



Report to 2020 Synod Assemblies

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

We are in our third year as Trinity Lutheran Seminary at Capital University. Trinity's mission remains strong and clear – *forming leaders for Christ's church at work in the world* – and it is a mission that is needed now more than ever!

I write this report in March, two weeks after our shift to remote instruction for the rest of the academic year and one week after Ohio's Stay-at-Home order went into effect, both actions taken to help curb the spread of the novel coronavirus that causes COVID-19. I write this report knowing that some synods have already made the difficult decision to postpone or cancel their 2020 assemblies, while others are planning and praying in the hope that they will not need to make that decision.

We are learning to be church in new ways during this challenging time. At Trinity, we are also learning how to be seminary in new ways, which means working to ensure that our students have not only the biblical and theological knowledge they need but also the critical thinking skills, the pastoral sensibilities, the technological savvy, and the emotional intelligence they need to navigate in uncharted territory. We are livestreaming our daily worship services, just as many congregations are doing, to continue to live and worship together in Christian community even when we are physically apart.

In fall 2019, we welcomed an entering class of 15 new students, 12 of whom are ELCA M.Div. candidates and five of whom are recipients of full-tuition scholarships from the ELCA Fund for Leaders. Over 60 ELCA congregations have committed to becoming Congregational Partners with Trinity, and their financial gifts, combined with income from endowments, made it possible for us to offer full-tuition scholarships to several other entering students.

We finished fiscal year 2019 (our first full fiscal year as part of Capital University) with operating expenses "in the black" for the first time in many years. Thank you for your generosity, which helped make this possible.

As your partner in ministry, I ask three things of you:

- Encourage potential candidates for ministry to explore Trinity Lutheran Seminary at Capital University.
- Consider making a financial contribution to support the work of the seminary – as an individual, through your congregation, and through your synodical mission support.
- Keep us in your prayers, even as we keep you in our 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,

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

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