

The Trumpet

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

Vol. 43, Issue 2

"We Grow in Christ to Serve Others"

February 2022



Happy Valentine's Day!

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Pastor Aaron's Message

Dear people of God at Triumphant Lutheran Church,

For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body — Jews or Greeks, slaves or free — and we were all made to drink of one Spirit. — 1 Corinthians 12:12-13

In July of 2020, the Rev. Dr. Peter Steinke died. The name might not ring a bell, but Dr. Steinke's work was far-reaching and helped to support congregations around the country. In addition to being a pastor, he was also a psychologist whose work on church systems helped support, grow, and work on how God was calling them. He wrote a book called *Healthy Congregations*, which compares churches to organisms in that they can both act in healthy and diseased ways.



One of the lessons is how congregations deal with change and struggle: will it be with unhealthy conflict, finger-pointing, and politicking? Or will it be with compassion, imagination, and hope that God is still at work? There's another fascinating lesson on how growth does not necessarily equal health; that things can grow even when diseased. And lastly, a healthy congregation is marked not by the absence of differences, but rather by the ability to accept differences. Despite the differences we have, can we still listen, understand, and value one another?

Dr. Steinke's amazing work complements the readings of 1 Corinthians that we have been hearing in worship services this year. If there is one church community that could be described as "unhealthy," it would be the Corinthians. For example, they valued rich over poor, used prostitutes, broke marriages, thought some people were more gifted than others, fought about meat-eating, and on and on. And yet, Paul believed that the Holy Spirit was still working in them, and called them to be one body together. He called them to value love over all else in 1 Corinthians 13. He reminded them that they were rooted in the resurrection of Jesus, through whom God would transform them and the whole world. He urged them to know their community can trust in God's faithfulness and love, and to find a new way forward as a healthy congregation.

And so, because 2022 has begun after several years of pretty significant change, how can we learn the same lessons? I like pointing out that our mission statement ("We Grow in Christ to Serve Others") starts with "we," which means one of our values is being a community together. As we move into 2022, we can respond as a community that is grounded in the promise of Jesus Christ, gathering and caring for one another. We can hope and imagine new ways to grow in our faith lives. We can seek out new ways to serve others, following the example of Jesus. Triumphant Lutheran Church will certainly look and act differently, but whether worshiping online or in person, we can still fulfill the call from God to be one body and one community.

May God bless y'all!

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Pastor Aaron Richter

President's Perspective

Greetings Members of TLC,

I hope everyone is staying warm and healthy in the New Year! Last month, the new year started and with that came our Council Retreat. We covered a lot during the retreat which included goal reviews for our ministry teams and new goals for 2022. Last year, we had a goal theme of "Fellowship" which helped us to focus our goals in a certain direction. We achieved many goals that centered on this theme as we wanted to provide opportunities for the congregation to come together and share in God's message. This year, our theme takes that a step further — "Community" is our theme for 2022.

As you may know, our Mission Statement is "We Grow in Christ to Serve Others." What some of you may not know is our Vision Statement: "To constantly grow as a diverse community in Christ so that we are equipped to actively serve and empowered to share God's Grace with our neighbors." A Mission Statement defines the organizations business, its objectives, and its approach to reach those objectives. A Vision Statement describes the desired future position of the organization. So our theme of "Community" is to help us focus on moving our Vision forward. One way we are doing this is to not just have ministry goals, but also a church-wide goal that we can all rally around regardless of our individual specific ministries. We had a lot of great ideas during our retreat and we are still working to nail down this church wide goal, so be on the lookout for more information.

I am very excited for this year and the opportunities we have as a congregation to keep moving forward and being a central part of our community. Always feel free to reach out to Council if you have any questions or ideas!

Many blessings to you this month!

John Gallo

TLC Council President

And God said to him, "I am God Almighty; be fruitful and increase in number. A nation and a community of nations will come from you. — Genesis 35:11

Welcome ...

the following individuals and families to the TLC family!

Dale & Carol Couffer

Christine Smith

Orpah Johnson

Lavelle Leinweber

Mitchell O'Dowd

Phil Petmecky

Jerry & Cindy Shields

Rae Weinstein

Matthew & Allyson Jockers, Jackson

Aaron & Staci Fetter, Henry, Piper

Gene & Linda Shultz

Andrew & Courtney Walker, Anna, Liam, Ezra

Kody & Michelle Zimmerhanzel,

Launa, Von

Council News



Early Childhood Programs

Jennifer Feutz



Worship and Music

Ken Smith



Servant Outreach

Amy Coronado



Congregational Life

Becky Sonnen



Stewardship

Kim Hinze



Discipleship

Aaron Theilengerdes



Property and Resources

Charles Beierle



Evangelism

Lori O'Berg

Council Executive Board



President:

John Gallo



Vice President:

Barbara Wade



Financial Secretary:

John Schultz



Treasurer:

Gordon Hengst



Secretary:

Nicholle Seiler

Coffee Fellowship Cleanup:

Date	Crew
Feb 6	Ryan Etheridge
Feb 13	Neuzil Family
Feb 20	Allison Moreland
Feb 27	Jackie Mitchell
March 6	Doug & Lindy Hammerstrom

Coffee Fellowship Snacks:

If you'd like to help provide snacks for between services, check the chart for your day (or bring goodies any day that works for you). Thanks!

Last Name	Date
C - E	Feb 6
F - G	Feb 13
H - K	Feb 20
L - M	Feb 27
N - R	Mar 6

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Ministry Support

Don Kurtti

Treasurer's Corner

Greetings, Triumphant Lutheran! Thank you for electing me as your new 2022 Treasurer! I greatly appreciate the hard work of our out-going Treasurer, Jim Moreland, and the Finance Team. I am happy to report that as we closed out 2021, we had our best financial year in five years! We had generous donations in both the General Operating Fund and the Building Fund throughout the year, and particularly in the last quarter of 2021. The Financial Summary (see page 10) will show you that we exceeded our Budgeted Offering donations by over \$50,000 and our building fund also did very well. Once council approves the recommendation from the Finance Team, the excess building fund donations will be applied directly to the mortgage principal — more about that next month.

A **FUN FACT** about the Building Fund: *Each month, our Building Fund donations must be at least the monthly mortgage amount (solid black line in the "Building Fund Donations by Month" graph on page 10). Everything above that amount is placed in a reserve account. Our bylaws require us to have at a least a three-month reserve to cover the months we don't reach our monthly goal. So, at the end of each quarter, the financial team makes a recommendation to Council on what to do with any extra funds in our three-month reserve account.*

Although we have begun 2022 in excellent financial shape, we are in need of a **Bookkeeper**. Many thanks to Cindy Carlisle who has served in this role for the last few years, but she will be moving in March. The duties entail about 4 - 5 hours per week to process invoices, write checks, process bi-weekly payroll, and enter data into our bookkeeping software, QuickBooks. Most of the work can be done remotely, but you will need to visit the church weekly to pickup/drop off paperwork. The bookkeeper is supported by the Treasurer and an awesome Finance Team, so you don't need to be an expert in the financial world! I also invite anyone to be part of our Finance Team, which meets monthly (currently by ZOOM) on the first Monday of the month to review the previous month's financial status and to make recommendations to Church Council for adjustments and planning. If you're interested, drop me a line (Treasurer@TriumphantLutheran.org) and I'll ensure you get a ZOOM invite. — Gordon Hengst

Russell Leon Sanders

September 5, 1938 —
January 8, 2022



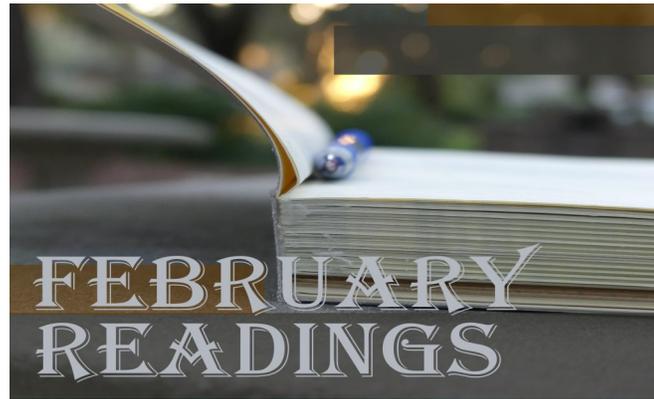
Retired USAF fighter pilot Colonel Russ Sanders took his "fini" flight on January 8, 2022 to see our Lord and Savior. Russ was born in Niagara Falls, New York. He entered the US Air Force in 1961. For the next 29 years, he took his bride and family around the world. His assignments took him through North America, Southwest and Southeast Asia, Europe, and Africa.

Russ was a proud member of the Skoshi Tigers during his F5 tour in Vietnam, earning the Distinguished Flying Cross. He was an instructor in the T-33 and T-38, and also flew the C-131 and C-12. He enjoyed serving as the Chief of the Military Mission in Brussels, Belgium, and Kinshasa, Zaire (Congo).

After retiring from the USAF and settling in Garden Ridge, Russ was active in the Lions Club. He also served in city politics for over 20 years as council member and mayor pro tem. A loving man to his family and devout and loyal friend to so many, he will be terribly missed.

Russ is survived by his lovely bride of 59 years, Mary "Mickey" Sanders; their daughter, Sue Verley; their son, Lt. Col. Brett Sanders (Leann), USAF, Retired; Col. Monica Douglas (Jim), US Army; six grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Russ was a beloved member of Triumphant Lutheran Church for over a dozen years. He was a familiar face to all who worshiped here. He served God and our congregation as a worship service usher and greeter. He also helped maintain the church grounds. It was always a pleasure to see him in the church offices every Tuesday to help out with the recycling. He will be greatly missed by all who knew him.



FEBRUARY READINGS

Feb 6: [1 Corinthians 15:1 - 11](#)
[Luke 5:1 - 11](#)

Then Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching people." When they had brought their boats to shore, they left everything and followed him.

Feb 13: [1 Corinthians 15:12 - 20](#)
[Luke 6:17 - 26](#)

Blessed are you who are hungry now, for you will be filled.
 Blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh.

Feb 20: [1 Corinthians 15:35 - 38, 42 - 52](#)
[Luke 6:27 - 38](#)

Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you.

Feb 27: [Exodus 34:29 - 35](#)
[Luke 9:28 - 36](#)

And while he was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became dazzling white. Then from the cloud came a voice that said, "This is my Son, my Chosen; listen to him!"

February Readers & Assisting Ministers

February 6

9am Assisting Minister	Rose-Marie Smith
9am Reader	Jeff Boyes
11am Assisting Minister	Doug Hammerstrom
11am Reader	Jeff Boyes
5pm Reader/Comm Asst	Mary Gandolfo

February 13

9am Assisting Minister	Ken Weber
9am Reader	Becky Sonnen
11am Assisting Minister	James Fuller
11am Reader	Nancy Molter
5pm Communion Asst	OPEN
5pm Reader	Bobbie White

February 20

9am Assisting Minister	Walter Brown
9am Reader	Gordon Hengst
11am Assisting Minister	Amanda Henderson
11am Reader	Mary Jane Cornell
5pm Reader/Comm Asst	Kathy Beierle

February 27

9am Assisting Minister	Jason Gordon
9am Reader	Paula Salazar
11am Assisting Minister	Debbie Roberts
11am Reader	Sam Neuzil
5pm Reader/Comm Asst	Marshall Gomez

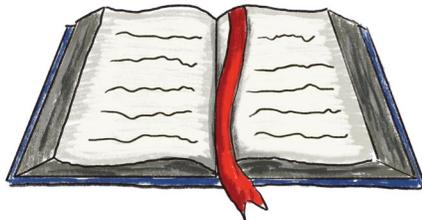
Church Life

Pastor & Pastry

If you are a visitor and want to learn a little more about Triumphant, join Pastor Aaron in the church library at 10:15am on February 6! Meet the pastor, ask some questions, enjoy a doughnut (or two!), and find out if TLC is the right church for you!

Bible 1-2-3

Elementary kids are invited to come learn about the Bible through fun activities on Sunday, February 6, from 2pm - 4pm. Each child will receive his/her very own Bible, too!



High School Gathering at Camp Chrysalis

On February 18 - 20, the Senior High youth will retreat to Camp Chrysalis for a weekend of Bible study, outdoor adventure, fellowship, and games.

Welcome Cookout & Outdoor Worship

On Sunday, February 20, from 4:30pm - 6:30pm, please join us in welcoming the families who are new(ish) to Triumphant! All are welcome to come, eat, get to know others, and let the kids play (bikes and scooters are welcome). After dinner, we'll have a worship service outdoors.

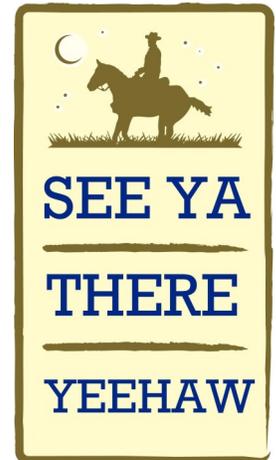


Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training

Pastor Skip Courter and Lt. Eddy Velasques will host this 2-day ASIST suicide intervention class on February 24 - 25 from 8:30am - 4:30pm. It is open to anyone wishing to be prepared to guide people to safety who are contemplating suicide. To enroll, please [send an email to Skip](#).

Cowboy Sunday

Do you enjoy biscuits-n-gravy, petting zoos, longhorn steers, and cowboy hats? Be sure to join us for western-themed worship at 9am and 11am on Sunday, February 27. A Cowboy breakfast and western activities will be in the Fellowship Hall and the Courtyard from 9:45am - 11:15am. Yeehaw!



Preschool Registration

Registration for the 2022 - 2023 school year opens to the entire community on Monday, February 28. Proof of current immunization, enrollment paperwork, and a \$100 non-refundable registration fee are needed to enroll. Please visit the [church website](#) for the forms and more information.

TLC Adult Mission Trip

On March 4 - 6, TLC adults are invited to participate in a few days of serving others in the beautiful Hill Country at Ebert Ranch. Cost is \$100. The deadline to register is Sunday, February 20. [Visit our website for more details and to register.](#)

Bookkeeper Needed

Do you have bookkeeping skills or a background in finance? Are you a detail-oriented person?



If so, our bookkeeping position may be perfect for you! Our current bookkeeper, Cindy Carlile, is moving soon, but will be able to show you the ropes before she leaves. Thank you, Cindy, for your service to Triumphant!

[For more info, send an email to Gordon Hengst.](#)

The Good Steward

By Mary Gandolfo

“Do a little bit of good where you are; it’s those little bits of good put together that overwhelm the world.”

— Desmond Tutu

“Good” — what does it mean to you? What does it look like? What does it taste like? What does it feel like? If we engage all of our senses, our definition of good changes with each encounter. Good looks like clean



clothes all folded and put away, dinner on the table and our family gathered, worship with friends we have not seen for a while, or lunch with a dear one. Good tastes like chocolate cake, breakfast in the morning, fresh vegetables, hot chocolate on a cold day, or a favorite dish at a potluck! Good feels like a warm puppy kiss, a hug from family or friends, the sun shining on your face, getting a project finished, or holding your grandchildren. Do any of these strike a chord with you? These represent some of my best memories or those of people I call friends. So, just what does “good” mean to you?

How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news, who proclaim peace, who bring good tidings, who bring salvation, who say to Zion, “Your God reigns!” — Isaiah 52:7 NIV

I recently saw a movie called “The News of the World.” People gathered to hear readings from newspapers in order to find out what was happening in the rest of the world. Throughout history, we have sought out news. Today, we hear news all the time from all over the world. How much of what you hear do you think is good? If we are honest, some news we would rather not hear — it hurts, jades, disappoints, or depresses us. When we hear an uplifting story, we smile, laugh, or maybe even tear up a little. Good news stories make us feel hope. And the folks who bring us good news make us feel like someone else cares. How beautiful are the feet of those who care and share with us!

Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation, now that you have tasted that the LORD is good. — 1 Peter 2:2 – 3 NIV

The Good Steward has beautiful feet. We, all of us, have craved pure spiritual milk and grown. We want to share the good news with those we meet. I ask you to reread the quote at the beginning of this article. Even the smallest gesture of kindness is good for the person receiving it. It may be the only kindness they receive that day — a little bit of good in their life. Where have you started on your road to overwhelm the world today? What little bit of good have you given to someone around you? Think back over the last week and put together your little bits of good. They made a difference in someone’s world. Join me as I journey through little bits of good and help overwhelm this world with God’s perfect love!



What comes to mind when you first think about February – probably hearts, flowers, chocolates. Ah, fragile human love, all wrapped up in feelings and emotions which often fall short of our expectations. Where does love come from? The children’s song, “we love (clap, clap) because He first loved us” – sums it all up. It is found in 1 John 4:19, “*We love because He first loved us.*” God loved us first. His love is the best and is immeasurable. We’re able to love others because God’s love is so powerful that it enables, and is the foundation, for us to love.

One of God’s main attributes is love. It’s His very nature. All He says and does is out of this love. “*He loves us because of who He is, not because of who we are*” (Philip Yancey). It is a deep, costly, self-sacrificing love. Jesus laid down His most valuable life for our redemption and salvation. Do you believe the depths of Christ’s love for you?

Throughout the Bible, the love God has for us is evident. When we were adopted and He called us His children, He encouraged us to imitate Him – “*Be imitators of God, therefore, as dearly loved children and live a life of love, just as Christ loved us and gave Himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God*” (Ephesians 5:1-2). Because of the way our Father loves us, and we love Him, we want to love that way. We are to live for the sake of others. We must let His inexhaustible love fill us and freely overflow from us to others.

How do we do this? Jesus is our perfect example. He leads us. We return His love, then love others as He loves us. God’s love is poured into our hearts. True love results in actions. Our actions can be more powerful than words. We are gentle, kind, patient, compassionate and forgiving. God’s love transforms us from the inside out. God wants to use us to share His love by meeting others’ physical and spiritual needs. According to 1 Corinthians 16:4, love is to mark all that we do – even cleaning the toilets. **The ultimate measure of love isn’t what we feel for others, but what we do for others.**

This is exactly what Stephen Ministers do. They extend love to others who are struggling, hurting, and being tested. God extended the very same love to each of us. They love well, creatively, thoroughly, and intentionally. Each one is serving His people, being His hands and feet, and sacrificing for others as they share their pain. They personally demonstrate Christ’s love.

I’d like to close with this quote from Oswald Chambers: “*Service is what I bring to the relationship and is the reflection of my identification with the nature of God. Service becomes a natural part of my life. God brings me into the proper relationship with Himself so that I can understand His call and then I can serve Him on my own out of motivation of absolute love. Service to God is the deliberate love-gift of a nature that has heard the call of God. Service is an expression of His nature. Therefore, when I receive His nature and hear His call, His divine voice resounds throughout His nature and mine and the two become one in service. The Son of God reveals Himself in me, and out of devotion to Him, service becomes my everyday way of lift.*”

How are you called to share God’s “love-gift” in service today?



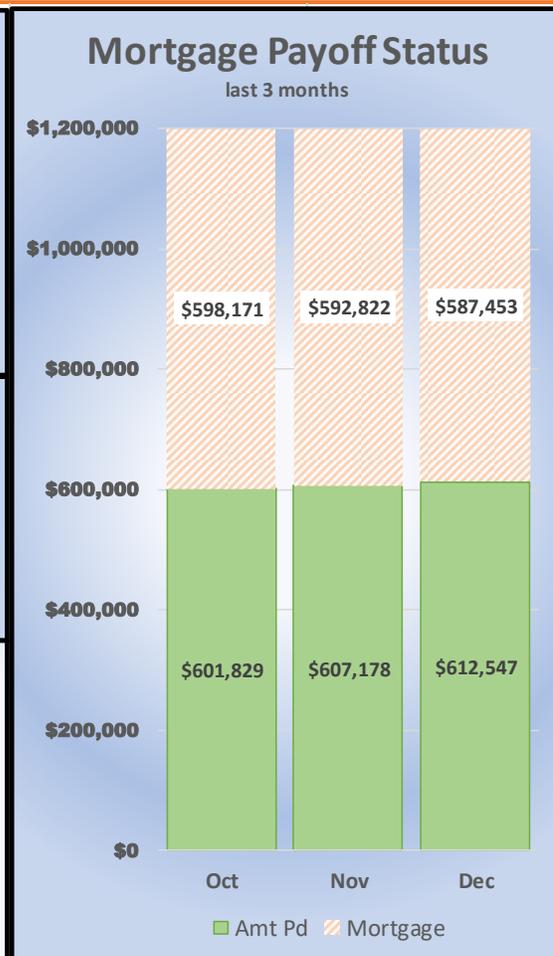
December 2021 Financials

KEY POINTS:

✚ **December** was an excellent month with generous gifts to Gen Ops and the Building Fund. The generosity exhibited by all members has given us the best one-year financial result in over 5 years!! As you can see by our "Offering By Month" graph below, we greatly exceeded our monthly goal for the month of December. The "Bldg Fund Donations by Month" graph also shows the generous gifts toward the building fund.

✚ **For the Year End:** Our year-end offerings for 2021 totaled \$447,835 which was \$50,988 beyond our 2021 Budget! This is excellent news since the 2021 Budget had anticipated using up to \$48,000 of our leadership reserve during the year to keep up with the predicted offerings for 2021 (staying above the red line in the graph below). Because of your generosity, TLC only needed to use \$10,000 of Leadership Reserve. The new 2022 Budget also includes \$48,000 of Leadership Reserve, if needed.

✚ **Mortgage:** The current mortgage balance is \$587,453.34. The generous 4th Quarter Building Fund donations totaled \$27,345.60, which if approved by Council, will be applied to the mortgage principal in January 2022.



Any amount above the Monthly Goal is put towards the Principal, so we need to make the goal every month.

December 2021 Month End Financial Summary

December	NET INCOME		ANNUAL BUDGET	
	December	Year to Date		
Operating Income	\$79,372	\$597,353	Operating Income	\$695,005
Operating Expenses	\$58,162	\$604,157	Bldg Fund Income	\$91,104
Net Operating Income	\$21,210	(\$6,803)	Other Income	\$4,488
Bldg & Designated Income	\$39,787	\$274,164	TOTAL INCOME	\$790,597
Bldg & Designated Expenses	\$39,988	\$261,936	Operating Expenses	\$729,808

FEBRUARY



ANNIVERSARIES

- 16 Brian & Sharilyn Krauss
- 20 Jan & Carla Wagner
- 24 Rodney & Liz Lee
- 27 Andy & Debbie Still

In Loving Memory

Gary Smith (Friend of Bill and Marilyn Winters) **+12-26-2021**

Russ Sanders (TLC Member) **+1-8-2022**

Dana Fleming (Friend of Jackie Mitchell) **+1-17-2022**

Leroy Albrecht (TLC Member) **+1-24-2022**

SUBMIT
YOUR
ARTICLES



The March Trumpet Deadline
Monday
February 21, 2022

Send Submissions to:
newsletter@triumphantlutheran.org



FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

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



We Grow in Christ to Serve Others

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Frank Fogg, Sexton
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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 9am](#)

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

[MDO: Mondays & Wednesdays, 9am - 1:45pm](#)

Website: triumphantlutheran.org

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