

The Trumpet

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

Vol. 43, Issue 1

"We Grow in Christ to Serve Others"

January 2022

In case you missed the exciting premiere of our 2021 Christmas mockumentary, you can find it [here](#) or on [our website](#). Enjoy!



Happy New Year



○ SING UNTO THE LORD
a new song;
FOR HE HATH DONE
marvelous things.

PSALM 98:1, KJV

In This Issue

Pastor's Message	2
President's Perspective	3
Our "New" Missionary	3
Council News	4 - 5
January Readings	6
Assistants & Readers	6
Church Life	7
TLC New Year's Party	7
The Good Steward	8
A New Year — A New Beginning	9
Financials	10
In Loving Memory	11
Anniversaries & Birthdays	11
February Trumpet Deadline	11
Contact Us	12



Pastor Aaron's Message

Dear people of God,

I love how close Christmas and New Year's Day are to each other. The Christmas celebration of Jesus' birth and presence in our world is central to our understanding of God, and impacts us each and every day. New Year's Day bears a sense of newness, beginning, and hope. It is an opportunity to find "a new voice and language in the New Year," in the words of T.S. Eliot. I imagine that the folks who organized the calendar may have thought about the significance and interconnectedness of these two events. Perhaps they thought, "Those go well together! Let's put them really close together!"

And so, as we enter into 2022, that blend of Jesus' coming of hope, life and love, and the freshness and newness of the New Year can guide us onward and through these first moments. It can also give us a new way to approach our lives as followers of Jesus.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer wrote about this sense of newness and wholeness and how it is grounded in something ancient, the Christ-hymn: *Sing unto the Lord a new song, "the Psalter enjoins us again and again. It is the Christ-hymn, new every morning, that the family fellowship strikes up at the beginning of the day, the hymn that is sung by the whole Church of God on earth and in heaven, and in which we are summoned to join. God has prepared for Himself one great song of praise throughout eternity, and those who enter the community of God join in this song. It is the song that the "morning stars sang together and all the sons of God shouted for joy" at the creation of the world (Job 38:7). It is the victory song of the children of Israel after passing through the Red Sea, the Magnificat of Mary after the annunciation, the song of Paul and Silas in the night of prison, the song of the singers on the sea of glass after their rescue, the "song of Moses the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb" (Rev. 15:3). It is the new song of the heavenly fellowship. (Life Together, Bonhoeffer).*

I like this idea of the Christ-hymn, this song of praise that has woven its way through creation, through all the blessings God has given in history, and which finds us in this new year. This hymn that we are invited to join, whether we can hold a tune or not. A chorus that is both age-old and new every day, as the melody hums in our lives. This song of blessing, salvation, and the infinite and eternal love of God that created the sun and the stars, who is born into our world, and who is with us every day.

As we enter this New Year, with the hopeful promise of Christmas in our recent memories, may the song of God, the Christ-hymn of praise and salvation, be with you. And may you sing along!

In God's peace,

Pastor Aaron Richter

2



President's Perspective

Greetings Members of TLC,

I hope everyone had a merry Christmas and a very happy New Year! I think we are all looking forward to what 2022 has in store of us, both personally and as a congregation. I know the Church Council will remain busy and diligent as we move forward with our programs for the year. The 2022 Council will be installed on January 9th, and on January 15th we will have our annual retreat. During the retreat, we will be focusing on our ministry goals and formulating church-wide goals. It is always important to set goals every year so that we can measure our success and learn from our challenges. This is one of the most important roles of a Church Council so that we can make sure our congregation has direction toward the future. I look forward to another productive year leading the Council and communicating those goals with you all. We always want to hear from you, so if you have any suggestions, please [send me an e-mail](#) before January 15 so we can go over it during the retreat.

Another focus of the Council this year will be formulating a plan to increase our membership, reach out to those who we have not heard from in some time, and find a way to engage our online members who have been following us since the start of the pandemic. This has been difficult, as all churches are trying to figure out what membership truly is in this new era of online participation. We look forward to sharing our plan with you all as we move forward into this new year.

As always, thank you for your participation and continued prayers for the Council. We look forward to serving this year, and I am always available if you have any questions.

John Gallo

TLC Council President

"The plans of the diligent lead to profit as surely as haste leads to poverty." — Proverbs 21:5

Rev. Dr. Carolyn Schneider



Triumphant supports missionary work all over the world. Our newest missionary, Rev. Dr. Carolyn Schneider, actually isn't new to us at all because we supported her previous work in Hong Kong. We are now excited to be able to support her again in her work in Jamaica.

Carolyn serves at the United Theological College of the West Indies in Kingston, Jamaica, primarily teaching church history. She is responsible for advising, tutoring, and caring for Lutheran students in all things Lutheran at this ecumenical college. She served as a volunteer with the World Council of Churches' Ecumenical Accompaniment Programme in Palestine and Israel (2005); with ELCA Global Ministries as a visiting professor at the Evangelical Theological Seminary in Cairo, Egypt; and a long-term missionary with ELCA Global Ministries teaching church history at the Lutheran Theological Seminary in Hong Kong (2014 - 2018).

Please keep Carolyn and her work in your prayers. If you'd like to learn more, read her newsletter, or make a donation, visit [Triumphant's website](#).

Council News



Early Childhood Programs

Jennifer Feutz

With a New Year comes new beginnings. Our Mother's Day Out Program that serves children 6 months — 17 months is re-opening January 5th! We are thankful to once again open the doors to some of the youngest of God's Kingdom. Another new beginning will be happening for Director Kristin Miller in May 2022. She is retiring, effective at the end of the school year, to have more time with her family. While we are sad to lose our dedicated and assiduous leader, we are thankful for her 15 years as TLC Preschool Director!



Worship and Music

Ken Smith

One of the most important ministries for TLC is the Altar Guild. 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. These awesome volunteers work behind the scenes, but their efforts are critical to the success of our worship services. Here comes the pitch: **We need you! Please prayerfully consider serving TLC as a member of the Altar Guild. It's fun, takes just a few minutes of your time, and you will meet new friends.** [Send an email to Helen Bauer](#) or to [Ken Smith](#) to volunteer or just get more information.



Servant Outreach

Amy Coronado



Ministry Support

Don Kurtti



Congregational Life

Becky Sonnen

HAPPY NEW YEAR! Thank you to all the members of our Congregational Life team. Your efforts in church meals, events, parties, picnics, and coffee fellowship are much appreciated.

Speaking of Coffee Fellowship, if you are not currently serving in this capacity, please consider doing so, especially those who attend our 11am worship service. Call Nancy Hendricks at (210) 602-0712 with any questions. She can also get you started in the prep or cleanup rotation.

Coffee Fellowship Cleanup:

Date	Crew
Jan 2	Doug & Lindy Hammerstrom
Jan 9	Corina & Rodney Leachman
Jan 16	Barb Wade & Ruth Garcia
Jan 23	Kathy Moser
Jan 30	OPEN

Coffee Fellowship Snacks: If you'd like to help

Last Name	Date
L - M	Jan 2
N - R	Jan 9
S - T	Jan 16
V - Z	Jan 23
A - B	Jan 30

provide snacks for between services, check the chart for your day (or bring goodies any day that works for you). Thanks!



Kim Hinze

Stewardship

Council News



Discipleship

Aaron Theilengerdes:



Treasurer:

Gordon Hengst



Property and Resources

Charles Beierle



Secretary:

Nicholle Seiler



Evangelism

Lori O'Berg

Council Executive Board



President:

John Gallo

See page 3.



Vice President:

Barbara Wade



Financial Secretary:

John Schultz

A Big Cantata Thank You from Carol Snyder, TLC Music Director

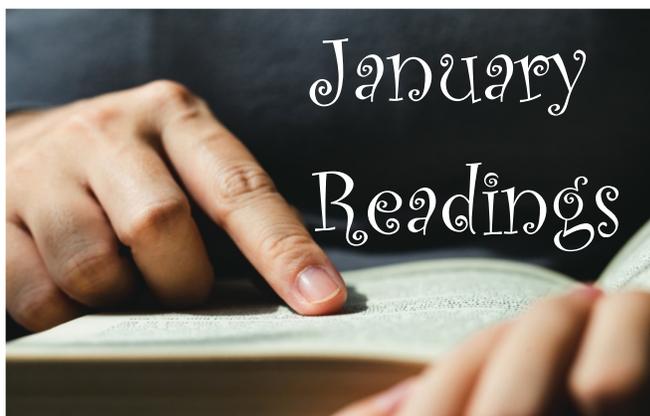
Cantata 2021 — *Adore Him, Emmanuel* — was beautifully performed at the morning services on December 12. Feliziti Pena and I wish to thank all who participated this year. The vocalists, under the direction of Feliziti, contributed many hours of their time to prepare the music, and the sound team supported the performances superbly. Thank you also to those who helped set up and break down the risers and chairs. That back-breaking task was directed by Ken Smith, who also took such good care of our poinsettias this year. The kids were a fun addition to the performance, singing “Away in a Manger.” Thanks go out to Addie, Charlotte, Emmie, Grace, Kaitlyn, Evelyn A, Evelyn G, Mirranda, Peyton, and Sam.

Thank You from the Staff

Happy New Year to you and your family from your TLC Staff. We thank you all for the generous Christmas bonuses. We are honored to serve God by serving you.



Our 2022 Giving Envelopes have arrived and have been placed in your church mailboxes. Since we have more people giving online and through bank bill-pay programs, we saved money by ordering fewer envelopes. **Therefore, do not be surprised if you have a new number on your Giving Envelopes.** Those who regularly give through the website, Tithe.ly app, or bank bill-pay will not have envelopes. If you have questions or didn't get envelopes but would like them, please let me or [Doug Hammerstrom](#) know.



Jan 2: [Ephesians 3:1 - 12](#)
[Matthew 2:1 - 12](#)

“Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.”

Jan 9: [Isaiah 43:1 - 7](#)
[Luke 3:15 - 17, 21 - 22](#)

“I baptize you with water. But one who is more powerful than I will come...”

Jan 16: [Psalm 36:5 - 10](#)
[John 2:1 - 11](#)

His mother said to the servants, “Do whatever he tells you.”

Jan 23: [1 Corinthians 12:1 - 11](#)
[Luke 4:14 - 21](#)

“Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing.”

Jan 30: [1 Corinthians 12:12 - 31a](#)
[Luke 4:21 - 30](#)

“No prophet is accepted in his hometown.”

January Readers & Assisting Ministers

January 2

9am Assisting Minister	Walter Brown
9am Reader	Natalie Grote
11am Assisting Minister	Doug Hammerstrom
11am Reader	Natalie Grote
5pm Reader/Comm Asst	Mary Gandolfo

January 9

9am Assisting Minister	Rose-Marie Smith
9am Reader	Amy Coronado
11am Assisting Minister	James Fuller
11am Reader	Becky Sonnen
5pm Communion Asst	OPEN
5pm Reader	Bobbie White

January 16

9am Assisting Minister	Jason Gordon
9am Reader	Cheryl Martin
11am Assisting Minister	Jackie Mitchell
11am Reader	Barb Wade
5pm Reader/Comm Asst	Kathy Beierle

January 23

9am Assisting Minister	Ken Weber
9am Reader	Amy Beierle
11am Assisting Minister	Debbie Roberts
11am Reader	Wilma Baumann
5pm Reader/Comm Asst	Marshall Gomez

January 30

9am Assisting Minister	Tom O’Berg
9am Reader	Lori O’Berg
11am Assisting Minister	Amanda Henderson
11am Reader	Lindy Hammerstrom
5pm Reader/Comm Asst	Mary Gandolfo

Church Life

2022 Council Installation

Your 2022 Council members will be installed on Sunday, January 9. See pages 4 - 5 for the list of 2022 Council members.

New Members Joining TLC!

On Sunday, January 9, we will welcome several new members into the TLC family. Take a few minutes before or after the service to introduce yourself and get to know them!



Primetimers Group

Primetimers will enjoy a lunch of hot crockpot and casserole dishes at noon on Monday, January 10, in the Fellowship Hall. For more information, please [send an email to Marilyn Winters](#).

Wednesday Nite Live Returns

The spring semester of WNL begins on Wednesday, January 12. Come for dinner at 5:45pm to feed your body and stay for activities and classes to feed your soul.

Council Retreat

On Saturday, January 15, the new 2022 Church Council will meet to plan for the upcoming year at Triumphant. Please keep your church leadership in your prayers for a productive day of team building and planning.

GRACE According to Ted Lasso

What is it? Why do we all need it? Join us in person or via Zoom!



SUNDAYS

January 16, 23, 30
at 10:15am in the
Gathering Place

OR

MONDAYS

January 17, 24, 31
at 8:30pm
Via Zoom (TBA)

Trivia Night!

Saturday, January 22
7:30pm - 8:30pm
On Zoom



Are you a Jeopardy pro? Do you scoff at every crossword puzzle you see? Do you take all trivia with the seriousness that it requires? Then this is probably not the game for you! If you'd like to hang out with others online, share some laughs, and play trivia, then here we go! Join us on Zoom on January 29th at 7:30pm for Zoom Trivia Night hosted by Pastor Aaron! Here's the link and the meeting details:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83751297451?pwd=aW8wZVhzK2tHSVR2Q2RCa2hvd0V0QT09>

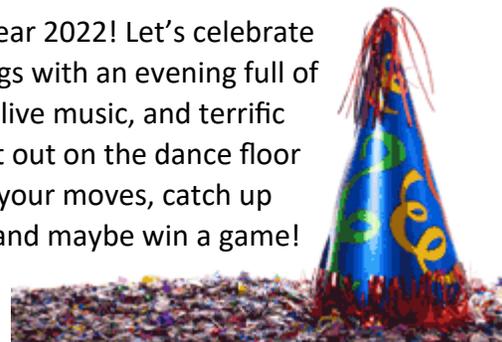
Meeting ID: 837 5129 7451

Passcode: Pinkwedge

A TLC New Year Party!

Saturday, January 29
6 - 9pm in the Fellowship Hall

Happy New Year 2022! Let's celebrate new beginnings with an evening full of yummy food, live music, and terrific company! Get out on the dance floor and show off your moves, catch up with friends, and maybe win a game!



Please [RSVP HERE](#) so we can prepare for food, childcare, decorating, and clean up. Thanks!

To participate in the game, submit a baby photo of yourself no later than Sunday, January 23. Please PRINT your name on the back of the photo and place it in Becky Sonnen's church mailbox. You will get your photo back after the party.

Come on out! Let's have some FUN!!

7

The Good Steward

By Mary Gandolfo

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, “Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.” — Matthew 2:1 – 2 NRSV

I have never ridden a camel. I haven't even been close enough to one to really experience what they look and smell like. I have been close to donkeys and horses, so I know they have a distinctive look and smell — but camels, I am at a loss. The wise men, also called Magi, arrived astride camels. They came from the East, which is pretty vague in terms of location, but is an indication that there was purpose in their long, arduous journey. I would imagine that they were travel weary and very cautious as they made their trek. AND — the only map they had was a star! Let that sink in for a minute. No AAA to call, no roads to follow, no prior visits to this foreign land — just a star. But these men were guided by their belief that something BIG just happened and they were a part of it. When was the last time you felt like you had to make a journey and knew it was part of your destiny because God was shouting in your head?

When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. — Matthew 2:9 – 10 NRSV



The Magi arrived at the manger. It is now the season of Epiphany. Webster tells us the word “epiphany,” when capitalized, means it is the first manifestation of Christ to the Gentiles, and when used in the lower case, means an appearance or manifestation, especially of a divine being. Up until now, the wise men have only heard about the birth of Christ. Now, they actually see the child and

understand that he is real. We are told next that they experienced overwhelming joy. Again, let this sink in a little — in the meanest of surroundings, a king is born. This birth is not attended by nurses, house attendants, friends, or family. No, it is attended by foreigners from the East, shepherds, sheep, goats, cows, camels, an angel, and a star. In our modern experience, we would have been more than a little suspicious. What would be your first emotion? Would joy be the one that you experienced? Would you have even stuck around to see the next part of the story?

On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.

— Matthew 2:11 NRSV

Imagine what Mary and Joseph were thinking! What great role models they are for the Good Steward! They opened the doors to the Magi. The gifts they were given were extravagant — of more value than the holy family would probably see in a lifetime — and from complete strangers who most likely didn't speak a language they understood. The Good Steward is called to be like both the visitors and the family receiving the visitors. We are to get on our metaphorical (hopefully) camels and travel to places where something BIG is happening! The gifts we bring are just as extravagant as those given to the baby Jesus. We bring the gift of the good news of Jesus the Christ! And we don't just show up with words in a book or on the printed page — we also show up with rakes, paint brushes, hammers, food, and clothes, as willing and able spirits to meet the needs of those we encounter. As those receiving the gift, we get to be a part of the larger story of God, and his Son who came to give us life. We become part of the congregation gathered with Christ as the head. Join me as I experience Epiphany this year, with an open heart and overwhelming joy!



A New Year — A New Beginning

By Ken Smith

Jesus is here! Our Messiah has arrived! Sing hallelujah and shout it to the mountaintops! It is a celebration that warms our hearts. It represents a new beginning for us. It refreshes our souls. As you recover from the hectic holiday season, you may wonder how to channel this renewed spirit that comes with the Christmas celebration. You may be asking yourself, “what now?” **Jesus has already provided the answer.**

It is so easy to get wrapped up in the holidays, that we sometimes put the “reason for the season” on the back burner. Now that the holiday parties are behind us, the Christmas tree has been taken down, and decorations have been stored for another year, we finally feel like we have time to remember God’s most precious gift to mankind. As we begin a new year, it is the perfect time to renew ourselves and our commitment to God’s path for us. Jesus spoke these words: *“Sitting down, Jesus called the Twelve and said, ‘Anyone who wants to be first must be the very last, and the servant of all.’ ”* [Mark 9:35]

This message of service is easy to understand. It’s the “doing it” that is hard. Servanthood comes in many forms. We do it with our time, our talents, and our wallets. But most importantly, we must serve with our hearts and serve for the glory of Him. We often don’t realize the blessings showered on us by the Lord, but if we contemplate His blessings in our hearts, we will realize how greatly blessed we are. It is those blessings that we must share. It is from our blessings that we must serve others.

The gift of Jesus Christ represents new birth. It can also start a transformation of who we are. **As believers, we are no longer slaves to sin, but alive to freedom in Christ.** The start of a new year is the perfect time to reflect on the new and living hope we have in this abundant life as well as the eager expectation of life to come in eternity. Be on the right path that is lit by God. Make 2022 the starting point for a new and refreshed relationship with God. Look for ways in your daily lives where you can display a renewed commitment to service. Make your “servant heart” promise this month.

When you look at yourself in the mirror, or when you say your prayers at night, ask yourself, “Was I a good servant today?” *“For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”* [Mark 10:45] With Jesus as our guide and with the renewal of the new year, we can certainly find the strength and fortitude to make our own sacrifice to service. January represents a new beginning. So, too, can be your commitment to this great commission.



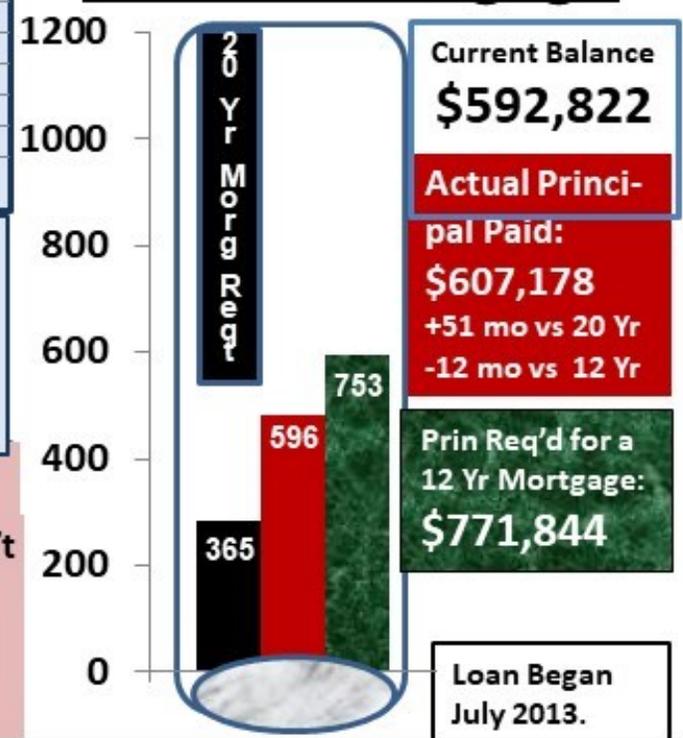
November 2021 Financials

KEY POINTS:

- ✦ **Bottom Line:** Operating Net Income for **Nov** was **-\$10K**. Operating Net Income **YTD through the end of Nov** was **-\$27K**. We have also been obliged to use **\$41K** of our Reserves --- some for Operating Expenses and some for Capital Expenses.
- ✦ **General Offering and Income:** See the next two charts below. Weekly Offering is ahead for the year, thanks continued growth in Weekly Offering and greater than usual gifts so far this year. **Total Income** through **Nov** was \$518K, net **-\$115K** against budgeted, as other income sources continue to somewhat lag (but are improving). However, Total Financial Assets are only down **-\$68K Net** through the end of **Nov** because the council is wisely underspending.
- ✦ **Building Fund:** Bldg Fund Income through **Nov** was \$84,736, net +\$1,223 against our required mortgage. Our reserve is good.
- ✦ **Going Forward:** Through the end of **Nov**, the generosity of our members' **Weekly Offering and Gifts has been really good!** Although 2022 will 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



November 2021 Month End Financial Summary

November	NET INCOME		ANNUAL BUDGET	
	November	Year To Date		
Operating Income	\$43,285	\$518,470	Operating Income	\$695,005
Operating Expenses	\$53,615	\$545,995	Bldg Fund Income	\$91,104
Net Operating Income	(\$10,330)	(\$27,525)	Other Income	\$4,488
Bldg & Designated Income	\$17,211	\$233,888	TOTAL INCOME	\$790,597
Bldg & Designated Expenses	\$17,356	\$221,948	Operating Expenses	\$729,808
Net Designated Income	(\$145)	\$11,940	Debt Service	\$91,104
TOTAL NET INCOME	(\$10,475)	(\$15,585)	TOTAL EXPENSES	\$820,912



- 5 Jason & Amanda Henderson
- 9 David & Christi Brinkman
- 21 Jerry & DK Guebard
- 24 Emilie & Matthew Gray
- 31 Dan & Carole Meyer



In Loving Memory

Mervin Rose (Friend of the Winterses)
+10-31-2021

Jim Burditt (Relative of the Guebards)
+11-16-2021

Carlos Landin (Grandfather of Feliziti
Pena) +12-4-2021

The February Trumpet Deadline
Monday
January 24, 2022

Send Submissions to:
newsletter@triumphantultheran.org



- 1 Michael Borelli, Dan Meyer, Harold Richter, Bill Winters
- 2 Katie O'Berg, Natalie Salgado, Vernell Theilengerdes
- 3 Ryan Anderson
- 4 Jeremy Fernandez, Jay Markus
- 6 Paityn Johnston
- 7 Mary Gandolfo, Michael Martin
- 9 Nicholle Seiler, Jan Wagner
- 10 Robin Koch
- 12 John Fuller
- 13 Gabriel Geleske, David Salgado, Shane Skaggs
- 14 Emma Henk, Michelle Salazar
- 16 Clarine Syamken, Allison Jockers
- 17 Jerome Baumann, Phoebe Etrheim, Fayla Etrheim
- 18 Alex Lee, Lana Mardon
- 19 Bob Crawford, Laurie Huhndorf, Rose-Marie Smith
- 20 Mariam Calderon, Barbara Gore, Blaine Leachman, Allison Moreland
- 21 Lukas St.Clair
- 22 Shirley Linscombe
- 24 Rita Brogdon, Brayden Hall
- 25 Gayle Maltby, Kai Seiler
- 26 Judy Cullison, Charles Mire
- 28 Aaron Theilengerdes
- 30 Kris Oberle, Sid Parker, John Reidy
- 31 Chloe Crawford, Kye Melendez,



We Grow in Christ to Serve Others

Triumphphant Lutheran Church

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

Triumphphant Lutheran Worship Services

Sundays at 9am, 11am, and 5pm in the Sanctuary

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

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

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

[MDO: Re-opening January 5, 2022!](#)

Website: triumphantlutheran.org

(210) 651-9090

