplate for a moment the events of the past few hours and to give thanks in his own individual way."

It was during this radio silence that Aldrin took Communion and read a Scripture.

"I poured the wine into the chalice our church had given me. In the one-sixth gravity of the moon the wine curled slowly and gracefully up the side of the cup. It was interesting to think that the very first liquid ever poured on the moon, and the first food eaten there, were communion elements."

The Scripture he read to accompany the ceremony was John 15:5 in Today's English Version, "I am the vine, you are the branches. Whoever remains in me, and I in him, will bear much fruit; for you can do nothing without me." — *Credit to the Christian History Institute's daily email newsletter (July 20, 2021)*

**"...the very first liquid ever poured on the moon, and the first food eaten there, were communion elements."
— Buzz Aldrin**

The fact that this sacramental meal, shared first in Jerusalem in the 1st century, was shared into the cosmos illustrates the reach, depth, and height of God's connecting communion meal. It also shows the incredible truth that no matter where you are (or even what planet you are on!), this is the body given for you, the blood shed for you, and a meal done in remembrance of Jesus.

2

May God's peace be with you!

Pastor Aaron Richter

Annual Congregational Meeting

Sunday, November 14

11:15am

Fellowship Hall

All TLC members, please make plans to attend this very important meeting. We will vote for our 2022 TLC Council members and the proposed 2022 budget. You must attend in person to vote. Congregational Life will provide a lunch of pulled pork sliders, chips, and coleslaw prior to the beginning of the meeting.

The following Church Council terms are ending at the end of 2021 and need to be filled for the 2022 Church Council. Please prayerfully consider running for one of these positions to serve God and your church community.

President — Calls and presides over congregational and council meetings, reviews and ensures all Council members fulfill their duties as outlined in the Constitution and Bylaws.

Vice President — Assists the President and assumes duties of the President if President is unavailable. Leads Oktoberfest Team in planning the annual Oktoberfest fundraising event.

Secretary — Keeps a record of attendance and takes minutes at the council and congregational meetings.

Financial Secretary — Responsible for keeping an accurate record of incoming funds and depositing those funds.

Treasurer — Records all funds deposited by the Financial Secretary and disburses those funds as directed.

Congregational Life — Promotes fellowship within the congregation. Supports the team leaders who arrange and coordinate church meals and other fellowship

opportunities along with a team of helpers. Works as the liaison between Council and the team leaders.

Stewardship — Responsible for educating the congregation on why and how to best utilize and share God's gifts to us.

Resources/Property — Responsible for organizing the maintenance and repairs of the church buildings and grounds by coordinating volunteer resources and contractors with skills to address any issue that may arise. Coordinates with the church sexton if necessary. **No manual labor required!**

The positions of President, Vice President, Secretary, and Congregational Life will need to be elected, but the incumbents are willing to serve another term. The positions of Discipleship, Early Childhood Programs, Ministry Support, Evangelism, Servant Outreach, and Worship & Music are currently mid-term.

If you think you may be interested, or just have questions, please [send an email to Barb Wade](#). Nominations are currently being accepted and can also be accepted from the floor during the meeting.



To watch the meeting online, [visit the church website](#) or our YouTube channel. Remember, those watching online are not eligible to vote.

Council News



Amy Coronado

Servant Outreach

Thanksgiving Meal Baskets



Now through November 7, we are collecting items for the Randolph Area Christian Assistance Program (RACAP) Thanksgiving Meal Basket program. Cut-outs listing needed items are available in the Narthex. Please take a cut-out (or several), buy the items, and return them by Sunday, November 7. Monetary donations (via check or triumphantlutheran.com/giving) will be used to purchase additional items for the baskets. Our goal is 75 baskets to help those in need this Thanksgiving. Thank you for helping others have a bright holiday season!



Becky Sonnen

Congregational Life

Some notes of gratitude:

Thanks go out to Barb Wade and DK Guebard for working with me to clean and organize the BBQ Grill Kitchen and Pantry prior to Oktoberfest. Beautiful job! And Marilyn Winters provided us with a delicious lunch break. Yum! Thank you to Kenneth Weber for cleaning the BBQ Grill Kitchen after Oktoberfest. He has also been serving some great meals at Wednesday Nite Live. Michelle Salazar has helped with set up and preparation.

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I could not be there, but I understand we had a lovely light lunch for Jim St.Clair's memorial service. Thank you to all who put that together.

Thank you to those who attended the pre-Oktoberfest Kitchen Protocol class. It is very important to know how to avoid causing any cross-contamination in order to provide safe, healthy foods to our members and visitors. And thanks to Kenneth Weber and Frank Fogg for installing the new sinks prior to Oktoberfest.

Thank you to everyone at Oktoberfest who helped prepare and serve the food, clean up during and after the event, and run the activities. What terrific volunteers we have!

We have Nancy Hendricks and her crew to thank for always having coffee prepared for Sunday Morning Coffee Fellowship and for cleaning up afterwards. Thanks to everyone who brings snacks for Sundays!

I love seeing things get back to normal with so much fellowship occurring again. We have a terrific Congregational Life team, but we always welcome new members. Call me to join in serving our members and community by providing events that encourage friendship and fellowship!



Jennifer Feutz

Early Childhood Programs



Ken Smith

Worship and Music



Don Kurtti

Ministry Support

Council News



Stewardship

Jessica Anderson



Discipleship

Aaron Theilengerdes

Property and Resources

OPEN



Evangelism

Lori O'Berg

Council Executive Board



President: John Gallo



Vice President: Barbara Wade



Financial Secretary:

Doug Hammerstrom,



Treasurer:

Jim Moreland



Secretary: Nicholle Seiler

November Readers & Assisting Ministers

November 7

9am Assisting Minister	Tom O'Berg
9am Reader	Dean Neuzil
11am Assisting Minister	Doug Hammerstrom
11am Reader	Dean Neuzil
5pm Reader/Comm Asst	Mary Gandolfo

November 14

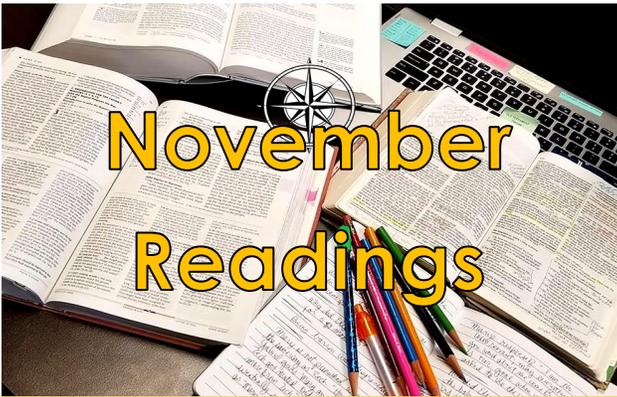
9am Assisting Minister	Ken Weber
9am Reader	John Schultz
11am Assisting Minister	James Fuller
11am Reader	Sam Neuzil
5pm Communion Asst	OPEN
5pm Reader	Bobbie White

November 21

9am Assisting Minister	Walter Brown
9am Reader	Amy Coronado
11am Assisting Minister	Amanda Henderson
11am Reader	Barb Wade
5pm Reader/Comm Asst	Kathy Beierle

November 28

9am Assisting Minister	Rose-Marie Smith
9am Reader	Amy Beierle
11am Assisting Minister	Debbie Roberts
11am Reader	Lindy Hammerstrom
5pm Reader/Comm Asst	Marshall Gomez



November Readings

Nov 7: [1 Kings 17:8 - 16](#)

[Mark 12:38 - 44](#)

The Widow's Offering

"Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all those who are contributing to the treasury."

Nov 14: [Psalm 103:1 - 5](#)

[Matthew 6:25 - 33](#)

Do Not Worry

"Do not worry about your life ... is not life more than food ... but strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well."

Nov 21: [Psalm 93](#)

[John 18:33 - 37](#)

Are You the King of the Jews?

"...for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice."

Nov 28: [Jeremiah 33:14 - 16](#)

[Luke 21:25 - 36](#)

The Coming of the Son of Man

"Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away."

From the Treasurer

Dear Fellow Triumphant Members & Friends,

As your Treasurer, I report to Council each month on how we are doing financially. The Finance Team also reports directly to the Congregation via this publication about how we are doing. But sometimes, I think the messages get lost in the details, so I thought I would boil it down for November's edition (and one of my last Trumpet columns because I am required to step down as Treasurer after two years in that position). So here is my short and to-the-point message to all.

First, we should thank each other for living generously when it comes to General Operating Fund giving! We have done a great job of meeting our budget goals for giving, and we can and should be proud of that. But with that good news, I must also report that we are not routinely meeting our building mortgage payment of \$7,592.00 per month. Frequently, we miss our mortgage payment goal by as much as \$2,000.00! When that happens, we use money from our Building Fund Reserves so that we are never delinquent, but at some point, those reserves must be replenished.

Please take a look at your personal giving plan and see if you can increase what goes toward our monthly mortgage payment (Building Fund). It never changes from \$7,592.00, and it won't be going away for a number of years, so please see what you can do to ensure we cover our monthly loan payment for the beautiful Fellowship Hall and classrooms we built to meet the needs of our growing congregation. Questions? Happy to answer.



Jim Moreland

TLC Treasurer, james.p.moreland@gmail.com

Church Life

Oktoberfest Proceeds

Congratulations to the gift basket raffle winners and the Baked Goods Auction winners! This year's Oktoberfest exceeded all expectations. We served 50% more meals than expected and proceeds totaled \$6,800! All proceeds benefitted [Lutheran World Relief](#) (to assist with world-wide natural disasters) and [TruLight127](#) (a local foster care organization). Thank you to everyone who came to Oktoberfest, volunteered at the event, participated in the auction, and donated to these worthy causes. [See photos on our website!](#)

Fall Back

Remember to set your clocks back one hour when you go to bed on Saturday, November 6.



All Saints' Day

In our 9am and 11am worship services on Sunday, November 7, we will remember our loved ones who have passed away in the past year. If you have a loved one who has passed away since November 2020, please check the list (in your email and posted in the Narthex) to make sure he or she is listed. To add a name to the list, please [send an email to Sharon Hopkins](#) with the name, relationship to you, and date of passing.

Welcome Cookout

We're having a cookout to welcome the families who are new(ish) to Triumphant on November 7 at 5pm! Old or new, all are welcome to come, eat, and enjoy our lovely fall weather. After dinner, we'll have a camp-style worship service outdoors, led by some of our CrossTrails staff. It will be a fun evening for the whole family! [Please RSVP to Pastor Aaron.](#)



Primetimers Luncheons Return!

The monthly Primetimers luncheons will resume in November with our traditional Thanksgiving meal. Please join us in the Fellowship Hall on Monday, November 8 at Noon for fun, fellowship, and a delicious turkey dinner with all the trimmings. If you would like more information about Primetimers, please [send an email to Marilyn Winters](#) or [visit our website.](#)

Christmas Cantata Rehearsal

Attention all vocalists! We are now rehearsing for our 2021 Cantata! We provide you with a teaching CD and a book, so you can practice at home as well as on Wednesday evenings. Our Cantata will be on Sunday, December 12. Please send an email to [Choir Director Feliziti Pena](#) or [Music Director Carol Snyder](#) for more information.

Advent Kickoff

On Sunday, November 28 from 3pm - 5pm, we will usher in the season of Advent with an afternoon of fun activities designed for all ages. Bring the whole family to the Fellowship Hall, participate in a cookie exchange, make a wreath or Advent calendar, or create a Christmas ornament as a gift or for your family Christmas tree. Happy Advent!



Giving Tuesday — November 30

We hope you remember Triumphant when you donate to your favorite causes and charities on Giving Tuesday, which falls on the Tuesday after Thanksgiving. This rather new tradition has become a special way for many families' to express gratitude. You can give through our website at triumphantlutheran.org/giving or through the Tithe.ly app on your mobile phone. Thank you!

The Good Steward

By Mary Gandolfo

But since he has no root, he lasts only a short time. When trouble or persecution comes because of the word, he quickly falls away. — Matthew 13:21 NIV

I was sitting at my computer and looking out my window. My view overlooks the back yards of two neighbors. The one immediately next door **had** a new fence — notice the verb tense!!! The one diagonally from me **had** a beautiful old tree that had been there as long as I could remember. Again, notice the verb tense!!! As I watched, the tree fell over and landed on the diagonal neighbor's home. The immediate neighbor now had a gaping hole at the bottom of the fence. The tree had been over-trimmed on one side, making it heavier on the other side, and we'd had a lot of rain which had saturated the ground — that poor tree didn't have a chance between gravity and soggy ground! I noticed the root system for the now fallen tree. It was one that spread out and didn't go deep like a tap root. This got me to thinking ...



If part of the dough offered as firstfruits is holy, then the whole batch is holy; if the root is holy, so are the branches. — Romans 11:16 NIV (emphasis mine)

As people of faith, we grow everyday into our faith. It takes time to nurture and encourage that growth, we don't come to full understanding all at once. Faith is a relationship, and relationships that are healthy are generally developed over time. Think about the friends you have, the family members who have supported you, and the family you create in your work and social life. They didn't spring out of nothing, but took time to grow. Most of us can count on several fingers those folks that we can count on through thick and thin. Then our count expands as we include those who are becoming close, and when I say close, I don't just mean local! We have a family of friends that span a great geographical area. Do you know someone living in Europe? Do you know someone living in Asia? Do you know someone living in another part of the United States? Canada? Mexico? South America? My guess is that you

can say a resounding yes to many of these places. Our friendship relations have incredible reach!

"I, Jesus, have sent my angel to give you this testimony for the churches. I am the Root and the Offspring of David, the bright Morning Star." — Revelation 22:16 NIV

We, as people of faith, have a friend that is as close as a prayer and is also our family member, our brother. This Jesus, the one of history and faith, is ever-present for us. All we need to do is say his Name. In Him, our roots sink deep into the universe and keep us safe from wind, rain, poor gardening, toxic situations, and all-around bad things! The Good Steward is a rooted and grounded member of the family of Jesus the Christ — what a great promise! We are valued and blessed. We are part of a much larger community than we can imagine. Join me as I deepen my relationship with my brother and Redeemer — you, me, and Him — unbreakable!



Confident Expectation

By Rose-Marie Smith

Each of us searches for meaning and purpose. Regardless of the form an obstacle takes, much of what we've worked and hoped for can seem doomed, threatened to be crashed on the rocks just ahead. However, ironically, this is exactly the place where one finds hope. We're unable to find hope unless we first feel hopeless. In John 14:6, Jesus says, "I am the Way." He is the way of trust and peace during our life's raging storms. These storms are the very way He opens a hope-filled life of love and care.

Amid all the twists and turns in life, we need to purposefully rest in God's plan for our lives. God is involved even in the smallest details of our lives. He is involved in the paths we take. The success of a life journey often depends on our willingness to take the path He has made for us. We need to prepare for that journey by first asking God for wisdom and direction, and not by mapping out our own course.

Amid life's storms, we need to keep a firm hold on our faith, and even deepen our relationship with Christ – make it more intimate and personal. We need to mature our faith and keep our minds focused on the truths and promises from above, and not on our struggles. Trust God with all your needs and desires. Only He can meet the impossible, making a way for you to do the things you think you're unable to do. He longs to give us time, energy, health,

enthusiasm, tenacity, and hope. He alone will provide what we need, at the right time, to move forward. Sometimes it helps to remember — to look back at all the ways God has provided for you in the past — and will do so in the present and future. This is reassuring and quells fear, as we acknowledge that our loving God is faithful.

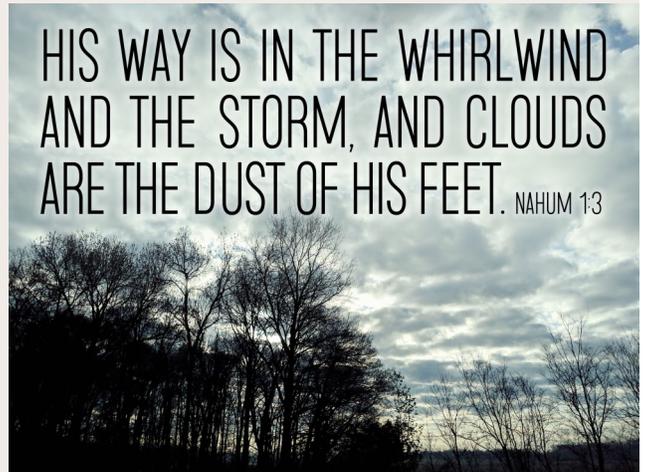
Hope is defined as a confident expectation. We can change the filter through which we view our circumstances. When we lose hope, we lose happiness and the ability to laugh and have peace. Our true hope is authored by and anchored in God. Hope is our spiritual lifeline, because when our lives are tied to something strong enough to firmly support us, we have great hope. **We are rooted in the promise for God to meet our needs, and always be present with us through the storms of life.**

A friend used to tell me that laughter is the language of hope. We cry, moan, and beg for help — eventually we're able to laugh again, even in dark places. Whatever our problem, struggle, or crisis, remember that it didn't come to stay, but to pass. The Bible reminds us of this repeatedly: "It came to pass." I often find that those who've been through the most pain have the greatest capacity for joy. That same friend reminded me that sorrow hollows our out hearts so God can fill it with love and joy. God promises to calm the storm.

Oscar Wilde said, "We are all in the gutter, but some of us are looking at the stars." I challenge you, in the midst of your strong storms, to take your eyes off your crisis and look up to see God's promise of heavenly hope twinkling in the distance. The tiniest pinprick of hope can restore, empower, and bring joy.

This is what Stephen Ministers do — help you turn your eyes up to a loving God and find hope.

HIS WAY IS IN THE WHIRLWIND
AND THE STORM, AND CLOUDS
ARE THE DUST OF HIS FEET. NAHUM 1:3



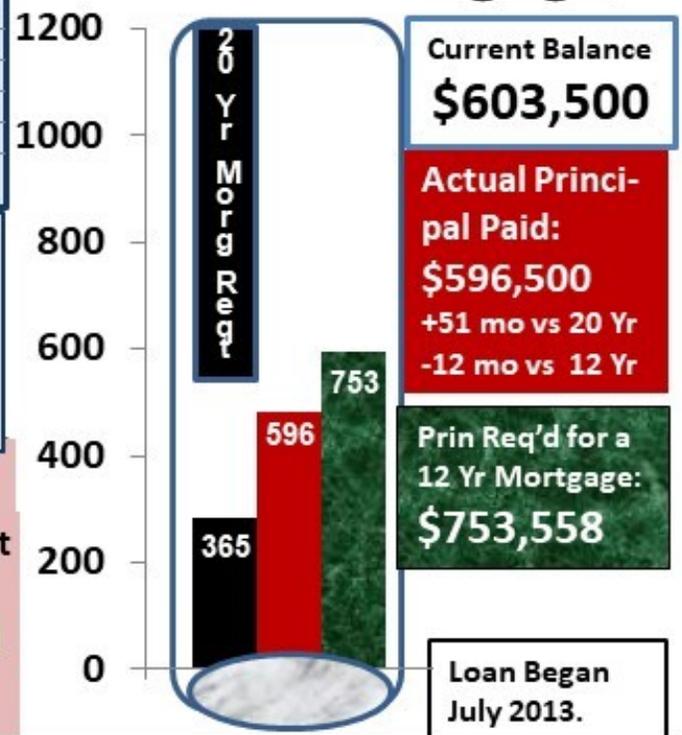
September 2021 Financials

KEY POINTS:

- ✦ **Bottom Line:** Operating Net Income for **Sept** was +\$16,882. **Operating Net Income YTD through the end of Sept** was **-\$15K**, a great improvement. We have also been obliged to use **\$33K** of our Reserves --- some for Operating Expenses and some for Capital Expenses.
- ✦ **General Offering and Income:** See the next chart below. Sept has been our best month of the year, thanks to a \$26K gift and members continued growth in Weekly Offering. **Total Income** through **Sept** was \$421K, net **-\$88K** against budgeted, as other income sources continue to somewhat lag (but are improving). However, Total Financial Assets are only down **-\$48K Net (the above -15 and -33)** through the end of **Sept**.
- ✦ **Building Fund:** Bldg Fund Income through **Sept** was \$67,423, net **-\$904** against our required mortgage. Bldg Fund has come through the summer holding its own, and our reserve is good.
- ✦ **Going Forward:** We just want to say it! **Through end of Sept, the generosity of our members' Weekly Offering and Gifts has been outstanding!!** Although 2022 will still be a bit of a rebuilding year, we have high hopes that with everybody's continued generosity and our other programs getting caught up, we can be operating on all cylinders by the end of 2022.

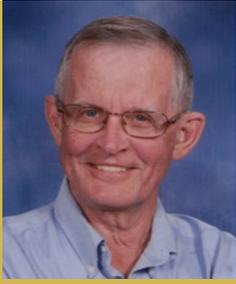


\$1.2M Mortgage



September 2021 Month End Financial Summary

September	NET INCOME		ANNUAL BUDGET	
	September	Year To Date		
Operating Income	\$68,206	\$421,592	Operating Income	\$695,005
Operating Expenses	\$53,140	\$436,730	Bldg Fund Income	\$91,104
Net Operating Income	\$15,066	(\$15,138)	Other Income	\$4,488
Bldg & Designated Income	\$6,333	\$194,329	TOTAL INCOME	\$790,597
Bldg & Designated Expenses	\$5,986	\$189,480	Operating Expenses	\$729,808
Net Designated Income	\$347	\$4,849	Debt Service	\$91,104
TOTAL NET INCOME	\$15,413	(\$10,289)	TOTAL EXPENSES	\$820,912



Robert James (Jim) St.Clair

November 2, 1940 —
October 2, 2021

Jim St.Clair, age 80, passed away at his home in Schertz, Texas. He was born in Wadena, Minnesota.

Jim was an avid golfer. He also hunted deer, and has fished many of the lakes in Minnesota. He and Sharon, his wife of 46 years, retired from Minnesota to warm Texas in 2007.

Jim was preceded in death by his parents, LaVerne and Helen St.Clair. He is survived by his wife, Sharon; brother, Jesse St.Clair, and his wife Sharon; daughter, Katherine (Katie) St.Clair, and her husband Chad Wittkop; daughter, Michelle St.Clair, and her husband Mark Ellett; and grandchildren, Henry Wittkop and Mathilda (Tillie) Wittkop.

Jim has been placed in the Columbarium and Memorial Garden here at Triumphant Lutheran Church. Should friends desire, memorials may be sent to Triumphant Lutheran Church or to a charity of their choice. Jim will be greatly missed by his family, friends, and church family.

In Loving Memory

Betty Scheh (Mother of Curtis Scheh)
+9-22-2021

Susan Alonso (Friend of Debbie Silvas)
+9-30-2021

Jim Whitley (Friend of Margaret
Robinson) +10-5-2021

Ronald Glazener, Sr (Father of Ron
Glazener) +10-6-2021

**The December Trumpet Deadline
Sunday
November 21, 2021**

Send Submissions to:
newsletter@triumphantlutheran.org

NOVEMBER Anniversaries

- 10 Paolo & Breana Villa
- 24 Greg & Pam Chapman
- 24 David & Kelli Haug

NOVEMBER Birthdays

- 1 Kamryn Hinze
- 2 Larry Beierle, George Biesenbach
- 5 Dean Neuzil, Mellissa Zipp
- 7 Mickey Sanders, Mandy Tellander
- 9 Judy Pratt, Bennie Syamken
- 10 Jennifer Feutz, Debbie McHorse,
Randy Robinson
- 12 Jacey Haug
- 13 Megan Still
- 14 Victoria Wilcox
- 15 Lisa Andersen, Neil Craigmile
- 16 Tim DuParc
- 18 Suzanne Schroeder
- 20 Nate Feutz
- 21 Darryl Fudge, Kira Smitka
- 22 Angela Etheridge, Christopher Scruggs
- 23 Ken Weber
- 24 Robert Carlson
- 26 Rebecca Mattison, Kurtis Wilcox
- 28 John Gallo, Leisa Skinner,
Freya Snyder
- 29 Melvin Kreuzler

We Grow in Christ to Serve Others

21315 Bat Cave Road
San Antonio, TX 78266



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

[MDO:](#) Planning to re-open soon!

Website: triumphantlutheran.org

(210) 651-9090

