

Lehigh Valley Chapter

American Guild of Organists

April 2026

www.lvago.org



Chapter Officers 2025-2026

Dean: Susan Frickert
484-788-9476

sfrickert2001@yahoo.com

Sub Dean: Janice Butz
610-730-0328

janicebutz@gmail.com

Secretary: Linda Maule
610-258-5006
maule@ptd.net

Treasurer: Stephen Bueker
610-657-4188
sfbueker@rcn.com

Executive Committee

Marisa Deshler (2026)

Jeffrey Raub (2026)

Charles Glandorf (2027)

Gary Raish (2027)

Robert Riday (2028)

Michael Fister (2028)

Notes from the Dean

Back in the 1960's, a choral work was published that consisted only of rests - everything else was there; three pages of 4 part voices, dynamics, tempo, meter changes, even instructions like "more movement," but there wasn't any text. The entire piece consisted of different combinations of rests in each measure - it was a hoot! The "anthem" was entitled "Resting", and the idea was to purchase copies for your choir, hand it out, and then watch your members go from confusion to giggles. During this intense season of Holy Week and Easter, following our six weeks of extra midweek services, extra rehearsals, and extra planning sessions, isn't it tempting to scoff at the very concept of rest? Yet, even Jesus took time out of his busy schedule to get away from the crowds clamoring for his teaching and healing. He acknowledged that his exhausted humanity needed to rest and restore for him to continue his important work - is ours any more important? We church musicians have a predisposition to push ourselves during busy seasons, to put our heads down and plow through our worship and rehearsal obligations, but what kind of example are we setting for our singers? And we have to admit we aren't at our best when we're that tired. If we didn't really need some down time, God wouldn't have created the day for work and the night for rest. So my challenge to you (and to myself!) is to enjoy these longer days and indulge in a little "spring fever." Get outside, if only to sit in the sunlight for fifteen minutes. Walking in this beautiful weather heals the body and the soul, and clears the brain. Stop the practice of "burning the midnight oil", and plan to get to bed earlier. You'll be calmer, more focused and a better pastoral musician. May the risen Christ inspire you to "little resurrections" each day!

Blessings,
Susan



SPRING CHAPTER EVENTS

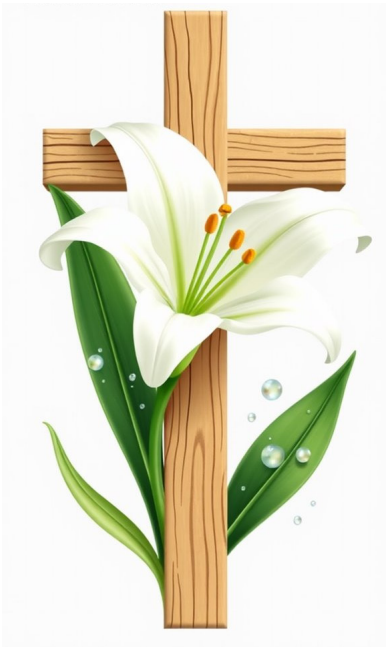
APRIL 25—Philadelphia Organ Crawl

Don't miss this exciting chapter event as we travel by bus to Philadelphia, taking us to the birthplace of our country's freedom. We'll be walking between three venues to see and hear three outstanding organs at Holy Trinity Rittenhouse Square (1950 Moller), the Curtis Institute (newly installed Dobson organ), and St. Mark's Episcopal (1936-37 Aeolian-Skinner). Mid-day we'll enjoy a boxed lunch together. If you haven't already registered, please do so by completing the registration form found elsewhere in this newsletter. Cost is \$75.00 per person. We encourage you to invite other organ aficionados, choir members, and friends who would enjoy hearing and learning about these fabulous instruments. And for those who would be interested, there will be a chance to play these organs. So bring along your organ shoes and some music. This is an event that will be fun, informative, and not to be missed!

MAY 31—Our Annual Young Artist Recital and Banquet will be held at Christ Lutheran Church in Allentown and features our own LVAGO member Luke DiGiacinto.

Luke served as Director of Music and Organist at Advent Moravian Church in Bethlehem, Morning Star Moravian Church, West Side Moravian Church, and will be doing an internship at Central Moravian Church this summer. Luke's services to the Moravian Church continued as the accompanist for the Unitas Chorale, a mass choir made up of Pennsylvania Moravian Church choir members. Throughout his time at Peabody, Luke assisted as an occasional accompanist at Christ Lutheran Church in Baltimore's inner harbor. During his time in the Lehigh Valley, Luke also served on our chapter AGO Board and as the education coordinator where he organized a Pedal, Pipes and Pizza event introducing young people to the organ. As a singer, he was a member of the Bach Choir of Bethlehem. Luke is currently pursuing an M.M. degree in Organ Performance at the Peabody Institute of Johns Hopkins where he studies with Dr. Daniel Aune finishing by end of this year. Luke received a B.M. in sacred music from Moravian University, graduating magna cum laude.

Cost of the banquet is \$25 per person. Watch for the reservation form in the May issue of the newsletter.



LVAGO Program Celebrates Women Composers

On Sunday, March 22, College Hill Moravian Church, Bethlehem, graciously hosted an event entitled "A Celebration of Women Composers and Hymn Writers". College Hill Director of Music Gwyneth Michel did a wonderful job hosting this event on behalf of her church.

Retired Moravian University Organ Professor Lou Carol Fix started off the program with three preludes by early/mid twentieth century French composer Jeanne Demessieux. Lou Carol did a wonderful job of explaining the composition style and life of Mme. Demessieux.

The program continued with several hymns progressing through the Lent/Easter season of the church. LVAGO members Janice Butz, Susan Frickert and Marisa Deshler explained the hymns by female composers we were about to hear. It was interesting to hear each of the three organists play their hymns in their own interpretations, style and registrations while still maintaining the integrity and character of the familiar hymns. Of special interest to this writer and organist was how each of the ladies chose to play the introductions to their selected hymns. I believe it was Janice Butz who played a short arrangement/prelude to one of her hymns. Susan Frickert

chose to do something other than what many of us choose to do as an introduction, which is to play the last phrase of the hymn. Yes, that works, but I believe it was Susan who played some of the opening phrase, perhaps a little from the middle of the verse, and then the final phrase. That approach gave the congregation a solid foundation of what was coming in the hymn.

Finishing off the program was Moravian University Organist and DeSales University Organ Instructor Barbara Thomson. She thrilled us with an effervescent and exciting performance of Emma Lou Diemer's Toccata for a Joyful Day.

We thank the LVAGO members who put this program together. It was informative and enjoyable, and the audience/congregation even got to sing! I especially enjoyed hearing music from several generations of female composers, from Fanny Crosby through Susan Palo Cherwien and Twila Paris.

Thank you Gwyn and College Hill Moravian Church for a lovely reception and fellowship following the program. Traditional Moravian sugar cake along with Bethlehem-born PEEPS on the table were a perfect touch!



Pictured left to right are the organists and planners for the event: Susan Frickert, Marisa Deshler, Barbara Thomson, Lou Carol Fix, Janice Butz, and Gwyn Michel



Newsletter Editor

Marta Oberlin, martasgig@gmail.com

Placement Service

Please visit the Placement page on www.lvago.org for information and the Placement Service Information Sheet.

Newsletter Deadline

(May issue) Friday, April 24, 2026

Positions Available

Organist/Choirmaster (1)

Church: St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 84 East Oakland Ave., Doylestown, PA 18901

Website: www.stpaulsdoylestown.org

Contact: Margery Hoffman, 215-348-5511, jobs@stpaulsdoylestown.org

Weekly services: 1, additional during Lent and Advent seasons

Ensembles: Adult Choir - 16 members, Children's Choir - 10 members (Choirmaster responsible for adult choir only)

Music Budget: \$1500

Instruments: Austin organ, 3 keyboards, 34 ranks, 52 stops, and 1,200+ pipes

Weekly attendance: 110

Position Fill Date: 8/1/26 (deadline for submitting applications - 5/31/26)

Total hours per week: 12.5 (3 playing services, 2.5 leading rehearsals, 2.5 preparing/planning for rehearsals, 2 meetings, .5 administrative/custodial duties, 2.5 practicing, 2 additional responsibility to congregation)

Salary: 30,000-35,000

Benefits: book/music allowance, continuing ed, secretarial assistance, music library assistance

Notes: the Organist/Choirmaster is responsible for providing musical leadership for the worship life of the parish, supporting the liturgy of St. Paul's Episcopal Church through thoughtful music selection, skilled organ playing, and effective choir direction. The person in this position collaborates closely with the Rector to enhance worship, foster congregational singing and develop/maintain a vibrant choral program appropriate to St. Paul's.

Director of Music (2)

Church: St. Peter's Ev. Lutheran Church, 1422 Church Rd., Pen Argyl, PA 18072

Website: www.stpetersplainfield.com

Contact: Pastor Chris Druckenmiller, 610-331-6717 (cell), stpetersplainfield@ptd.net

Weekly services: 2

Ensembles: Adult Choir - 12 members, Youth Choir - 8 members, Handbell Choir - 10 members (Director of music responsible for adult choir, hoping to restart youth choir)

Music Budget: \$1800, split between adult choir and handbell choir

Instruments: Electronic organ with three manuals

Weekly attendance: 110

Position fill date: ASAP

Total hours per week: 20 (5 playing services, 2 leading rehearsal, 3 preparing/planning for rehearsals, .5 administrative custodial duties, 7.5 practicing service music, 1 additional responsibility to congregation)

Salary: \$17000-\$19,000

Weeks vacation: 2-4, based on years of experience

Benefits: book/music allowance, secretarial assistance

Notes:

This candidate will coordinate the music life of our community in coordination with the Pastor and Worship & Music Committee, direct our choir(s) in rehearsal and worship, and lead our worship's musical life as an organist and pianist for two Sunday morning services as well as special services throughout the year (Ash Wednesday, Holy Thursday, Good Friday, Christmas Eve, etc.) Candidates should also have familiarity with executing a variety of musical genres and the ability to incorporate them in a worship setting, possess excellent communication, planning, and executive skills, and show commitment to the mission and values of the Christian church and the larger work of the E.L.C.A.

Music Director(2)

Church: St. John's Lutheran Church, 330 Ferry St., Easton, PA

Website: www.stjohnseaston.org

Contact: Melissa Dean, 610-253-6119, admin@stjohnseaston.org

Weekly services: 1 plus any special services throughout the year

Ensembles: Adult Choir - 8-10

Music Budget: \$400 Music, \$1000 Special Music, \$300 Musical Events, \$150 Continuing Ed

Instruments: Casavant Freres, Ltd., the organ is entirely free standing in the rear gallery of the sanctuary. The four divisions are positioned traditionally with the Swell Organ in the center, the

(Continued on next page)

Great Organ to the right, the Pedal Organ to the left, and the Ruckpositiv cantilevered from the gallery rail. The three manual mahogany console is located in the center of the upstairs gallery. The playing action is electro-pneumatic and the wind chests are of the Pitman type. Chests are made of the finest African Mahogany and Canadian Oak to provide a proper sounding board for the pipe-work. The organ tonally represents classic ideals with classic voicing of the pipework with no nicking and open toes in the flues.

Weekly attendance: 62

Position fill date: ASAP

Total hours per week: 16-20 (2 playing services, 2 leading rehearsals, 3 preparing/planning for rehearsals, 1 meetings, 1 administrative custodial duties, 7 practicing service music, 1 additional responsibility to congregation)

Salary: \$20,000-\$26,500

Weeks vacation: 2-4, based on years of experience

Benefits: book/music allowance, secretarial assistance, continuing education

Candidate Qualifications: Music versatility: Experience in both piano and organ is preferred; Vocal Ability: a strong, clear singing voice to lead from the bench or the podium; Administrative diligence: Comfortable with detail-oriented tasks, specifically copyright tracking and scheduling technicians; Interpersonal skills: A "heart of compassion" for working with older adults and a welcoming spirit that aligns with our affirming "Reconciling-in-Christ" values; Adaptive leadership: Ability to be creative with limited rehearsal time and varying skill levels within the volunteer choir.

Notes:

The ideal candidate is a "well-rounded" musician who understands that church music is about more than technical perfection. It's about community and spiritual connection.

Organist and Choir Director(2)

Church: First United Church of Christ of Easton, 27 North Third St., Easton, PA 18042

Website: <https://firstucceaston.org>

Contact: William Arnold, 610-730-3979, billarnold48@gmail.com

Weekly services: 1

Ensembles: Adult Choir - 6 members, Handbell Choir - 8 members

Instruments: Casavant Pipe Organ, 3 manuals

Weekly attendance: 30

Position fill date: ASAP

Total hours per week: 9.5 (1 playing services, 1 leading rehearsal, 1 preparing for rehearsals, 1 meetings with pastor, other music staff, choir member solo practice, committee meetings, .5 administrative custodial duties, 5 practicing service music)

Salary: \$16,000-\$20,000

Weeks vacation: 4

Notes:

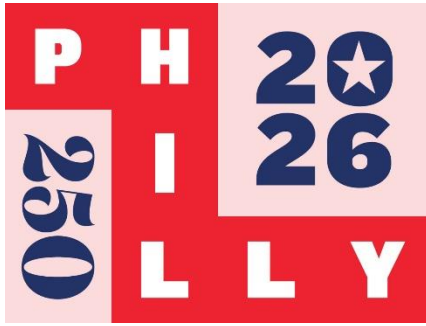
Occasionally organize and direct ad hoc musical groups for participation in services and special events. Also perform occasional Saturday or Sunday afternoon organ concerts.

Please send your resume to the attention of: William Arnold, First United Church of Christ of Easton, 229 Church St., Easton, PA 18042, e-mail at: billarnold48@gmail.com

LVAGO Organist Substitute List

If you would like to be included in the Organist Substitute List please forward your Name, Contact Information (phone/email) and Availability (Sundays, weekdays, etc) to Stephen Bueker, 2520 Clark Place, Easton, PA 18040; sfbueker@rcn.com.

Dale Bonenberger	Mon-Fri	917 328-9041
Ruthann Brandt	Mon-Sat	610 262-3304
Janice Butz	Mon -Fri	610 882-9388
Ellen Erb	Mon-Sat	570 350-0343
Charles Glandorf	Mon-Sat	610 416-1055
Eric Gombert	Mon-Sat	610 435-1641
Susan Hartney	Mon-Sat	610 360-6934
Joe Kaczmarek	Mon-Sat	484 433-4336
Jacqueline Kuba	Sun-Sat	570 386-4480
Michael Kuhnert	Mon-Sat	215 536-4345
Cristina Dinella Makowicz	Mon-Sat	585-732-8017
James Matz	Sun-Sat	610 367-8094
Linda Maule	Mon-Sat	610 258-5006
Richard McIntyre	Mon-Sat	908 283-4691
Jeffrey Raub	Saturday	484 541-8322
Michael Seroka	Mon-Sat	570 516-7207
Barbara Thomson	Sun-Sat	908 591-4499
Bruce Tonkin	Sun-Sat	610 220-5457
Dennis Varley	Sun-Sat	610 739-3567
Matthew Wary	Mon-Sat	610 743-0921
Stephen Ziminsky	Mon-Fri	610 417-2669
Freda Zimmerman	Mon-Fri	610 381-3089



PHILADELPHIA ORGAN CRAWL—APRIL 25

Travel by bus with two departure sites:

7:45 a.m. William Penn Park & Ride (off Rt. 33). Return approx. 5:00 p.m.

8:30 a.m. Quakertown Park & Ride (on Rt. 663 near turnpike entrance). Return approx. 4:15 p.m.

Travel on foot between venues (all are within a short walking distance):

- Holy Trinity Rittenhouse Square (1950 Moller)
- Curtis Institute (newly installed 2026 Dobson organ)
- St. Mark's Episcopal (1936-37 Aeolian-Skinner)

There will be a short demonstration on each organ followed by "Open Console."

Cost: \$75.00 per person. A box lunch is included with registration cost. Checks to be made payable to American Guild of Organists/Lehigh Valley Chapter.

Registration due by April 12. Send registration and payment to:

Jeffrey Raub
3219 Santee Road
Bethlehem, PA 18020

REGISTRATION FOR PHILADELPHIA ORGAN CRAWL—APRIL 25

Name:

E-mail address:

Phone:

Please check if you wish to participate in open console: _____

Send with payment to Jeffrey Raub, 3219 Santee Road, Bethlehem, PA 18020

Checks payable to American Guild of Organists/Lehigh Valley Chapter

Registration deadline is April 12. Space is limited, so register early!

God in Three Persons:

A Hymn Festival Concert



God in Three Persons

A Hymn Festival Concert

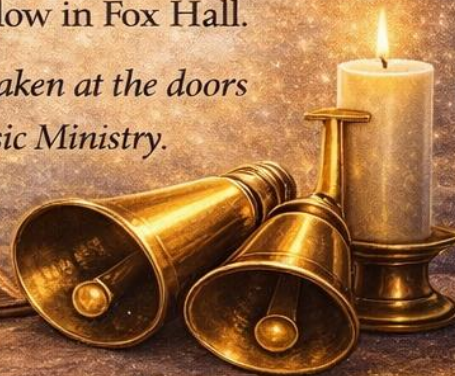
Sunday, May 31st
beginning at 5:30PM

All are welcome and invited to join St. John's UCC's Music Ministry for our first ever hymn festival concert.

An evening of scripture, prayer, and music in honor
of The Holy Trinity.

Light refreshments to follow in Fox Hall.

*A free will offering will be taken at the doors
in support of the Music Ministry.*



St. John's United Church of Christ
575 Grape Street
Whitehall, PA 18052