



# THE TRINITY CONNECTION

Spring 2023, Issue 1, Volume 3



*Students collaborate on essays and projects in Hamma Library.*

## *New Pastoral Theology Professor Joins Trinity Faculty*

Trinity is delighted to announce that the Rev. Dr. Olehile Buffel will be joining the seminary as Associate Professor of Pastoral Theology, beginning in fall 2023.

Dr. Buffel is a Lutheran pastor who has served in both the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Southern Africa and the Liberating Evangelical Lutheran Church in South Africa. He holds bachelor's and master's degrees in theology from the University of South Africa and a PhD in Practical Theology from the University of Pretoria. An experienced teacher, Dr. Buffel has taught at the master's and doctoral level both at the University of KwaZulu-Natal and the University of South Africa. Among his extensive and impressive publications are works on pastoral care amidst Western traditions of individualism and clericalism, liberative pastoral care to people living with HIV and AIDS, ministry with populations struggling for survival and liberation, and Black Theology and the Black Experience.

At Trinity, Dr. Buffel will teach courses in pastoral theology and other areas of practical theology, where he will have an especially formative role in the lives of our M.Div. students and MTS students with a concentration in practical ministry leadership. In his interviews for the position, Dr. Buffel impressed the search team and indeed the wider community with his authentic pastoral presence and depth of experience in ministry and teaching.

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## *Taste and See! Seminarists Travel Near & Far*

Contextual education is a hallmark of a Trinity degree, and while we often think of contextual ed as M.Div. students' internships and LIC (learning-in-context) placements, travel seminars are also critical components. They not only afford students the opportunity to immerse themselves in different cultures and communities, they teach our students how to travel and experience the vulnerability of being the guest in a place that they experience as unfamiliar.

Summer 2022 was a full season for Trinity students. Dean Kleinhans led a team of students, alumni, staff, and friends to Germany, where among other special sites and experiences, they had the privilege of viewing the famous Passions Spiele (Passion Play) in Oberammergau. Dr. Rachel Wrenn, Assistant Professor of Biblical Studies, led a tour to the Middle East, where students visited biblical sites. On both trips, students reflected on the relationship between the sites they visited, people they

met, and their own faith formation, walking away from the trips with a depth and perspective that could never be fully replicated in a traditional classroom.

Because of the health and growth students experience on travel seminars, Trinity is committed to ensuring the affordability of these special learning opportunities. All students who participated in both 2022 trips were able to travel on full scholarships, including the cost of airfare, because of the generosity of Trinity donors. In May term this year, Trinity students will again have the opportunity to participate in immersion courses with limited expenses. A group of seminarists will take in the richly diverse religious landscape present here in Columbus in a Multi-Religious Immersion course, and others will head west for an educational experience at the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota.

## *Seminary Partners with Community Antiracism Work*

Authentic learning takes root, reaching not just to our minds, but to our hearts and bodies. It transforms us as individuals and as communities. However, the pathway to mind, heart, and body rarely comes only through a book or a lecture. More often, lived experience and listening-forward conversation become the threads through which traditional educational methods like books and lectures become fastened to the soul. This is the experience facilitated by the Building Capacity for Racial Reconciliation course, taught by Sandra Quick, which has been hosted at several area ELCA congregations and Trinity Lutheran Seminary.

Instead of information, Ms. Quick's course emphasizes transformation, which takes place bit by bit, throughout the semester spent together. Trinity student Jamie Ulrich, who is currently completing her internship at Epiphany Lutheran Church in Pickerington commented simply, "I was not the same person after those 10 weeks [of class]." Students leave the course equipped to step forward, with intention, toward racial reconciliation and antiracist actions in their community.



*Sandra Quick*

# *Full Tuition Scholarships Ensure Access to Theological Education*

Seminary education is always an investment, whether in person or online. Taking classes means stepping away from work, adding to one's work, or finding new ways to manage caregiving responsibilities. One way that Trinity supports students is through generous scholarships, made possible by generations of faithful donors. Because of alumni and friends, we are proud to share that almost all Trinity students receive full-tuition scholarships. Students who bring full-tuition scholarships with them to seminary, like an ELCA Fund for Leaders Scholarship, receive a housing stipend.

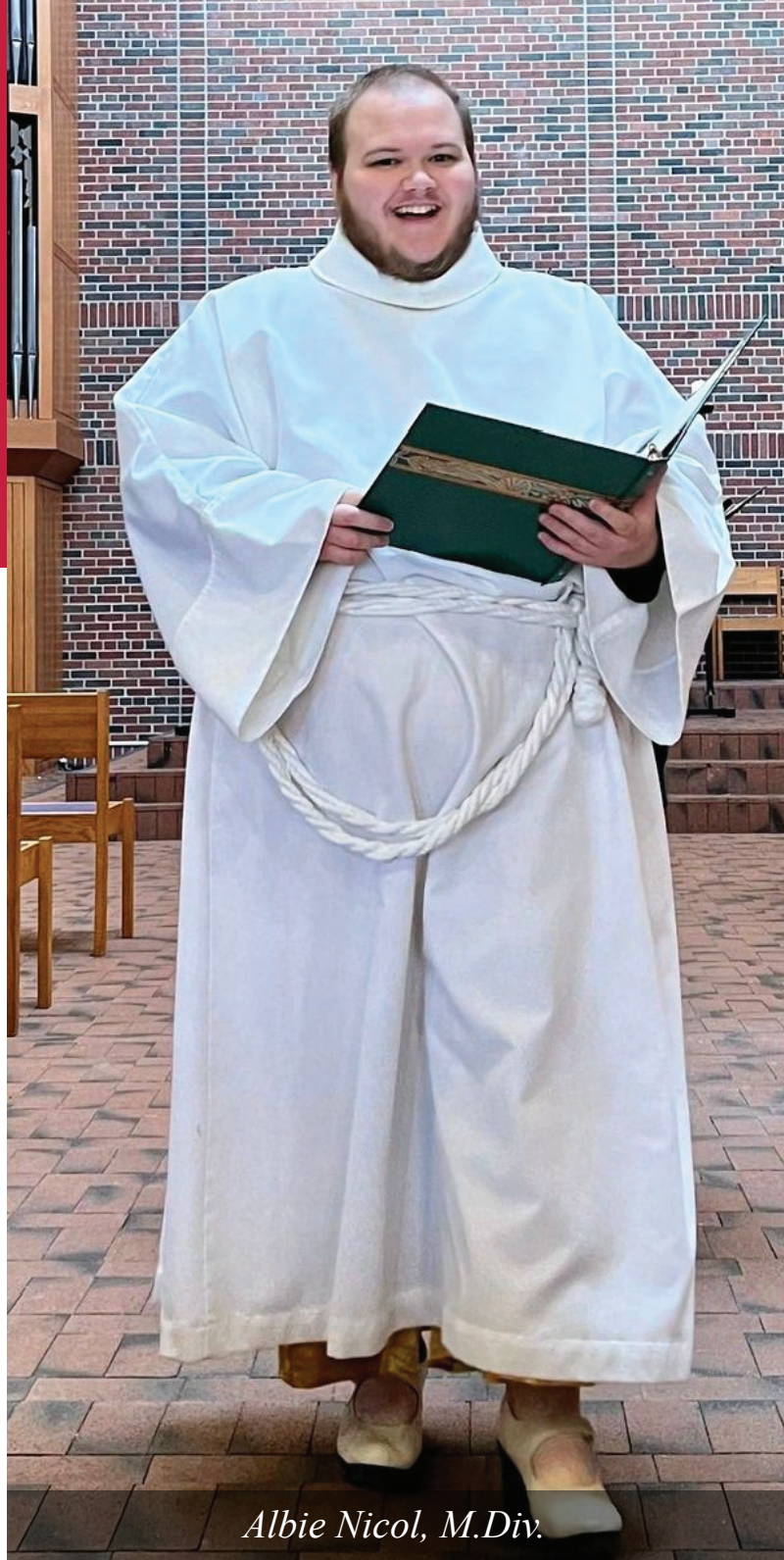
Among the many scholarships Trinity offers to students are the following:

**ELCA Region 6 Synod Scholarships** - a full-tuition, need-based scholarship is available for one student from each of the 6 synods in Region 6 (Southeast Michigan Synod, North/West Lower Michigan Synod, Indiana-Kentucky Synod, Northwestern Ohio Synod, Northeastern Ohio Synod, and Southern Ohio Synod). Persons who receive this scholarship may be full-time or part-time students.

**Capital Graduate Scholarships** - a full-tuition, need-based scholarship for persons who have completed an undergraduate degree at Capital University. Two full-tuition scholarships are available. Persons who receive this scholarship may be full-time or part-time students.

**Career Change Scholarships** - a full-tuition, need-based scholarship available to persons currently in a non-ministry occupation, but are discerning a call to vocational ministry. Two full-tuition scholarships are available. Persons who receive this scholarship may be full-time or part-time students.

**Ohio Ministry Practitioner Scholarships** - a full-tuition, need-based scholarship available to persons currently serving in ministry in Ohio. Eligible ministry practitioners include persons employed by a church, parachurch, or faith-based organization, as well as unpaid ministry practitioners like Sunday School teachers, worship leaders, children's ministry leaders, and the like. Non-profit leaders who consider their work part of "Christ's church at work in the world" and in alignment with their personal vocational calling may also apply. Two scholarships are available. Persons who receive this scholarship may be full-time or part-time students.



*Albie Nicol, M.Div.*

## *How do students apply for scholarships?*

Students are considered for these awards on the basis of their application materials to seminary. To be considered, they must also complete the Trinity Financial Aid application. Once these materials are turned in, prospective students are informed of their financial aid award.

## *Looking for more information?*

To learn more about degree programs and seminary scholarships, please contact [TLSadmissions@capital.edu](mailto:TLSadmissions@capital.edu)

# *Dip Your Toe in the Water: Intro to Seminary and Continuing Education*

Trinity's summer roster of courses is rich and diverse! Alumni and friends looking for continuing education opportunities should give special attention to the Rev. Dr. Kevin Dudley's "Preaching Dialectically," meeting for a week in June. Bible professor, the Rev. Dr. Rachel Wrenn, will offer a weeklong "Introduction to the Bible," an ideal course for laypeople and persons considering seminary as a next step.

Additionally, renowned African American music scholar, the Rev. Dr. Raymond Wise, returns to Trinity to teach Worship and Music in the African American Tradition, and in Education Ministry Dr. Mary Hess will offer a primer in the theological and educational foundations and basic questions that shape a congregation's ministry of education.

All summer classes welcome auditors. Several are open to remote learners. Classes are \$105 per credit hour for auditors and are available at a 50% discount for those 65 and older.

Apply to audit at [apply.capital.edu/register/nondegreeform](http://apply.capital.edu/register/nondegreeform)

Course	Details	Instructor	Date
Educational Ministry	In-Person or Online 3 Credit Hours	Mary Hess	June 5 - 9 9 am - 4 pm
Preaching Dialectically	In-Person or Online 2 Credit Hours	Kevin Dudley	June 5 - 9 9 am - 3 pm
Music and Worship in the African American Tradition	In-Person 2 Credit Hours	Raymond Wise	June 12 - 16 10 am - 4 pm
Introduction to the Bible	In-Person or Online 3 Credit Hours	Rachel Wrenn	June 26 - 30 10 am - 5 pm

## *Choral Evensong: Returning March 31 Haydn's Mass in D Minor (Mass for Troubled Times)*

Trinity Seminary Choir, Soloists, and Orchestra will perform Haydn's beloved Mass in D Minor, within the Service of Evening Prayer on Friday, March 31. The Nelson Mass, sometimes called Mass for Troubled Times, is considered by many the culmination of Haydn's writing. New hymn arrangements for choir, orchestra, and organ will be sung by all. Prelude at 7:30; Choral Evensong at 8:00 pm.

Orchestra & Soloists Include:

Jennie M. Blosser, soprano

Katrina Warner, mezzo

C. Andrew Blosser, tenor

William Schott, bass

Carol Ann Bradley, organist

May Schwarz, director

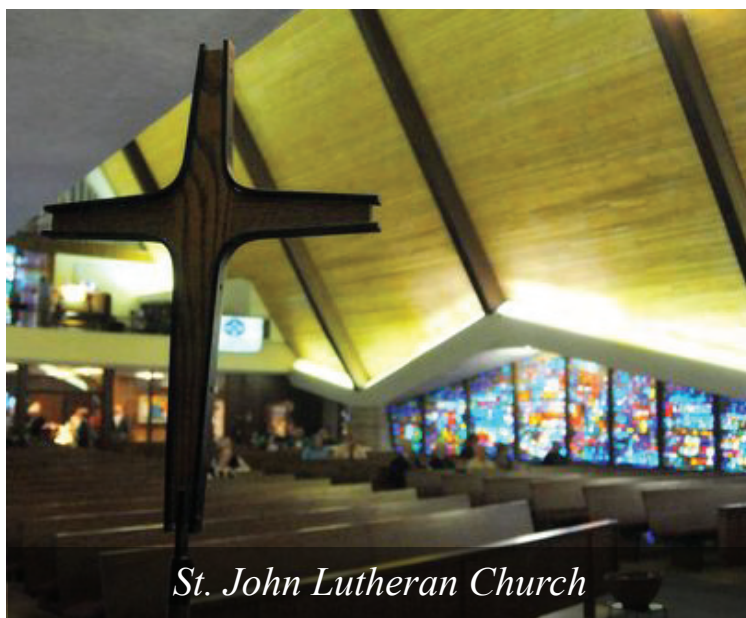


# *A Fresh Look at Rural Ministry*

*Student Profile: Andrea McDonough Reflects on her Two-Year Internship*



*Andrea McDonough, M.Div.*



*St. John Lutheran Church*

*Written by Tim Jordan*

Andrea McDonough, M.Div. '23, received approval for ordination in the ELCA this winter. As she waits for her first call, she's reflected on her two years of internship at a rural two-point parish in northwestern Ohio.

Andrea is a self-proclaimed "city girl," having grown up in Rockford, IL, a city of 150,000, and then moved to Houston, Tulsa, and Columbus. When she found out her internship placement would be to St. John Lutheran Church in Celina, a city of 10,000, and St. Paul Lutheran Church at North Star, a village of less than 300, she admits that she was a little intimidated by the rural context. "I wasn't used to driving an hour to get to Target," she says.

However, the Spirit moved with Andrea in her placement, and St. John—or "the purple door church" as Celina's residents better know it—and St. Paul have provided her with a rich experience. St. John provides Andrea with her primary internship location, and the congregation has a lot going on in its typical week. In addition to two traditional and a contemporary worship service on Sunday mornings, St. John offers an active evening program on Wednesday evenings through the school year. In addition to confirmation study, it is a time for education programming and dinner. Andrea also speaks with great admiration of what her supervisor and the rest of St. John's staff have taught her, calling them "smart and passionate."

St. Paul has provided Andrea with another occasion to preach at their 6 PM service on Sunday evening. Through this opportunity she's gained a new appreciation for the church's family atmosphere. Many of the members can trace their ancestry back to North Star's founders and can speak to lengthy family relationships in the community. Andrea has been proud to serve both parishes and has felt equally supported by both of them.

But there are even deeper, more profound things that Andrea's rural parishes have taught her. One important lesson has been about the Bible itself. The Bible is a very rural book with its metaphors of planting and harvesting. A context in the cornfields has widened Andrea's understanding and appreciation of such metaphors. Comparing the people of her internship sites and past homes also has challenged Andrea to learn new ways of understanding the gospel, as she's preached to individuals and communities holding a range of political ideologies. Sometimes the differences aren't all they appear to be. Andrea's learned that issues like homelessness and addiction, which she is familiar with from life and ministry in urban contexts, also pervade rural settings. In doing so, she's learned how to make an impact when the church is an area's primary social resource.

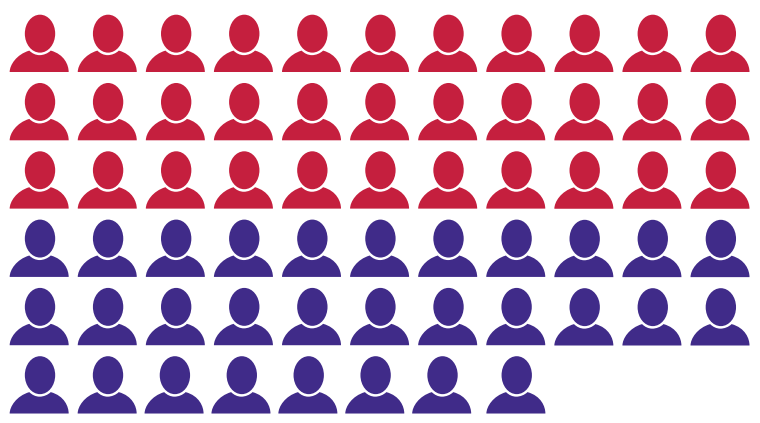
As Andrea prepares to move to her new, quite possibly more urban call in the Northeastern Ohio Synod, she's been very grateful to have two years with the people of St. John and St. Paul. The time has given her the chance to loosen up, strengthen, and deepen her ministry. "My parishioners," she says, "have made me stronger and better for being in a space so different. It encourages being open and vulnerable." The ELCA is still the ELCA. Despite the different contexts, we're still one denomination. "No matter where you go, God is there."



*“Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it”  
(I Cor. 12:27)*

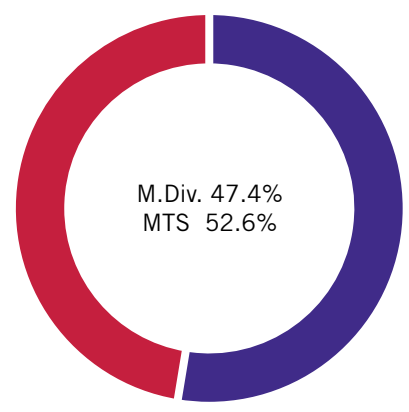
# 2022 - 2023 Facts and Figures

## Headcount

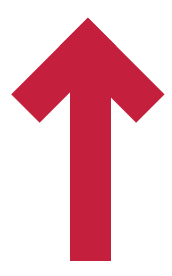
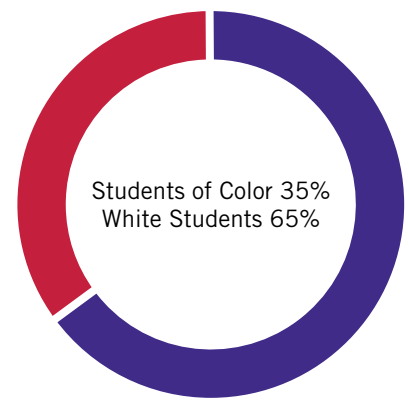


Total: 63  
ELCA: 33  
Other Traditions: 30

## First Degree Students



## Student Composition



**Increase in  
Part-Time  
Students**

**2  
3**

**Taking 1-2  
courses**

# Community News

In August 2022, **Dan Yonah Johnson** (Trinity '87) published the short story, "What Next?" which is about an Ohio lesbian farm girl couple, through the Northwest Indiana Literary Journal. His story "Losers" (about an intersex child) was published in July 2022 in Literary Yard. Dan Yonah is the author of several books: The Bread House, Date of Birth Unknown, and The Dislocation of God under the pseudonym Waldon Du Bois.

Rev. **Dennis Hartman** (Trinity '90) writes to share that he retired from parish ministry and prison chaplaincy in 2016. He now lives in Myrtle Beach and travels with wife, Pamela, in an 18' RV trailer as often as their health allows!

Dr. **Monica Schaap Pierce** (Trinity '06, '08) was appointed as executive director of Christian Churches Together in the USA Inc. Dr. Schapp Pierce fulfills the role after serving as interim director since October 2021. She is the first woman appointed to lead the national communion of churches.

The Rev. **Nancy M. Raabe** (Trinity '06), pastor of Grace Lutheran Church in Hatfield, PA was named the President of the Association of Lutheran Church Musicians. Pastor Raabe is a prolific composer of piano, organ, and choir music for use in worship contexts. She is the author of six books, and she is a frequent speaker at conferences about church music. She was the founding editor of the ALCM publication, In Tempo.

The Rev. **Barry Halter, Jr.** (Trinity '20) was sworn in as a Chaplain in the Wyandot County Sheriff's Department. His role will include providing counsel, social and/or spiritual guidance and religious ministry to the sheriff's office, employees, their families, and cities of Wyandot county when incidents occur for which a chaplain presence may be helpful.

## In Memoriam

The Rev. **Paul Klopfer** (Cap '46, ELTS '50) died on June 5, 2022. For 41 years, Pastor Klopfer served parishes in Ohio and Indiana, including the Ohio towns of Fremont, Sugar Grove, Willoughby, Fort Recovery and Indiana community of Salmonia.

The Rev. **Ralph Baumbach** (Cap '46, ELTS '50) died on June 21, 2022. Pastor Baumbach served churches in Imlay City and Saginaw, MI and founded a mission in Waukesha, WI. Later, he served in the district office.

On August 13, 2022, the Rev. **Alfred Buehner** (Hamma '55) died after decades of ministry, serving churches in Detroit, Cleveland, and Kettering, in addition to working at Lutheran Social Services in the Dayton area. Later, he was appointed Assistant to the Bishop of the Southern Ohio Synod. In retirement, he served congregations in the Florida-Bahamas Synod.

The Rev. Dr. **Donald Ziemke** (Cap '51, ELTS '55) died on June 16, 2022. Dr. Ziemke earned a Doctor of Theology degree at Princeton Theological Seminary and taught at Trinity, Pacific Lutheran University, and the University of N. Dakota at Grand Forks. He served as Dean of Students at Nasson College, Dean of Faculty at Fontbonne College, and President of Missouri Valley College.

On April 3, 2022, Mr. **Charles P. Lutz** ( ELTS '57) died. Mr. Lutz worked in the fields of communications and social justice with several church agencies, including US Lutheran bodies and the World Council of Churches.

The Rev. Dr. **John Fabian** (Hamma '58) died on August 18, 2022. Dr. Fabian served St. Paul Lutheran Church in Newcomerston, Ohio before earning a Master in Pastoral Counseling from Andover Newton. He served as a counselor, hospital chaplain, and executive director of a residential treatment center for adolescents before earning his PhD in Counseling Psychology from Washington State and working in organizational development.

On January 2, 2023, the Rev. **James Heinley Nichols** (Hamma '61) died. Pastor Heinley Nichols also held a doctorate from Oberlin/Vanderbilt Graduate School of Theology. Jim accepted his initial pastoral call to Mt Hope Lutheran in Shiloh OH where he served from 1961-1964. This was followed by a call to Jerusalem Lutheran Church, Seville OH from 1964-1967. Jim accepted a call in 1967 as Assistant to the Bishop of the OH Synod Office with a focus on social action and justice where he served until 1975. From 1975-1980 he served as Director and Retreat Leader at Yokefellow Institute in Richmond IN. Ultimately, following warmer weather, he served as Senior Pastor at Reformation Lutheran in Columbia, SC from 1981-1988.

The Rev. **John Morris** (Cap '58, ELTS 61) died on June 4, 2022. Pastor Morris served Grace Lutheran in Elmore, Ohio and St. Mark's in Graytown, Ohio for 6 years. He also served Zion Lutheran in Chelsea, Michigan for 20 years; St. Matthew in Herron, Michigan for 9 years; and Living Hope Lutheran in Farwell, Michigan for 5 years.

# In Memoriam

The Rev. **Lawrence A. Shoeberg** (ELTS '61) died on June 27, 2022. He served congregations for 7 years before serving as a Naval Chaplain for 23 years. He retired as Captain in '91 and returned to parish ministry.

On July 24, 2022, the Rev. **John P. Klingeman** (Hamma '66) died. Pastor Klingeman served numerous congregations in Canton, Ohio and Pittsburg, PA. He retired from Trinity Lutheran Church in Juniata after 22 years of service.

The Rev. Dr. **Gordon Seth "Tim" Huffman Jr.**, (Cap '64, ELTS '68) died on March 11, 2023. Dr. Huffman earned his Ph.D. in Theology from the University of St. Andrews and served as pastor at Divinity Lutheran Church in Parma Heights, OH, professor at Lutheran Theological Seminary in Hong Kong, and professor at Trinity Lutheran Seminary.

The Rev. **Jerry L. Straszheim** (ELTS '63) died on December 31, 2022. Pastor Straszheim served as Pastor of St. Luke, Atlanta, Georgia, from 1963-71; as Pastor Developer, and later the first Pastor of Lutheran Ministry in Christ in Coral Springs, Florida from 1971-1994; and as Pastor of Lutheran Church of the Cross in St. Petersburg from 1994 until he retired in 2001. Pastor Straszheim served faithfully as Chair of the synod's Candidacy Committee and the Division for Ministry.

The Rev. Dr. **Richard Burgie** (Hamma '69) died on September 12, 2022. After seminary, he earned a D.Min from United Theological Seminary and served congregations in Winfield, OH and Shanesville, OH for twelve years before serving Christ Lutheran in Heath, OH for thirty years.

The Rev. **Fred Grosse** (Hamma '69) died December 6, 2022. His first call as pastor was to St. Paul Lutheran in Paulding, Ohio, where he served from 1969-1984. In 1984, he was called to St. Peter Evangelical Lutheran in Wooster, Ohio, where he served until 1985. His final call as pastor was to First Lutheran Church in Strasburg, where he served from 1987 until 2004. He retired in 2008.

On June 8, 2022, the Rev. **Roger Schalnat** (Capital '65, ELTS, '61) died. A minister for 57 years, Pastor Roger served congregations throughout the Dayton area as well as Graceworks (formerly Lutheran Social Services.)

The Rev. **Douglas Harold McGinn** (ELTS '72) , died on January 5, 2023. During his career he served as pastor at the following churches: Grace Lutheran Church in Westerville, Ohio; St Paul's Lutheran Church in Olean, Indiana; St Jacob's Lutheran Church in Anna, Ohio; St Paul's Lutheran Church in Upper Sandusky, Ohio; Good Shepherd Evangelical Lutheran Church in Manistee, Michigan; and St Paul Lutheran Church in Casco, Michigan. Doug also spent time serving as an Assistant to the Bishop in the Northwest Synod in Ohio. Doug eventually retired to Fairfield Glade, Tennessee and served as pastoral assistant at Christ Lutheran Church.

The Rev. **Michael Thompson** (Hamma '73) died on June 30, 2022. He served churches in Ohio and Pennsylvania and retired from Birchaven Villages after years of service as their chaplain.

On July 31, 2022, the Rev. **Robert W. Blohm** (ELTS '75) died. Pastor Blohm served churches in West Virginia (St. Matthew), New Jersey (Lord of Life), and Ohio (First St. John) where he served for 26 years.

The Rev. **Paul Otto Lutze** (former staff) died on February 18, 2023. He served parishes in Foxboro, MA; Seaford, NY; and Vernon, CT before serving as Assistant to the Bishop in Tampa, FL until 1999. From 1999-2004, he served Trinity before returning to Florida to work as Assistant to the Bishop again, until his retirement in 2013.

The Rev. **Lisa Jaeger Bernheisel** (Trinity '03) died after serving congregations in Cincinnati area including Ascension, Atonement, St Peter in Trenton, Christ the King, Vida Eterna Iglesia Luterana, St Paul in Reading, the Presbyterian Church of Wyoming, and St. Timothy Episcopal Church in Beechmont.

The Rev. **Roberta Meyer** (Trinity '10) died on June 8, 2022. She was a teacher at Scott Elementary in Evansville for 35 years, served as a Diaconal Minister with the Heritage Hills Youth Program for 5 years, was involved in her Synod, and served ten years as Pastor of Grace and Peace Lutheran Church in Evansville, IN.

On January 26, 2023, the Rev. **Benjamin Austin** (Trinity '16) died after years of faithful service to the church. Upon graduation from Trinity, Pastor Austin moved to Brookville to serve as the pastor of Grace Lutheran Church and Trinity Lutheran Church in Reynoldsville. In March of 2022, Ben moved to Cambridge Springs and was the pastor at St. Paul's Lutheran Church there until his death.

*Submit Community News and In Memoriam notices for future issues of The Trinity Connection at [tinyurl.com/SemUpdate](http://tinyurl.com/SemUpdate)*

## NEWS & NOTES



### *Trinity Welcomes Doctoral Scholar in Residence*

Denise Rector, LSTC PhD student studying womanist theology, race, and history, began her 2-year residency at Trinity this academic year. Prof. Rector's popular courses are challenging and shaping students as they prepare for ministry!

### *2023 Commencement*

Commencement will be on Saturday, May 20th. We'll share in Holy Eucharist at 10:30 AM, lunch, and commencement will begin at 1:00 PM.

## *Stay in Touch*

Reach out to us!  
web: [capital.edu/trinity/](http://capital.edu/trinity/)  
email: [TrinityDean@capital.edu](mailto:TrinityDean@capital.edu)  
phone: 614-236-6131



Trinity Lutheran Seminary at Capital University has adopted an affirmation of welcome to persons of all sexual orientations and gender identities and is recognized as Reconciling in Christ (RIC).