



TRINITY LUTHERAN SEMINARY

at Capital University

Report to 2025 Synod Assemblies

Grace and peace to you in the name of our Triune God!

In Hebrews 13:8, we hear the proclamation that **“Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.”** In Isaiah 43:19, the prophet declares this word from God: **“I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?”** **“The same”** and **“new”** – truly we worship a both/and God.

Trinity Lutheran Seminary at Capital University continues to live into its calling as a both/and seminary. Our mission remains steadfast: forming leaders for Christ’s church at work in the world. When we were founded in 1830, our primary focus was training Lutheran pastors to serve the needs of Lutheran congregations. We still do that—and so much more! Today, we are forming **leaders** (not only pastors) for **Christ’s church** (not only the ELCA) at work **in the world** (not only in congregations).

In 2024, we saw many signs of God’s “new thing” taking shape at Trinity:

- Following national trends, our enrollment was almost evenly split between Master of Divinity (MDiv) and Master of Theological Studies (MTS) students. Many of our MTS students are already active in ministry, including in faith-based nonprofit work as well as local congregations.
- Our student body was also almost evenly divided between students of European and African descent. Many of our Black students come from Baptist and Pentecostal traditions. This rich diversity forms our ELCA MDiv students alongside peers from different cultures and Christian expressions—an experience that deeply enriches their preparation for ministry.

In 2025, we anticipate more new beginnings:

- Dean Kathryn Kleinhans will retire on June 30 after 7½ years of faithful leadership. An interim dean will be named from the current faculty while we prepare for the search for Trinity’s next academic leader.
- Capital University President Dave Kaufman is also retiring, and the search for his successor is well underway. The new president is expected to begin on August 1.

As your partners in mission, we ask three things of you:

1. **Encourage** current and future church leaders to explore Trinity Lutheran Seminary at Capital University.
2. **Give generously**—as individuals, congregations, and synods—to support the work of the seminary.
3. **Pray for us**, as we faithfully pray for you.

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