



Stained glass window at St. Andrew Lutheran Church of Bloomfield Hills, Michigan

Holy Ending and New Beginning

In January 2022, Trinity received an ordinary looking envelope with a simple note:

After almost 65 years of service to our community, St. Andrew Lutheran Church of Bloomfield Hills, Michigan has closed its doors and sold the property. While this is a sad day in the life of our congregation, it gives us the ability to make one final positive impact on our region and the world.

A handwritten check for \$100,000 fell on the table. So did the holy weight and meaning of this unexpected gift, designated to support Trinity's new Contextual Education Endowment.

In this holy ending, there was a precious, new beginning.

Since 1957, St. Andrew faithfully gathered, worshiped, and served their community. Former members of the now-closed congregation, Gary and Eve Archinal, sat down with Pastor Mary Ann Siefke, Trinity's Director of Congregational Engagement and Advancement, after the gift arrived. They described St. Andrew with great love and recalled decades of life-changing ministry. It was precisely because of those many years of formation that the remaining members of St. Andrew saw fit to bless Trinity and fifteen other local, regional, national, and international agencies with the very last of their financial assets.

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Planned Giving Workshop on May 10

Contextual Education has been called the hallmark of a Trinity degree. Our M.Div. degree is oriented around contextual education and the two-year internship is its capstone. Students from all of our degree programs learn in praxis-oriented classrooms, where the life of the mind is yoked to day-to-day ministry and all the big questions that come with it.

Because of St. Andrew's gift, the Contextual Education Endowment, which opened with a \$10,000 anonymous lead gift at the 2021 Trinity Days has blossomed to over \$113,000. The endowment will make it possible for Trinity students to serve at internship sites like St. Andrew was: smaller congregations dedicated to Christ's mission, but without the capacity to cover the full cost of an intern on their own.

In this work, students will be better prepared for the rigor and diverse challenges of everyday ministry. They will gain even more experience at ministry sites that are likely to resemble their future first calls. And all of it will strengthen and serve the church.

As Pastor Mary Ann was ending her conversation with Gary and Eve Archinal about St. Andrew, the couple handed her a small postcard. It bore a picture of the focal point of their old sanctuary – the stained glass window in the chancel area. In it, Jesus is gathered with his disciples at the last supper. They are seated at an extended table, one that appears to reach out into the world, beginning with the congregation, as if to say, “you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth” (Acts 1:8)

The middle of this beautiful window depicts worshippers with their hands held high, offering praise. This window, which once graced the sanctuary of St. Andrew Lutheran Church, will now reside in another house of worship in Bloomfield Hills, Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church.

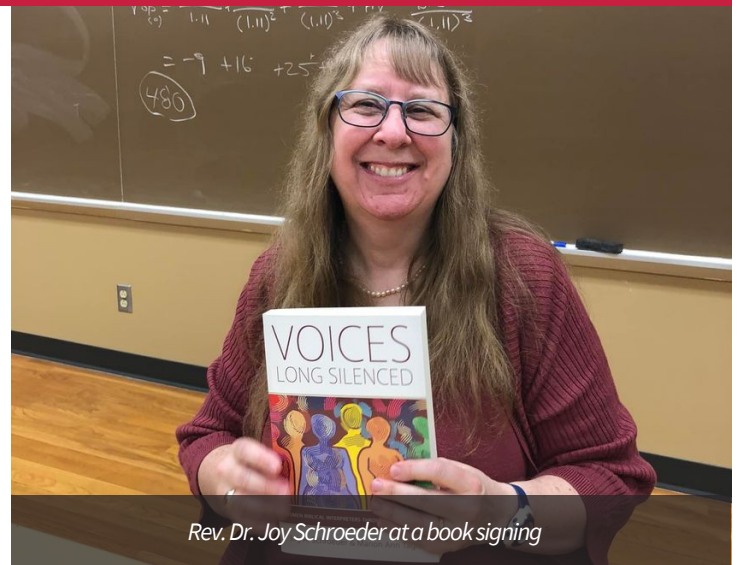
New life can be borne out of grief and death. The lasting legacy of the people of Saint Andrew is a living testament of this. We at Trinity Lutheran Seminary at Capital University look forward to honoring this legacy as we continue our mission of “forming leaders for Christ's Church at work in the world.”

Voices Long Silenced: Dr. Schroeder

This spring, the Rev. Dr. Joy Schroeder, holder of the Trinity Endowed Chair in Lutheran Heritage and Professor of Church History, released her fifth book, *Voices Long Silenced: Women Biblical Interpreters Through the Centuries*. The book, co-authored with Dr. Marion Ann Taylor of Wycliffe College at the University of Toronto and published by Westminster John Knox Press, recounts stories from across the centuries and around the globe, highlighting women biblical interpreters whose voices were often modulated, restrained, overlooked, or cut off because of patriarchal cultural expectations. Many were unable to publish or circulate their interpretive works, which included writings, sermons, music, and art. Nevertheless, their contributions, in both direct and indirect ways, helped shape the witness of the Christian church.

In this ground-breaking work, Schroeder and Taylor assemble previously unknown and underappreciated fragments to lift up the interpretive work of women, shaping them into the first comprehensive narrative of women biblical interpreters over the last two thousand years:

This book refutes the myth that no significant women biblical interpreters existed before the twentieth century. In this volume, we connect readers with a lost tradition of women's interpretation, introducing the fascinating stories of overlooked women and their significant contributions to the study of Scripture. We examine works by Jewish, Catholic, Eastern Orthodox, Protestant, and sectarian women (and a few atheists, freethinkers, and skeptics). We tell stories of women representing a diverse range of communities and



Rev. Dr. Joy Schroeder at a book signing

geographical settings, including Africa, Asia, Latin America, the Caribbean, and the Middle East. These stories help to set modern feminists, womanists, and Latina biblical scholarship into historical context within the larger faith community.

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The Rev. Dr. Rachel Wrenn, Assistant Professor of Biblical Studies at Trinity, recommends *Voices Long Silenced* for devotional reading as well as academic study.

Dr. Schroeder and Dr. Taylor presented stories of some of the women from their book in a webinar sponsored by Women of the ELCA for Women's History Month. A recording of the webinar is available on YouTube.

New Anthem Honors Church Music Professor

A new anthem, "You Are the One," commissioned by Master of Arts in Church Music (MACM) graduates Jeffrey Clouser (MACM '21) and Valerie Stone (MACM '20) in honor of Church Music Professor May Schwarz, is now available through Augsburg Fortress. The anthem premiered at Trinity's 2021 Commencement.

"You Are the One" is set for SAB, piano, and optional congregation by Thomas Keesecker to the text by Herbert F. Brokering. The text lists numerous attributes of God's expansive character, making this anthem useful throughout the year, including during communion, for creation-themed worship, or Holy Trinity Sunday.

The song was commissioned to honor Prof. Schwarz for her

devotion to educating, mentoring, and supporting leaders in church music upholding Christ's church at work in the world.

Jeffrey Clouser shared the following note with Prof. Schwarz:

In a conversation we had yesterday, I was reminded of how the church's music provides comfort, brings us hope, and guides us in service to our community. Music has the ability to transform lives, and, as a pastoral musician, I must help the congregation find its voice for singing together.

May, thank you for helping me find my voice and nurturing my passion for the church music ministry. I think I can say that many of us who have passed through this seminary are grateful for your mentoring and support in developing our skills to lead the church's song.



Prof. May Schwarz playing the piano in Schenk Chapel

*"O sing to the Lord
a new song, for God
has done
marvelous things."
(Psalm 98:1)*

A Journey 20 Years in the Making

Student Profile: Sar7ah Leake's Trek to Trinity

Sar7ah Leake began her M.Div. studies in fall 2021, but she nearly put off coming to seminary for another year. Her connection and call to ministry have been felt for a long time. In fact, her name, Sar7ah, was picked up during her tenure as a volunteer leader in a church youth group a number of years back. (The silent 7 in Sar7ah became a way of distinguishing herself among the other Sarahs and Saras in the congregation. It began as a joke with the teenagers she worked with, and it stuck with her through the years!)

Sar7ah knew her next steps would be to Trinity, and she felt called to be a full-time student. However, leaving the security of a full-time job was a tall order, especially for Sar7ah who has not been a full-time student since high school. As a single adult without someone else to rely on to pay the rent or secure health insurance, the invitation she was discerning was, in some ways, very hard to accept.

However, with the blessing and support of her pastor and community, she made the leap.

Seminary is a place that connects several of Sar7ah's most deeply felt passions. As a person in recovery whose life was transformed through participation in a 12-step program, Sar7ah is keenly attuned to the church's call to individuals and communities coping with addiction, and she is filled with love for them.

Prior to starting at Trinity, Sar7ah was a professional who connected persons with addictions to recovery resources. On the other side of graduation and ordination, she longs to draw on her personal, educational, and professional experiences to lead a worshipping community deeply connected to and growing with the local recovery community. She is committed to doing this well and maintaining her own health in the process— modeling self-care and other practices that prevent burnout, which is a prerequisite to long-term investment in and relationship with the recovery community.

Asked about how her first year of seminary has gone, Sar7ah says: "It's the most fun I've ever had, and the hardest thing I've ever done."

Sar7ah has experienced Trinity's day-to-day rhythms as transformative. As a sacristan, Sar7ah takes part in planning and leading chapel, which she finds deeply fulfilling. She's one semester into her Learning-In-Context (LIC) placement at Epiphany Lutheran Church in Pickerington, Ohio. She's also



Sar7ah Leake

involved in campus life, which includes regularly sharing meals with other students. For Sar7ah, being able to study the Bible closely and understand it better is a great privilege and one of the reasons why Old Testament is her favorite class.

Simultaneously, she is discovering new ways to study and learn. Sar7ah has experienced Trinity as a rigorous academic environment— one that pushes her and her peers to grow. The hours spent listening, reading, observing, digesting new ideas, and daring to put pen to paper with her own thoughts are rewarding, but also challenging.

For Sar7ah, enrolling at Trinity was a vulnerable act. It meant leaving security and taking a courageous step into something new and different. However, two semesters in, there is no doubt in Sar7ah's mind — it was the right next step.

Summer Learning Opportunities

This summer, Trinity is delighted to offer two summer intensive courses, which are open to alumni and community members as well as to current students.

Dr. Mary Hess, Professor of Educational Leadership at Luther Seminary, is teaching MN 3041 Educational Ministry, a three-credit course that examines the theological and educational foundations and basic questions that shape a congregation's ministry of education. Dr. Hess' class is being offered remotely the week of June 6-10.

The Rev. Dr. Raymond Wise, Professor of Practice and Director of the African American Choral Ensemble at Indiana University – Bloomington is returning to Trinity to teach MN 2172 Music and Worship in the African American Tradition. This two-credit course is a study of the music and worship forms of the African American Christian tradition with emphasis on historical development, an understanding of the African American aesthetic, and practical applications for congregational music and worship. Dr. Wise's class is being offered in person on the Trinity campus the week of June 27 - July 1.



Tuition for those taking either course for academic credit is \$640 per credit hour. Persons interested in taking either class as a non-degree student may audit for \$105 per credit hour. Non-degree auditors over 65 years of age receive a 50-percent discount.

To sign up, please contact A.J. Minney at aminney2@capital.edu or 614-236-6131. Auditors can also register at <https://apply.capital.edu/register/nondegreeform>

Save the Date: Trinity Days 2022



Mark your calendars! Trinity Days will return on September 22nd and 23rd. This year's event will feature a special celebration dinner honoring the Rev. Dr. Brad Binau, Professor of Pastor Theology, who is retiring in October 2022. Former students and friends from near and far are encouraged to participate in the festivities.

If you would like to share a special memory, story, or words of thanks to Dr. Binau, please submit online at <http://tinyurl.com/BBinau>

Submissions will be shared with Dr. Binau and may be referenced during events at the 2022 Trinity Days.



*“For where your
treasure is, there
your heart will
be also.”
(Matthew 6:21)*

Learn about Planned Giving!

Join Dean Kit Kleinhans, Southern Ohio Synod Bishop Suzanne Dillahunt (M.Div. '86), and ELCA Foundation Regional Gift Planner Pastor Karl Biermann (M.Div. '04) for a special planned giving Zoom event on Tuesday, May 10, 11:00am-12:00pm. For Zoom event information and to register, contact Pastor Mary Ann Siefke, Director of Congregational Engagement and Advancement at Trinity Lutheran Seminary at Capital University at msiefke@capital.edu or 614-236-6301.

Find out the free resources available to you to tap into the generosity just waiting to be discovered within the congregations/organizations and individuals with whom you serve and lead.

For Congregations/Organizations:

What if your congregation/organization were offered a \$1 million gift on the condition that the altar or a building be painted pink since pink is the giver's favorite color? Don't let this happen to you! A Gift Acceptance Policy establishes the procedures for deciding what gifts will be accepted by the congregation/organization and how those gifts will be used.

Having a publicized gift policy encourages gifts, communicates readiness to receive gifts, and minimizes surprises, confusion, and unnecessary conflict. Pastor Karl has gift policy templates available to work with your endowment committee or leadership group to write a new gift policy or to update an existing one.

For Individuals:

Do you or someone you know want to provide for family, a congregation, and other ministries, institutions and charities after death but aren't sure where to begin?

Pastor Karl is available to assist individuals and help you support your family, favorite ministries, and charities in a legacy giving plan.

You can change your legacy plan as often as needed without changing your will. Pastor Karl is available free of charge to serve you as your charitable advisor, alongside your tax and legal professionals.

Community News

The Rev. **Stephen Clark** (ELTS '68) just celebrated two special occasions. On December 28, 2021, he celebrated his 52nd wedding anniversary, and on June 30, 2022, he celebrated his 80th birthday.

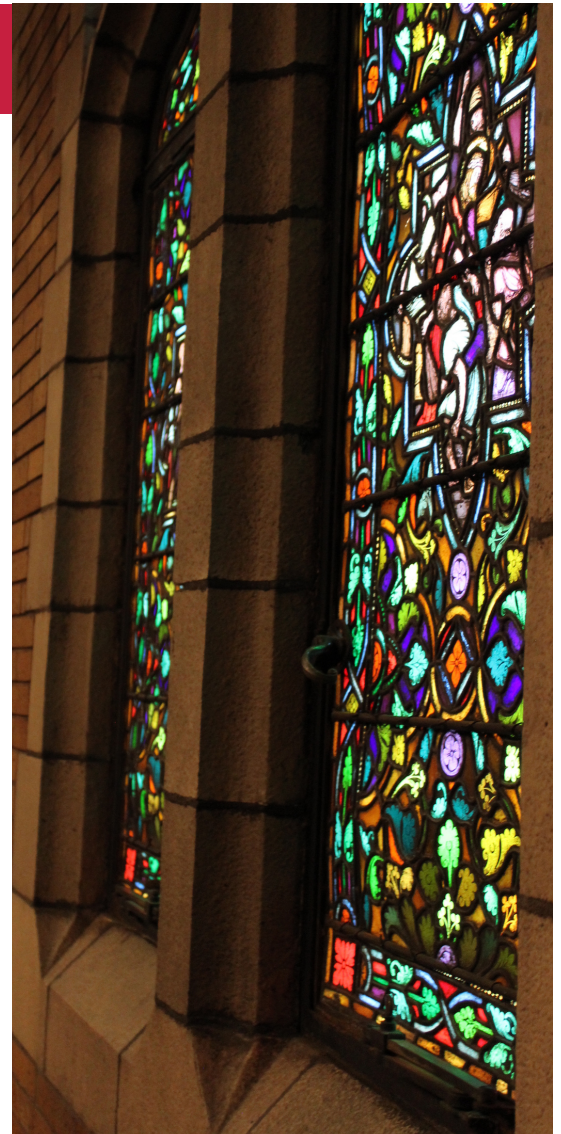
The Rev. **Dale Stanton** (ELTS '74) writes to share about the publication of his new book, *A Funny Thing Happened On the Way to Communion (Finding Subtle Humor in the Bible)*. In his tongue-in-cheek style, Dale explores some of the hidden, elusive gems of humor in the Bible. The book is available for purchase through Covenant Books.

In January, the Rev. **John Mittermaier** (Trinity '79) completed his role as Transitional Senior Pastor at Epiphany Lutheran in Dayton, Ohio. He looks forward to retirement!

The short story "What Happened," by Mx **Dan Yonah Johnson** (Trinity '87) was published in the March 2022 edition of the literary journal *The Write Launch*.

The Rev. **Cathy Fanslau** (Trinity '01) sends greetings from the Sierra Mountains in Northern Nevada, her new home. She's located in Dayton, Nevada, just north of Lake Tahoe and east of Carson City. It is beautiful, she loves it, and she welcomes Trinity friends to visit her!

Pastor **Dennis Meyette** (Trinity '03) retired on June 1, 2021.



In Memoriam

On November 19, 2021, the Rev. **David Risch** (ELTS '55) died after decades of faithful service in Christian ministry, including serving as pastor at Faith Lutheran Church in Whitehall. Rev. Risch was also a Capital University alum and served on the university Board of Trustees from 1986-2003.

The Rev. Dr. **Robert Ellis Snyder** (ELTS '56) died on October 29, 2021. Dr. Snyder served at Faith Lutheran Church in Detroit, Michigan, and, after earning his doctorate, served as professor of Music and Director of Choral Activities at Eastern Illinois University. Later in life, he served as interim pastor at several Lutheran congregations.

The Rev. **Roger Lee Thompson** (Hamma '60) died on February 12, 2022. Pastor Roger served congregations in Bellevue, KY; Valparaiso, IN; Elwood, IN; Indianapolis, IN; Willard, OH; and Sugar creek, OH. In retirement, he served as support and interim pastor in Sandyville, Massillon, and Willard, OH.

A graduate of both Hamma School of Theology (M.Div. '72) and Trinity Lutheran Seminary (D.Min. '93) the Rev. **Paul W. DeMoss Jr.** died on July 5, 2021. Pastor DeMoss served Lutheran three churches as pastor. In retirement, he served three congregations as interim pastor and worked as an assistant pastor for six years.

The Rev. **Linda Sue Gregson** (Trinity '81) died on March 3, 2022. She held many roles over the course of her career, including parish pastor and hospital chaplain. Rev. Gregson was a gifted and compassionate listener.

In Memoriam

The Rev. **Richard Ferne** (ELTS '73) died on February 16, 2022. Rev. Ferne served four congregations: Bethel Lutheran in Toledo, St. Paul Lutheran in Haskins, Ohio; Christ Lutheran in Reese, Michigan; and Community of Christ Lutheran in Whitehouse, Ohio. He helped build relationships between churches in congregations in need through Mission Partners, served on Candidacy Committee, and maintained records for the ELCA Region 6 Archives at Trinity.

On January 10, 2022 the Rev. **Robert "Pastor Bob" Lee Young** (Trinity '84) died in Fremont, Ohio. Pastor Bob served at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Waldo, Ohio and Faith Lutheran Church in Fremont, Ohio.

The Rev. **Scott Prigan** (Trinity '84, '93) died on March 10, 2022. Rev. Prigan served congregations in Botkins and St. Louisville, Ohio and was deeply involved in his local community.

The Rev. **Jane S. Gaeta** (Trinity '94) died on February 9, 2022. Pastor Gaeta served parishes in the Metropolitan NY Synod, NJ Synod, and the Episcopal Diocese of Bethlehem. Additionally, she worked as a staff chaplain at several New York hospitals, and in the aftermath of the attacks in New York on 9/11, she ministered at Ground Zero.

A 2017 alum of Trinity, the Rev. **Creighton Leptak** died on December 24, 2021. Rev. Creighton was active community leader and pastor at St. Paul Lutheran Church Crossroads in Batesville, Indiana.

Submit Community News and In Memoriam notices for future issues of The Trinity Connection at tinyurl.com/SemUpdate

Stay in Touch

Reach out to us!

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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).

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

OTHER NEWS & NOTES

Headed to Columbus this Summer for Churchwide Assembly?

Alumni and friends are invited to a special social hour to be held on Trinity's campus on Tuesday, August 9th at 7pm.

Stay tuned for registration information! We hope to see you there!

2022 Commencement

Commencement will be on Saturday, May 21st at 10:30am.



Newsletter Production

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