



2024 Synod Report

Grace and peace to you, dear partners in mission,

Trinity Lutheran Seminary forms leaders for Christ's Church at work in the world. Our students come from a variety of church bodies across Ohio and across the country. The student experience is enriched by collaborative learning within a diverse community. We welcome both degree and non degree seeking students. Degree seeking students are enrolled in either the Master of Divinity Program or the Master of Theological Studies Program.

Our Master of Divinity curriculum continues to form students in deep and meaningful ways. Students, supervisors, and congregations find our 2 year internship model of formation vital for forming relationships and creating transformational ministry experiences. Our Master of Theological Studies program continues to grow with most students hailing from the Columbus area. Many of these students are already serving as pastors and leaders of local communities of faith, and they are grateful for the opportunity for theological education.

This academic year we welcomed the Rev. Dr. Olehile Buffel as Associate Professor of Pastoral Theology. Dr. Buffel, a Lutheran pastor, hails from South Africa and brings a wealth of ministry experience and teaching experience to Trinity. We are currently in the process of hiring a new professor of systematic theology, who will also enrich our faculty.

Highlights of the 2023-2024 Academic year include:

- Inaugural University Sundays with University President Dave Kaufman & Director of Congregational Engagement & Advancement Rev. Mary Ann Siefke
- Trinity Days featuring former Trinity professor the Rev. Dr. Julie Faith Parker
- Student-led Ecumenical Prayer Breakfast to celebrate the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity
- Seven of our African American students attending the Samuel DeWitt Proctor Conference in Chicago
- Nelson W. Trout Lectures in Preaching featuring the Rev. Dr. Valerie Bridgeman
- The 25th anniversary of the dedication of the "Promise for Life" Holocaust memorial on campus

This May we will celebrate the commencement of twelve church leaders in four degree programs! Almost all Trinity students, whatever their degree program, receive full-tuition scholarships. Your partnership and support make our mission of forming leaders possible. Thank you. We are grateful for your faithful generosity!

Partners in mission, we ask three things of you.

- Encourage potential candidates for ministry to explore Trinity Lutheran Seminary at Capital University.
- Make a financial gift to support the mission of Trinity Lutheran Seminary at Capital University.
- Keep us in your prayers.

In Christ,

The Rev. Kathryn A. Kleinhans, Ph.D.
Dean of the Seminary

The Rev. Mary Ann Siefke
Director of Congregational Engagement &
Advancement

Forming leaders for Christ's church at work in the world.