
Truth Academy: Our Instructors and Staff

Char Aune

Char Aune is married and has 2 daughters and 4 grandkids. After being born and raised near Seattle, Washington, she has lived in 7 states and spent two years in Bermuda and two years in a motorhome, traveling the country. As a young child she was taught by her mother, both about Jesus' love and how to sew. Sewing experiences include helping a customers at Stages Theater and designing/sewing costumes for her grandkids' school. Her favorite projects take old clothes and make something new out of them. She has taught several sessions of sewing classes to homeschooled students over the last several years. She is recently retired as a certified massage therapist and is excited and passionate to be investing in your children, passing on skills that have been all but lost to our society.

Lisa Berscheid

Lisa Berscheid has two BA's in Psychology and Bible from the University of Northwestern, St. Paul. She has been homeschooling her children since 2002. Her two oldest have graduated. One is married, the other is at Purdue University. She is still homeschooling her youngest child. Lisa has taught math and science classes for all ages both in her home and for other homeschool organizations for 10 years. Currently, she is tutoring students with Dyslexia using an Orton Gillingham program. In her free time, Lisa enjoys walking her dog, crocheting, gardening, cooking for her family, and catering special events.

Tina Culbertson

Tina grew up in San Diego, CA, where she met her husband while he was serving in the US Navy. After living in 4 different cities all over the US, they moved to MN in 2000, and have four children. Tina is a professional photographer, owning her own business, and serving the homeschool community for the past 14 years. Mrs. Culbertson is also in her 23rd year of homeschooling. Their company is currently working with other homeschool groups in the community to provide both picture day events as well as photography instruction. Tina has a great passion for teaching students to use photography as a way of self-expression in the incredible world that God has made. When not working on lesson plans, Tina likes to crochet and dabble in graphic design.

Chris Depoian

Chris grew up hearing his dad play guitar around the house and at live shows. He "caught the bug" around age 13 in 1999 and hasn't stopped playing since! Right around that time he encountered God in a real way and has been a Christian ever since. He's been teaching guitar since 2003, received his Bachelor of Arts in Music at North Central University in 2008 where he studied jazz, blues, rock, classical, songwriting, and worship leading. He's taught about two dozen one-on-one lessons a week since 2011; from beginner to advanced, hobbyist to college-prep or gig-ready, from age 5 to retiree. He specializes in blues, rock, improvisation and

songwriting. What he loves most about teaching is being able to pass on everything he has learned and continues to learn on his journey as a musician, helping students take step after step to achieve their musical goals. As an active musician, Chris has been the lead singer/songwriter/rhythm guitarist for a rock band and has performed and recorded as the lead guitarist for a number of other bands. He currently plays lead guitar for a blues-rock band, is a part of his church's worship team, and is working on writing new music of his own.

Laura Glassel

Laura grew up in the New England area, Germany, and Minnesota. She received her associate's degree in Aircraft Maintenance, her bachelor's degree in Missionary Aviation, and her master's degree in Bible Translation from Bob Jones University. As part of her education, she earned both her aircraft mechanic's and pilot's certificates. During her college years, she tutored high school students and learned a lot about teaching techniques and learning. She has been tutoring and teaching junior high and senior high homeschool classes in the Twin Cities since 2008.

Marhea Harris

Ms. Marhea Harris was born and raised in Minnesota. She graduated with her BS degree in Early Childhood from Crown College in St. Bonifacius, MN in 2009. She has enjoyed signing since junior high. She took American Sign Language classes in college and eventually graduated with her American Sign Language Studies Certificate in 2005. She has been able to help interpret for church Deaf ministries and has had the privilege to go on a couple of mission trips in which she has had contact with people who are Deaf. One mission trip was to Jamaica to a Deaf school. She has taught a Community Education ASL class for elementary students and has a passion for ASL as a language and teaching people the language to be able to connect with people who are Deaf. She also enjoys helping children learn and seeing their "Ah-ha" moments, singing and/or signing music, reading, doing Counted-cross stitch. She is married and has a sweet, 3-year-old son.

Rebecca Hope

Rebecca received her B.A. in Language Arts/Secondary Education from Bethel College and her M.A. in English Literature from the University of Minnesota. In addition to homeschooling her own children, she taught secondary school English classes in a private Christian school and has taught at various homeschool co-ops and tutoring organizations. As an adjunct professor for North Central University, she also teaches Post-Secondary Enrollment Option (PSEO) writing and literature courses for high schoolers taking college courses. During the summer she teaches reading development, speed reading, and study skills for the Institute of Reading Development. She writes for *eNotes.com* as an online instructor and is a freelance copy editor. Rebecca is also a Registered Instructor with the Institute for Excellence in Writing. For 23 years, she managed a family business (chiropractic clinic) while raising and home educating her five children.

Bonita Jerome

Bonita Jerome is a former classroom teacher turned homeschool mom. She has been homeschooling her own three children for the past ten years, while continuing to teach and tutor part time. After graduating in 1995

with her Bachelor's degree in education, Bonita's experiences in a variety of private schools allowed her the opportunity to teach a wide spectrum of subjects to students all the way from first grade to high school. She enjoys reading, writing, and traveling, and is looking forward to the opportunity to continue sharing these passions with the students at Truth Academy.

Helen Ho Keuning

Helen is an only child who was raised by first-generation immigrants to the USA from China. Someone cared enough to introduce her to Christ and bring her to church when she was in elementary school. She graduated from Trinity College in Deerfield, IL, with a Master's Degree in Christian Thought. After completing law school, she worked for almost seven years as an attorney in both a private law firm and in the public sector. Thirteen years ago, Helen became a stay at home mom to four children. She has homeschooled pre-K through 8th Grade, but her passion has been helping teens and young-adults discover who God designed them to be and empowering them to pursue those areas that use their strengths and bring them delight! She loves drinking hot tea with milk and sugar first thing in the morning, walking around Lake of the Isles, and planning vacations. She is a Type 2 Helper (Enneagram) and ENFJ ("Teacher" or "Mentor" in Myers-Briggs Temperament). Her strengths (StrengthsFinder) are: (1) Communication; (2) Strategic Thinking; (3) Individualization; (4) Input; and (5) Learner.

Linda Kroells

Linda grew up in Waconia, Minnesota and is one of seven children. Her parents always saw to it that the family faithfully attended Church and was active in helping by holding positions in the Church as called. The second pew on the right was known as the Read Family pew. LOL Just out of school Linda married her husband Ronald, a Christian man, together they raised four children in their rural home in Hamburg, MN. Linda now holds the most important job title ever: "Grandma". The Lord has blessed her with seven beautiful grandchildren who are loved so very much. Linda became passionate about teaching Tae Kwon Do at an early age, teaching in many locations, while continuing her own training, and has been a Tae Kwon Do Instructor for more than 30 years. She currently holds a 5th Degree Black Belt In Song Moo Kwan and a 4th Degree Black Belt in Kukkiwon. In 2013 she was inducted into the USA Hall Of Fame, and in 2015 was inducted into the Martial Arts Magazine Hall Of Honors. Linda especially enjoys teaching young students, enjoying their enthusiasm and energy and is excited to share her knowledge with the students of Truth Academy.

Cindy Larson

Cindy has a long history in the theatre. She is excited to be sharing her wealth of knowledge and passion for performing and teaching. She has studied theatre at the University of Wisconsin LaCrosse, MacPhail Center for the Arts and the Jewish Community Center, under Rueben Singer. She is employed at River Valley Dance Academy as musical theatre teacher and receptionist. The past eight years she has directed their year-end theatre productions. Cindy is looking forward to another year at Truth Academy. She teaches through creativity and spontaneity and shows the students they all have what it takes to be great actors and actresses. Lights, Camera, Action!

Sara Mehlhaff

Sara is no stranger to Truth Academy or Calvary Memorial Church! Her roots go deep, attending the school and becoming part of Calvary Memorial when she was 8.

After graduating from college with a degree in elementary education and a minor in preschool, Sara taught Pre-K and K at Calvary Memorial Christian School. She married her handsome, hardworking husband, Erik, and now have 5 children. They've been married for 20 years in August.

Sara's days are now filled caring for her family, homeschooling their children, and serving the Youth, 6-12th grade, together with Erik at Calvary Memorial. She enjoys long walks, gardening, shooting hoops, and time with family and friends.

Sara is looking forward to partnering with Truth Academy and parents in encouraging students to know, love, and follow Christ, ground them in God's Truth, while adding to their tool belt of practical skills and knowledge.

Andrea Merboth

Andrea has a BA in Occupational Therapy and was class president her senior year at the College of St. Catherine, verbally representing her classmates to the professors. She homeschooled 4 children and was a high school Sunday School teacher for ten years as well as a coach/leader in Bible Quizzing for twelve years. She participated in the Institute for Cultural Communicators (ICC) for three years and was involved in both their speech/communications program and their debate program. She also has taught Speech for four years at two homeschool academies and has directed several plays, one-acts and skits, all which help to develop a student's ability to speak in public. Comfort on stage and before the microphone has opened many doors to Andrea and proven that those who are willing, comfortable and skilled in public speaking will be the voice that is heard in a crowd. Andrea participates in art events and exhibits throughout the Twin Cities and has taught art classes for many years to varied age groups, primarily to the homeschool population. She also paints furniture, walls, fabric, sets for plays she has directed, room murals, and commercial projects. She holds that all forms of communication, including the arts, have the ability to either draw you towards or away from the truths of God. She believes that the beauty in the arts is a reflection of God and can empower students to find creative ways to share Him with the world.

Angela O'Dell

Angela is a veteran homeschool mom, who loves to invest in the lives of homeschooling families. She is the author of the *America's Story 1-3*, *The World's Story 1-3*, and the *Math Lessons for a Living Education* series, all of which are published through Master Books, and is the creator of the popular podcast show, *Real Cool History for Kids*. She holds certifications through the AACC in Child Development and Family Biblical Life Coach, with a special focus on adolescence through the teen years, as well as a Master Level Leadership Coaching Certification. Angela enjoys journaling, reading, knitting, watching superhero movies, and spending time with her family.

Andrea Orem

Andrea Orem has bachelor's degrees in K-12 Vocal Music Education, Music Composition, and Bible from the University of Northwestern, St. Paul. She has been teaching music to young people in one-on-one lessons, small groups, and school classroom settings for 10 years. Andrea has also taught adult ukulele lessons and classes in a community setting for 4 years. In her free time, Andrea enjoys gardening organically, singing in Two Rivers Chorale, puppy raising service dogs in training, reading, and serving in various ways at Antioch Community Church with her husband, Gabe.

Julianne Peterson

Julianne has a B.S degree in family psychology and Bible minor from the University of Northwestern Saint-Paul. During her time in college, she worked with SALT (Somali Adult Literacy Training), tutored under the psychology department, and was an intern youth group leader with a local church. After graduation, she worked at Fraser, with children on the autism spectrum, and she is now a stay at home mom to Logan (4) and Jonah (18 months) . Julianne is active in a local organization called Hope Remains, which brings together families who have dealt with the loss of a child. Julianne enjoys baking, decorating cakes, and time with her family. She has a strong desire to help youth develop a deeper love for Christ, and is excited to watch God work in her student's lives throughout the school year.

Hayley Plaisted

Hayley is a young college student passionate about pursuing the call of God on her life. Currently, she is working on a Diploma in Bible and Doctrine through Global University's Berean School of the Bible. In addition, she works at Chick-fil-A, runs her own custom art business, and works as an editor for an in print and online weekly newsletter.

Growing up as a pastor's kid, Hayley has always wanted to follow in the footsteps of her parents and grandparents in ministry, specifically in working with and ministering to kids of all ages. She has many years of experience working with children and young people in children's church, youth group, teaching Jr. High discipleship classes, counseling at kids camps, leading a dance ministry, teaching ballet classes, and substitute teaching.

Hayley was homeschooled for all of her primary education. She believes that learning should be both fun and educational. She has always loved writing and it is her opinion that it is not only important to teach the structure and style of writing but also the joy of creativity.

Ana Plotts

Ana Grace is a native Spanish speaker, born in San Jose, Costa Rica. She earned a Master of International Management from Thunderbird School of Global Management, and a Master of Business Administration from Arizona State University. She has traveled throughout five continents, visited 26 countries, and enjoys learning

about other cultures. She is the mother of six children (one in heaven) and has been homeschooling for 14 years. She has been teaching Spanish in homeschool co-ops since 2017.

Matthew Racine

Matthew grew up in Apple Valley, Minnesota and loves being in God's beautiful creation. Through the faithfulness of two friends, God drew Matthew to himself and saved him right before college. He completed a Bachelor of Music degree at Indiana University and is currently pursuing a Master of Divinity degree in Biblical Exegesis at Bethlehem Seminary in Minneapolis. Before coming to seminary, Matthew served as a Youth Intern at a church in Indiana. He desires to pastor God's people, teach the Bible, equip Christians for ministry, and engage unbelievers with the gospel. He also teaches trumpet and piano lessons. He is a member at Bethlehem Baptist Church, South Campus in Lakeville, Minnesota.

Debbie Stenzel

Debbie earned her B.S. degree in Education from the University of Minnesota Twin Cities. As well as homeschooling her own children, she taught in the St. Paul public school district, served as a substitute teacher for her local public school district, and was a math tutor at Anoka Technical College Adult Basic Education. Debbie has a passion for helping students earn college credit via CLEP/DSST testing and PSEO to make the most of their high school years and reduce future college debt. Debbie seeks to encourage and guide all of her students to reach their full potential and takes great pleasure when students exceed their own expectations through their educational accomplishments. She knows that for her personally, serving the Lord includes helping her students reach their full academic potential so they can be prepared for whatever doors the Lord opens for them in their future. Debbie and her husband Paul have homeschooled their children through high school and college while owning and operating a landscape/nursery business in the Northern area of the Twin Cities.

Rae Wielgus

Rae grew up in Plymouth, MN, and earned a degree in Studio Art with an emphasis in Ceramics from the University of Northwestern St. Paul (formerly Northwestern College) where she met her husband, Josh. Professional experience includes teaching wheel-throwing and hand-building ceramics camps at Northern Clay Center in Minneapolis, an internship with award-winning ceramic artist Paul Eshelman learning slip-cast techniques, running an in-home childcare, mentoring middle school girls at her church, working with young adults with special needs in career and life transitions and homeschooling for a short time. Personal interests include kayaking, tabletop games, serving as a worship leader at church, reading, dabbling in bookmaking and printmaking techniques, and dreaming up a cross-country train trip out West.

Terri Wood

Terri has been teaching Apologia Science classes at the high school level for the past 15 years. She has a passion for science and is able to explain difficult concepts in an organized and understandable way. Her

classes are well-planned and enjoyable, and she takes a special interest in every student. She first pursued her interest in science by becoming a Registered Medical Assistant and being employed in a medical clinic in Minneapolis. She homeschooled her own three children from kindergarten through graduation and has tutored dozens of math students at all levels. When she isn't teaching science or math classes, you might find her riding her bike along Rebecca Park trail, or riding her tandem into Minneapolis with her husband.

Kristin Keppel **Administrator / Treasurer**

Kristin Keppel was born and raised in Minnesota and still seems to think it's the best place to live! She has been homeschooling her children since 2010. Her professional background is in purchasing, but the Lord has brought her joy serving in Biblical Counseling, Worship, and Congregational Care ministries. Andy & Kristin have been married for 20 years and are grateful for their three children (in addition to all of the stragglers their kids bring home quite often). In addition to reading, gardening, singing, and watching the Vikings, Kristin loves discipling and counseling girls and young women, creating friendships united in the Gospel, and encouraging them from God's word.

Meagin Wuetherich **Administrator / Registrar / Website**

Meagin has homeschooled her 3 children since 2013. Born and raised in Minnesota she appreciates the outdoors in every season. She views nature as one of God's best classrooms. She loves gardening, reading, and sharing/teaching those hobbies with her children. Meagin and her husband have been married for 16 years.

Mary Starr **Administrator / Website**

Mary is married to her best friend Josh. She is a mom to four children ranging ages 1-13 years old. She and Josh have been homeschooling their kids their entire lives. When her children were little she finished her Bachelor's Degree in Human Services, she has always had a passion for helping people. She also owns/runs a women's clothing store with her fellow homeschooling sister-in-law. In her free time she loves leading a BSF group-encouraging women to be in God's word daily, reading all the books, and traveling!