



# TRINITY

LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL

## Meet our Teachers!

### 2022-2023 School Year

Trinity is blessed with a dynamic and versatile group of teachers equipped to educate our students. As you page through this booklet, you will find individuals with a wide variety of interests, abilities, and backgrounds. However, there is one common strain among us. We all love Jesus, and we are so thankful for the opportunity to share His love with your precious children!



## Mrs. Alicia M. Klug

## PRINCIPAL

[aklug@trinity-lutheran.com](mailto:aklug@trinity-lutheran.com)



**Hometown:** St. Louis, MO



**Education:** B.A. in secondary education with a major in English from Concordia University, Chicago, and M.A. in Elementary Education from Webster University



**Experience:** Twenty-three years in Lutheran education, twelve of those years in school administration.



**Favorite Bible Passage:** James 1:17



**Favorite Sports Team:** St. Louis Cardinals



**Family:** Husband - Zachary, three sons - Elijah (17), Oliver (10), and Elliott (3.5), one daughter - Avery (14), and two dogs - Charley (7) and Lola (4)



**Favorite Places to Visit:** Carolina Beach, North Carolina, and Cape San Blas, Florida



**Favorite Things to Do:** Spending time with my family and friends; watching movies; reading fiction; dance and choreography; going to sporting events, musicals, and concerts; eating at new restaurants; and learning more about God and His Word.

## Rev. Paul Hemenway

## PASTOR

[rev.hemenway@trinity-lutheran.com](mailto:rev.hemenway@trinity-lutheran.com)



**Hometown:** Coeur d'Alene, ID



**Education:** A.A. and A.S. from North Idaho College, B.A. from Eastern Washington University, and M.Div. from Concordia Seminary, St. Louis.



**Experience:** I have been a pastor for 15 years.



**Favorite Bible Passage:** Mark 16:1-6



**Favorite Places to Visit:** New York City and Orange County, California



**Family:** Wife - Karen; children - Matt, Jack, and Sophie



**Favorite Things to Do:** Spend time with my family, write & perform music, and water ski



**Favorite Sports Team:** St. Louis Cardinals



## Miss Miss India Nair

[inair@trinity-lutheran.com](mailto:inair@trinity-lutheran.com)

## TWO-YEAR-OLD TEACHER



**Hometown:** Springfield, IL



**Education:** I am studying Early Childhood Education at Lincoln Land Community College



**Experience:** This is my second year at Trinity. Previously I worked at the Boys and Girls Club in Jacksonville.



**Favorite Places to Visit:** Florida



**Family:** My family includes my parents, my brother, 2 cats, and a labradoodle.



**Favorite Things to Do:** Read, hang out with friends, watch reality tv, go to the park



**Favorite Bible Passage:** Psalm 27:1

## Miss Kristen Kelley

[kkelley@trinity-lutheran.com](mailto:kkelley@trinity-lutheran.com)

## TWO-YEAR-OLD TEACHER AIDE



**Hometown:** St. Jacob, IL



**Education:** I have a bachelor's degree in elementary education and computer management.



**Experience:** I have nine years of experience in elementary education.



**Favorite Bible Passage:** Mark 10:27



**Family:** I have one son, Gideon.



**Favorite Places to Visit:** Europe



**Favorite Things to Do:** Dance, read, play, and watch Paw Patrol.



**Favorite Sports Team:** St. Louis Cardinals



## Mrs. Karina Williams

kwilliams@trinity-lutheran.com

## PRESCHOOL TEACHER



**Hometown:** Del Rio, Texas



**Education:** Bachelor of Applied Science in Recreational Therapy from Texas State University; Master of Business Administration in Healthcare Management from The University of Texas at Tyler.



**Family:** My husband James, son Mateo, and daughter-to-be, Ofilia. We also have a fish named Bluey, gray lab named Luna, weenie dog named Molly, and terrier mix named Harley.



**Favorite Things to Do:** Binge watch a new show, go for walks in the park, and hang out with family and friends.



**Experience:** I have six years of experience working with children and adolescents in the behavioral health setting. I have a passion for teaching children what emotions are and how to properly cope with them. I worked as a paraprofessional at Trinity Lutheran for a year and fell in love with teaching and this school. Now I am so excited to be the red room preschool teacher!



**Favorite Place to Visit:** Texas. Nothing like visiting home and seeing all of my family!



**Favorite Bible Verse:** Philippians 4:6 and Romans 12:2



**Favorite Sports Team:** Dallas Cowboys

## Miss Taylor Finney

tfinney@trinity-lutheran.com

## PRESCHOOL TEACHER



**Hometown:** Paxton, IL



**Education:** I am studying Early Childhood Education at Lincoln Land Community College



**Family:** I have three younger sisters still in my hometown.



**Favorite Things to Do:** I love to listen to music of all genres and generations. I also like to spend time outside enjoying nature.



## Ms. Michelle McWilliams

[mmcwilliams@trinity-lutheran.com](mailto:mmcwilliams@trinity-lutheran.com)

**PRE-K  
TEACHER**



**Hometown:** Springfield, IL



**Education:** Bachelor's degree from St. John's College



**Experience:** I have fifteen years of experience in early childhood education.



**Favorite Things to Do:** Anything with my family.



**Favorite Bible Passage:** Matthew 6:19-21, 24-34



**Favorite Places to Visit:** Oregon



**Family:** I have two daughters. Both recently graduated from college with a business degree and speech pathology.



**Favorite Sports Team:** Chicago Cubs

## Ms. Dara Merino

[dmerino@trinity-lutheran.com](mailto:dmerino@trinity-lutheran.com)

**PRE-K  
TEACHER**



**Hometown:** Frankfurt, Germany



**Education:** Associate's degree in Early Childhood/Arts from Lincoln Land Community College. I'm currently finishing my bachelor's degree at University of Illinois at Springfield, majoring in Educational Psychology, with a minor in Music.



**Favorite Bible Passages:** John 15:13 and Psalm 73:26



**Favorite Places to Visit:** The beach, the mountains, anywhere new and scenic.



**Family:** I have a six-year-old daughter named Remi, and family that resides in Springfield, Chatham, and Chicago, IL.



**Favorite Things to Do:** Play drums or acoustic guitar, read the Word, spend time with my little family, write music, go long boarding, dinner with friends, boating, camping, skiing, hiking, biking, going for jogs, morning yoga, and shopping



**Favorite Sports Teams:** Chicago Bulls, Chicago Cubs, and Kansas City Chiefs



## Mrs. Tracie Dinardo **EARLY CHILDHOOD** **TEACHER AIDE**

tdinardo@trinity-lutheran.com



**Hometown:** Springfield, IL



**Experience:** I have four and a half years experience in Early Childhood Education.



**Favorite Bible Passage:** Jeremiah 31:3



**Favorite Sports Team:** St. Louis Blues



**Family:** I am happily married to my husband Chris for 28 years. We have two children: daughter Gabriella and son Logan, and granddaughter, Amelia Rose.



**Favorite Things to Do:** I enjoy going for walks and spending time with family and friends.

## Mrs. Dianne Harter **EARLY CHILDHOOD** **TEACHER AIDE**

dharter@trinity-lutheran.com



**Hometown:** St. Paul, MN



**Experience:** I have 11 years of experience working in Special Education in grades K-8. I also have 4 years working in Early Childhood Education.



**Family:** I've been married to my husband Jeff for 43 years. I have three adult children: David, Jen, and Angie; and nine grand-children: Keaghan, Mackenzie, Emma, Chloe, Danielle, Elizabeth, Levi, Asher and Silas.



**Favorite Bible Passage:** John 14:27



**Favorite Things to Do:** Read historical Christian fiction, spend time with my grandkids in Decatur, and visit my grandkids in Ohio and Nebraska.



**Favorite Places to Visit:** Walt Disney World, the beach, and the mountains.



**Favorite Sports Team:** Minnesota Vikings



## Ms. Jodi Heyen

jheyen@trinity-lutheran.com

## EARLY CHILDHOOD TEACHER AIDE



**Hometown:** Springfield, IL



**Education:** Augustana College, University of Illinois



**Family:** I have one brother and his family, who reside in the Springfield area.



**Favorite Bible Passage:** John 16:33



**Favorite Things to Do:** Attend St. Louis Cardinals games, or cheer on the Illini at home basketball games!



**Favorite Sports Team:** St. Louis Cardinals

## Mrs. Shelby Sauer

ssauer@trinity-lutheran.com

## EARLY CHILDHOOD TEACHER AIDE



**Hometown:** Bay City, MI



**Education:** Bachelor's in Business Administration from Northwood University in Midland, MI



**Experience:** I have 4 years of childcare experience. This is my first year in the role of preschool teacher aide.



**Favorite Bible Passage:** Joshua 1:9



**Favorite Sports Team:** Detroit Tigers



**Family:** My husband, Brandon, is in his last year of his General Surgery Residency at St. John's and Memorial hospitals. We have three kids, Carson (11), Felicity (7), and Olivia (4), who all attend Trinity.



**Favorite Places to Visit:** We love going to Walt Disney World and visiting family in Michigan.



**Favorite Things to Do:** Spend time with my family (we love to watch movies and play games together) and I also love to read.



## Mrs. Caitlin Reichert

creichert@trinity-lutheran.com

## KINDERGARTEN TEACHER



**Hometown:** Springfield, IL



**Education:** Bachelor's degree in elementary education from Illinois State University.



**Experience:** I have 12 years of experience in early childhood and elementary education.



**Favorite Things to Do:** Read, drink tea, hike, garden, travel, camping/canoeing, volunteer for Basket of Hope



**Favorite Bible Passage:** Jeremiah 29:11



**Favorite Places to Visit:** Washington Park, Lincoln Memorial Gardens, Chicago, St. Louis, Washington D.C, Vancouver, Europe, San Fransisco, the beach, and Disney World



**Family:** My husband teaches Spanish at Springfield High. We have a 5 year old daughter, one daughter in Heaven, and are expecting a baby boy in October! We have a dog named Rachel and two cats named Joey and Phoebe.

## Ms. Alisa Blumhorst

ablumhorst@trinity-lutheran.com

## KINDERGARTEN TEACHER AIDE



**Hometown:** Ottawa, IL



**Education:** B.A. from UIS



**Experience:** Rochester Pre-K Aide;  
Springfield Park Dist: Funshop Teacher;  
Dir. Children's Ministry South Fork Church



**Favorite Things to Do:** Anything with my kids



**Favorite Bible Passage:** John 11:35



**Favorite Places to Visit:** My kids in St. Louis



**Family:** Married 36 years to Kyle, daughter Nicole (31), son Ross (28)



**Favorite Sports Team:** Chicago Cubs





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## Miss Rebecca Logan

rlogan@trinity-lutheran.com

## FIRST GRADE TEACHER



**Hometown:** Springfield, IL



**Education:** Bachelor's degree from UIS



**Experience:** I have twenty-one years of experience in early childhood education.



**Favorite Places to Visit:** State parks to hike on trails, aquariums, and zoos



**Favorite Bible Passage:** Philippians 4:6



**Favorite Sports Team:** Riverton Hawks basketball and watching football



**Favorite Things to Do:** Learning to play my keyboard, reading mystery books, playing with my dogs, walking, and working out at the gym.

## Mrs. Bethany Nofsinger

bnofsinger@trinity-lutheran.com

## FIRST GRADE TEACHER AIDE



**Hometown:** Mackinaw, IL



**Education:** Illinois Central College



**Family:** I married my husband, Ben, in July of this year (2022)! I have my wonderful parents, and seven siblings (I'm 4th in line!).



**Favorite Things to Do:** Travel, weight-lifting, baking, and spending time with my husband, family, and friends.



**Favorite Sports Team:** St. Louis Cardinals



**Favorite Bible Passage:** Philippians 3:7-8



## Mrs. Jill Schaefer

jschaefer@trinity-lutheran.com

## SECOND GRADE TEACHER



**Hometown:** Springfield, IL



**Favorite Places to Visit:** Montana



**Education:** B.A. from Concordia University, Chicago.



**Family:** I have been married to Ron for 26 years. We have three kids - Cody, CJ, and Courtney.



**Experience:** I have 31 years of teaching experience ranging from two-year-old preschool through 3rd grade. I was also the Preschool Director at Trinity for 9 years.



**Favorite Things to Do:** Travel, read, & garden



**Favorite Bible Passage:** Jeremiah 29:11

## Mrs. Kimberly Garvue

kgarvue@trinity-lutheran.com

## THIRD GRADE TEACHER



**Hometown:** Springfield, IL



**Favorite Bible Passage:** Psalm 46:10



**Education:** B.A. (Elementary Ed and Early Childhood Ed) from Concordia University, Wisconsin and M.A. (Early Childhood Education with a reading emphasis) from Concordia University, Chicago. Orton-Gillingham Therapeutic Language Recovery Tutor Certification.



**Favorite Places to Visit:** Door County, Wisconsin, Sanibel, Florida



**Family:** I am married to Eric Garvue and we have 3 daughters - Miriam, Rebekah, and Hannah.



**Experience:** I have 23 years of classroom teaching experience from preschool through middle school. I also have 5 years of private tutoring experience and served for 6 years as a preschool director.



**Favorite Sports Team:** Green Bay Packers



**Favorite Things to Do:** Drinking coffee, going hiking, running, and anything related to photography (taking photos and editing)



## Mrs. Pamela Sausaman **FOURTH GRADE** TEACHER

psausaman@trinity-lutheran.com



**Hometown:** Springfield, IL



**Education:** B.A. from Concordia University and M.A. in Teaching and Leadership from Xavier University.



**Experience:** I have 35 years of teaching experience including K-4 Spanish, K-8 Technology, Homeroom 2-6, and Math 5-8. I have also served as Assistant Principal, Athletic Director, and Interim Principal.



**Favorite Bible Passage:** Jeremiah 29:11-13



**Favorite Places to Visit:** Gardens or Parks



**Family:** Husband - Jim, kids - Donald, Jeremiah, and Brianna.



**Favorite Things to Do:** Gardening, reading for pleasure, spending time with family



**Favorite Sports Team:** Chicago Cubs

## Mr. Brett Moll

bmoll@trinity-lutheran.com

## **FIFTH GRADE** HOMEROOM TEACHER



**Hometown:** Springfield, IL



**Education:** Associate's degree from Lincoln Land Community College, and bachelor's and master's degrees from UIS



**Experience:** 15 years



**Favorite Bible Passage:** Psalm 13:5-6



**Favorite Places to Visit:** Beaches of Michigan and San Francisco.



**Family:** Wife - Johanna, son - Hudson



**Favorite Things to Do:** Spend time with family, stay active, watch sports, and work out if I have time.



**Favorite Sports Team:** San Francisco Giants or Fighting Illini

## Mrs. Erin Picón

epicon@trinity-lutheran.com

## SIXTH GRADE HOMEROOM TEACHER



**Hometown:** Indianapolis, IN



**Education:** B.S. from Ball State University in secondary education and social studies.



**Experience:** 5 years of experience in education, and 3 years of social work experience.



**Favorite Bible Passage:** James 3:13



**Favorite Places to Visit:** Cedar Point



**Family:** Husband - Julio, Children - Devin, Kenneth, Amaya



**Favorite Things to Do:** Relaxing at home with my family & playing Animal Crossing



**Favorite Sports Team:** Indianapolis Colts

## Mrs. Cindy Good

cgood@trinity-lutheran.com

## SEVENTH GRADE HOMEROOM TEACHER



**Hometown:** Baton Rouge, LA



**Education:** B.A. in education from Concordia University, Chicago; dual certification in K-8; and Director of Christian Education (DCE)



**Experience:** I have served as Director of Christian Education, and have taught grades 5th through 8th.



**Favorite Things to Do:** Read, garden, create & brainstorm, spend time with kids



**Favorite Bible Passage:** Proverbs 3:5



**Favorite Places to Visit:** Garden Centers & Libraries, City Museum in St. Louis and Louisiana



**Family:** My husband Tim is the Superintendent of Lincoln's Home. We have three children: Trevor (18), Cybelle (15), and Tristan (11) is entering 6th grade here at Trinity.



**Favorite Sports Team:** Trinity Tigers



## Mr. Morgan Grillot

mgrillot@trinity-lutheran.com

## EIGHTH GRADE HOMEROOM TEACHER



**Hometown:** Parsons, KS



**Favorite Bible Passage:** Joshua 1:9



**Education:** B.S. in Secondary Education - Social Studies with an emphasis in Geography from Concordia University, Nebraska; M.A. in Teaching - Secondary Education - History from Southern Illinois University, Edwardsville, IL



**Favorite Places to Visit:** Camp CILCA



**Family:** Wife - Sarah; children - Jack & Henry



**Experience:** 16 years



**Favorite Things to Do:** Be outdoors



**Favorite Sports Team:** Kansas Jayhawks

## Mrs. Melinda Wicklander

mwicklander@trinity-lutheran.com

## MIDDLE SCHOOL ART TEACHER



**Hometown:** Carlyle, IL



**Favorite Bible Passage:** Colossians 3:16



**Education:** B.A. in Studio Art with a minor in Communications



**Favorite Places to Visit:** Great Lakes



**Experience:** 13 years in art education with 11 years in Lutheran schools



**Favorite Things to Do:** Travel, listen to live music, read, and create art with anything I can get my hands on!



**Family:** My husband Carl Wicklander is a social studies teacher at Lutheran High School



**Favorite Sports Team:** St. Louis Cardinals

## Mrs. Ashley Rescot

arescot@trinity-lutheran.com



**Hometown:** Wichita, Kansas



**Education:** Bachelor of Music in Violin Performance from Baylor University, Master of Arts in French Literature from the University of Kansas



**Experience:** Fulbright English teacher in France, 6 years teaching French and a semester of Spanish at the collegiate level, 11 years of running a private violin studio, 10 summers teaching foreign language at my alma mater in the early childhood division, 2 years teaching foreign language at Trinity.



**Favorite Place to Visit:** Paris, France



**Family:** I have a daughter and son who both attend Trinity. My husband is a civil engineer and the backbone behind all of my creative endeavors.



**Favorite Things to Do:** Play music with my family and friends, hang out with my family.



**Favorite Sports Team:** Kansas Jayhawk Basketball, Cardinals Baseball



**Favorite Bible Passage:** 1 Corinthians 13:4-8

## Ms. Theresa O'Hare

tohare@trinity-lutheran.com



**Hometown:** Bettendorf, Iowa



**Education:** B.A. in Music and Flute Performance from Western Illinois University and M.A. in Flute Performance from The University of Illinois.



**Experience:** Many years as a flute and music educator. This is my second year in the Lutheran schools.



**Favorite Bible Passage:** Mark 10:13-16



**Favorite Places to Visit:** Anywhere, I just love to travel!



**Family:** I have one daughter, two dogs and two cats.



**Favorite Things to Do:** I love to make music, run, and walk the dogs.



**Favorite Sports Team:** Trinity Tigers

## MIDDLE SCHOOL MUSIC TEACHER



## Mrs. Carissa Filipiak

cfilipiak@trinity-lutheran.com

## JUNIOR HIGH MATH TEACHER



**Hometown:** Springfield, IL



**Favorite Places to Visit:** Jamaica



**Education:** B.A. in Elementary Ed from Benedictine University



**Family:** Husband - Jason and daughter - Violet (15)



**Experience:** 6th & 7th grade Science



**Favorite Things to Do:** Play handbells, or anything with family.



**Favorite Bible Passage:** Psalm 40



**Favorite Sports Team:** Trinity Tigers & LuHi Crusaders!

## Mrs. Heather Daniel

admissions@trinity-lutheran.com

## JUNIOR HIGH MATH TEACHER



**Hometown:** Springfield, IL



**Family:** Husband - Tony, Children - Jeremy, Jonah, and Joel



**Education:** Missouri University of Science and Technology (BS Applied Math and Statistics) with Teacher Certification from University of Missouri & Missouri Baptist University (MsED School Counseling K-12)



**Favorite Things to Do:** Read, play piano, attend my kids sporting events



**Experience:** 15 years in education



**Favorite Sports Team:** St. Louis Cardinals, University of Illinois, Trinity Tigers



**Favorite Bible Passages:** Jeremiah 29:11 and Psalm 23



## Mrs. Carrie Coon

ccoon@trinity-lutheran.com

## EDUCATION

### INCLUSION SPECIALIST



**Hometown:** Springfield, IL



**Education:** B.A. in Early Childhood and Early Childhood Special Education, and M. Ed. in Special Education K-12 with an Emphasis in Autism Studies



**Experience:** 15 years



**Favorite Things to Do:** Exercise, read, be outdoors, musicals at The Muny



**Favorite Bible Passage:** Proverbs 3:5-6



**Favorite Place to Visit:** The Beach



**Family:** My husband Andy is the Director of Tennis at Millikin University, and our daughter Elliana (3) attends preschool at Trinity.



**Favorite Sports Team:** St. Louis Cardinals

## Mrs. Robin Price

rprice@trinity-lutheran.com

## MIDDLE SCHOOL

### TEACHER AIDE



**Hometown:** Shelbyville, IL



**Education:** Lakeland College



**Experience:** 6 years at Shelbyville Schools and 2 years at Tri-City Schools



**Family:** I have been married to my husband Mike for 5 years. I have 3 grown children and 3 granddaughters.



**Favorite Bible Passage:** John 1:1



**Favorite Place to Visit:** Pennsylvania



**Favorite Things to Do:** Sit on the back deck and watch the birds and rabbits in the sun. Reading murder mysteries.



**Favorite Sports Team:** Fighting Illinois Men's basketball and the St. Louis Cardinals!

Trinity Lutheran School is proud to partner with Springfield Public Schools to offer math and reading support for students who need additional help. The district has provided Trinity with wonderful Support Teachers through the Title 1 Program: **Mrs. Vivien Graf** and **Mrs. Sarah Grillot**.