



## A History of Trinity Ev. Lutheran Church

### Celebrating the GIFTS of God Clergy



1 Peter 4:10 *"Each of you should use  
whatever gift you have received to serve others,  
as faithful stewards of God's grace in its  
various forms."*



1100 Philadelphia Road  
Joppa, MD 21085  
Established 1873

## Record of Trinity's Clergy

In the 1800's, because Harford County was a rural area, it was served by a traveling minister or a missionary if there wasn't a full-time pastor. Distances between congregations were very far with no transportation other than the horse and buggy. Records from that time are not completely available and so we have relied on the memories of older Trinity members and documents in our Trinity archives. Therefore, spelling of names or initials may vary during this period. Trinity feels that this is the most correct and up-to-date list we have.



George Geiser

**George Geiser** – 1872-1873 - Pastor Geiser walked 15 miles along the railroad tracks every Sunday from Stemmers Run to Magnolia and then on to Trinity to conduct an afternoon service in German.

**H.L. Burry** – 1881-1882 – Listed as pastor at Perryman, Harford County. Records indicate two missions for Burry when he was called in 1881.

**R.A. Kudell** – 1883-1893 – First full-time pastor of the first official Lutheran building in Harford County, established in 1873.

**J.E.A. Doermann** – 1885-1887 – Doermann was pastor in 1886 when St. Paul's Church erected a new building at Perryman, Maryland. It was during his pastorate that the two congregations, Trinity and St. Paul's, were officially recognized as forming the Harford County Lutheran Parish.

These early years of the congregation, for both members and pastors, were struggling ones. Farming was the principal vocation, and job opportunities and money were scarce. The pastors did all they could do to serve the congregation.

**R.E.M. Engers** – 1888 – Ordained in 1882 by the Eastern District. Ordained in April 1888 by the Concordia District. He only served two months on this call.

**G.R. Wannemacher** – 1890-1896 – Installed on July 20, 1890, to take over the charge vacated by Engers. In 1891, he made a commitment to the District to personally find and raise contributions for missions. His own charge (Trinity and St. Paul's) pledged \$90 to the new orphans' home in Richmond, Indiana.

**J.C. Twele** – 1897 – Ordained in 1897, he went directly to Trinity but resigned without call.

**C.F. Mechling** – 1898-1907 – He lived in Abingdon so he could serve both congregations, St. Paul's and Trinity.

**W.E. Harsh** – June 2, 1907-1910 – Capital University (1891) in Columbus, OH

**C.G. Wolf** – 1910-1913 – Capital University in Columbus, OH. Written in his Call was this instruction: “To preach in both languages, English and German.” Also inserted was the statement, “Pastor to furnish his own horse and buggy,” which was his major means of visitation. The congregation showed considerable growth both financially and in membership.

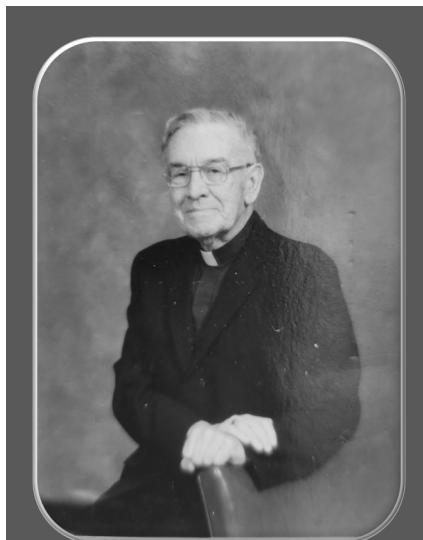
**R.C. Sieberg** – July 6, 1913-1922 – Pastor

### Pastor Spotlight

On March 22, 1922, a call was extended by the congregations at Joppa and Aberdeen to a senior student at the Theological Seminary in Columbus, Ohio.

#### **W. Edward Austin**

- ◇ July 16, 1922 to May 13, 1962 – Called as pastor of both Trinity Lutheran in Joppa and St. Paul Lutheran in Perryman in 1922 (called the Harford County Lutheran Parish).
- ◇ Established the Mission of Bethel Lutheran Church in North East, MD in the late 1940's/early 1950's.
- ◇ After 40 years of service, he retired and was named Pastor Emeritus in 1963 and also served as Visitation Pastor, School Bus driver and Substitute Teacher until 1976.



W. EDWARD  
AUSTIN

**Harold Baum** – 1954-1955 – Intern, Capital Theological University

**Frederick C. Smith** – August 1, 1968-1969 – Assistant Pastor

**Erwin E. Prange** – 1970's – Pastor, Concordia Seminary in St. Louis, MO

**Howard G. Stampfi** – 1970's, Lay Minister

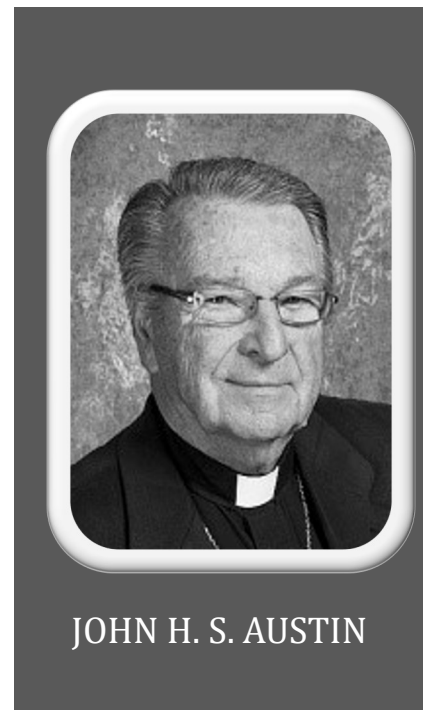
**John Maas** – 1976-1977 – Intern, Pacific Evangelical Lutheran Seminary

### Pastor Spotlight

In the mid-1950's as the congregation grew, the need for additional staff became obvious. In June 1955, theological student John H. S. Austin, son of Edward Austin, became the second Intern at Trinity. In April 1956, Pastor John was called as a second full-time pastor in the Harford County Lutheran Parish.

**John H.S. Austin** – Gettysburg College and the Lutheran Theological Seminary in Gettysburg in PA.

- ◇ 1955-1956 – Intern
- ◇ 1956-1962 – Associate Pastor
- ◇ 1962-1999 – Lead Pastor and Headmaster of Trinity Lutheran Christian School and ELC
- ◇ 1999-2019 – Pastor Emeritus and Headmaster of Trinity Lutheran Christian School and ELC
- ◇ 2019 – present – Pastor Emeritus



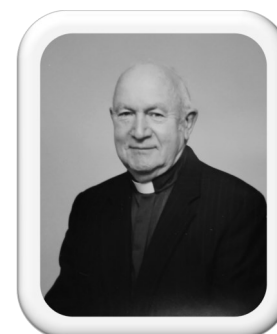
JOHN H. S. AUSTIN

**Marjorie Beach** – 1977-1978 – Intern, Pacific Evangelical Lutheran Seminary

**Russell Gordon** – 1978-1979 – Intern, Pacific Evangelical Lutheran Seminary

**Arthur S. Hanson** – 1979-1997 – Visitation Pastor, Dubuque University in Dubuque, IA, and Lutheran Theological Seminary in Philadelphia, PA

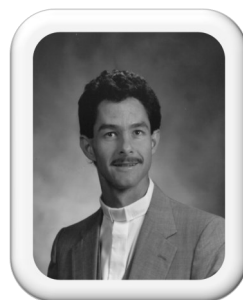
**Elsie-Marie Niiler** – 1983-1984 – Pastoral Assistant, Lutheran Theological Seminary in Gettysburg, PA



Arthur S. Hanson

**James B. Shuler** – 1982-1989 – Lay Pastoral Assistant

**John S. Hergert** – 1986-1990 – Assistant Pastor



James B. Shuler

## Pastor Spotlight

With Pastor Hergert leaving, a Call was extended to Paul Edward Austin, son of Senior Pastor, John H. Austin and grandson of Pastor Edward Austin. He was ordained and Installed on July 16, 1989, on the 67<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his grandfather's Installation as Assistant Pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church.

**Paul E. Austin** – Texas Lutheran College in Sequin, TX, and Lutheran Theological Seminary in Gettysburg, PA

- ◇ 1989-1991 – Assistant Pastor
- ◇ 1992-1997 – Associate Pastor
- ◇ 1999-2017 – Senior Pastor



PAUL E. AUSTIN



R. Calvin Jordan

**R. Calvin Jordan, Jr.** – Newberry College and Lutheran Theological Seminary in SC

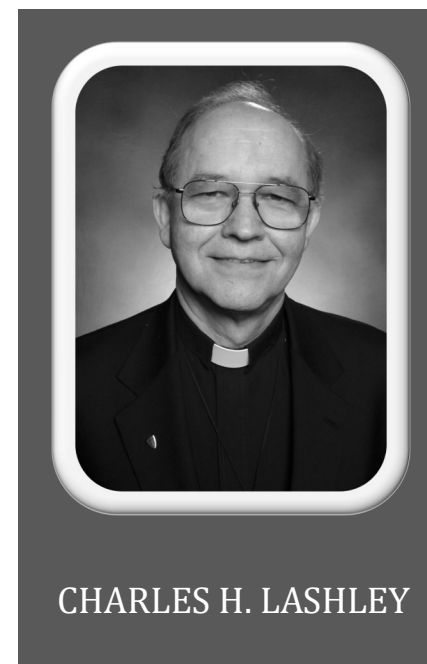
- ◇ 1998 – Summer pastor assistance (9 weeks)
- ◇ December 6, 1998-2000 – Assistant Pastor

## Pastor Spotlight

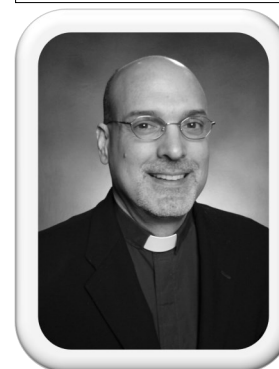
By the year 1995, the confirmed membership had grown to 1,400 and the baptized to 2,300. Because of that, preparations began to call a third ordained pastor. On February 12, 1996, a Call was extended to Pastor Charles Lashley to become an Assistant Pastor.

**Charles H. Lashley** – University of Baltimore in Baltimore, MD, George Washington University in Washington, DC, and St. Mary's Seminary in Baltimore, MD.

- ◇ February 12, 1996– February 2021 – Pastor
- ◇ February, 2021 to present – Pastor Emeritus



CHARLES H. LASHLEY



Dave Simpson

**Dave Simpson** – Lutheran Theological Seminary in Gettysburg, PA

- ◇ 1998-2005, 2006-2007 – Lay Pastoral Assistant
- ◇ June 2, 2007-October 2009 – Associate Pastor

**Maurice A. Arsenault** – Boston University School of Theology in Boston, MA, Lutheran Theological Seminary in Gettysburg, PA and Wesley Theological Seminary in Washington, DC

- ◇ 2000-2003 – Pastor (retired December 31, 2003, to dedicate time to On Eagle's Wings ministry)

**Mary Lou Roberts** - 2004-present – Associate in Ministry, Lutheran Theological Seminary in Philadelphia, PA

**Benjamin Lander** – 2017-2021—Lay Pastoral Assistant, Moody Theological Seminary in Chicago, IL.

**Cary Moorman** – 2013-2014 – Pastor, Loyola College in Baltimore, MD



Benjamin A. Lander



Pastors Jay Jackson, Germaine (Ressee) Turner, Ryan McAllister and Chuck Lashley



Pastors Edward and John Austin

## Pastor Spotlight

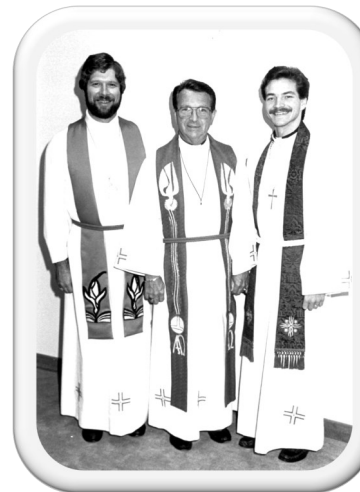
With the retirement of Pastor Paul and the impending retirement of Pastor Chuck, Trinity called a new Senior Pastor. Jay D. Jackson, Jr. was installed on May 16, 2018. Pastor Jay has led Trinity through some challenging times, including the COVID pandemic.

**Jay D. Jackson, Jr.** – from Trinity Lutheran Seminary in Columbus Ohio

◇ 2018-present – Senior Pastor



Pastors John Austin, Arthur Hanson and Paul Austin



Pastors John Hergert, John Austin and Paul Austin



Pastors John Austin, Paul Austin and Charles Lashley

**Germaine (Ressee) T. Turner** – June 26, 2022-present, Associate Pastor

**J. Ryan McAllister** – June 26, 2022-present, Associate Pastor, Moody Theological Seminary in Chicago, IL

**A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO THE AUSTIN FAMILY FOR 97 YEARS  
OF PASTORAL LEADERSHIP AT TRINITY.**