



Report to 2021 Synod Assemblies

Greetings in the name of our Triune God!

For us, as for so many, 2020 will be remembered as “the year of COVID-19.” Just as Jacob wrestled with God at the river Jabbok until he received a blessing (Genesis 32:22-32), we have wrestled to identify the blessings Trinity Lutheran Seminary has received through these challenging times.

As part of Capital University, we have access to a wealth of technology-related resources that made the pivot to remote instruction much easier than it would otherwise have been. Both our teaching and our worship life have benefited from new tools and training. As part of a university with graduate programs in nursing, we have benefited from the wisdom of our nursing faculty and their connections with public health leaders in Ohio as we have adopted safety protocols, regular on-campus testing for COVID-19, and now vaccination clinics.

We have also wrestled to turn the challenges of ministry during a pandemic into blessings. The M.Div. students who graduate in May 2021 will have spent the majority of their internship under pandemic conditions. The students who go out on internship this fall will have spent the majority of their Learning in Context (field experience) placements under pandemic conditions. Instead of focusing on a lost sense of “normal,” we have named the importance of ministry lived out in particular places at particular times. Whether rostered or lay, we all experienced challenges and changes in how we do ministry and live together as church in 2020. Our students haven’t missed out on the preparation they need. They’ve had the opportunity to be prepared differently, for the realities of today and tomorrow rather than the realities of yesterday.

We are grateful for our many faithful donors, our congregational partners, and this synod! Thanks to your generosity, we finished fiscal year 2020 (our second full fiscal year as part of Capital University) with direct operating expenses “in the black.” Also, during the 2020-21 academic year, we were able to increase financial aid to the point that almost all Trinity students received full tuition scholarships.

Each time I report to you on behalf of the seminary, I ask these three things:

- Encourage potential candidates for ministry to explore Trinity Lutheran Seminary at Capital University.
- As you are able, consider making a financial contribution to support the work of the seminary.
- Keep us in your prayers!

I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. (Philippians 1:3-5)

In Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kathryn Kleinhans".

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

Forming Leaders for Christ's Church at Work in the World