

Lehigh Valley Chapter

American Guild of Organists

March 2026

www.lvago.org



Chapter Officers 2025-2026

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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

Have you ever been invited back for an anniversary of a church you had formerly served? I've been blessed to have had that experience a number of times over the years. I recall one church I had served back in the late 1960's which published an impressive commemorative booklet containing their history, remembrances of former pastors and organists, historical photos, etc. As I read through the booklet, there was a section of reflections by "sons of the congregation" who had gone into ordained ministry. (this was just before women were admitted to Lutheran ordination.) One of the "sons" wrote that he first felt his call to ministry as he listened to the "beautiful preludes played by Miss Kresge before each service." (my maiden name) I was stunned! I had no idea who this person was; he hadn't sung in any of my choirs; he wasn't related to any of my former singers. I couldn't even remember interacting with him, yet somehow he felt my music had opened his heart to God's plan for his life.

Every week we carefully choose appropriate preludes, diligently practice them, and then play them to the best of our ability, while the congregation seems oblivious, holding conversations loud enough in which we could effectively take part. And yet people are listening to our music, even being inspired by it, but rarely do they tell us. We just never know how many lives our music ministry touches, but the number is probably greater than we realize. So, never forget that God has called you for a unique purpose, and everything you do matters. Remember that next time you feel that only God is listening - someone else is, too!

God bless!

Susan

P.S. Your officers and board members are very excited about our April 25 Organ Crawl to Philadelphia! Your Chapter is generously underwriting actual costs of the bus trip to encourage our members and their students to participate. See Janice Butz's detailed article later in this newsletter.

Upcoming LVAGO Chapter Events!

SUNDAY, MARCH 22

**A Celebration of Women's History Month
4:00 p.m. at College Hill Moravian Church
72 W. Laurel Street, Bethlehem, PA 18018**

Join us for a celebration of Women's History Month with a journey through the Lenten, Holy Week, and Easter seasons featuring organ works and hymns all composed by women. Barbara Thomson and Lou Carol Fix will be our featured recitalists, and other women organists will lead us in hymn singing. Plan to stay afterward to enjoy fellowship and some traditional Moravian sugarcake, and be sure to bring along your friends and choir members!

APRIL 25—Plans are beginning to solidify for our Philadelphia Organ Crawl, taking us to the birthplace of our country's freedom. We'll travel by bus into the city and then walk between three venues—Holy Trinity Rittenhouse Square (1950 Moller), the Curtis Institute (newly installed Dobson organ), and St. Mark's Episcopal (1936-37 Aeolian-Skinner). Midday we'll enjoy a boxed lunch together. See more information and a registration form elsewhere in this newsletter.

MAY 31—LVAGO member Luke DiGiacinto, currently pursuing studies at Peabody Conservatory in Baltimore, will be our featured young artist recitalist at Christ Lutheran Church in Allentown. The afternoon begins with the recital at 4:00 p.m. and followed by a banquet and our annual LVAGO meeting.

A Wonderful Morning with Dr. Derrick Thompson

More than 30 people gathered on Saturday morning, February 21, at St. John's Lutheran Church in Whitehall to hear Dr. Derrick Thompson, Director of Choral Studies at Kutztown University, share insights into spirituals and gospel. It was a fantastic morning as Dr. Thompson gave an historical overview of both spirituals and gospel, and then demonstrated numerous vocal techniques unique to each genre. The morning provided a time of learning, singing, sharing fellowship, and enjoying delicious treats at the break time. With a great sense of humor and offering invaluable information, Dr. Thompson made the day both fun as well as educational. Thanks to LVAGO Board member, Mike Fister, for hosting the event.



Positions Available

Director of Music (1)

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(1)

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 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 pipework. 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

(Continued on next page)

"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://firstuceaston.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: 25

Position fill date: ASAP

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

Salary: \$12,000-\$16,000

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

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

(April issue) Tuesday, March 24, 2026

LVAGO Organist Substitute List

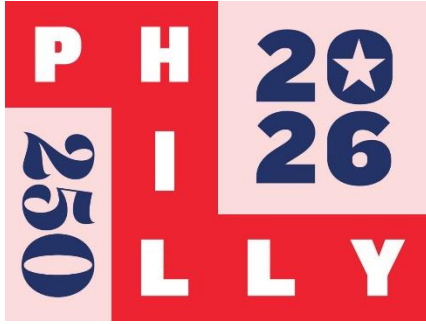
If you would like to be included in the Organist Substitute List please forward your Name, Contact Information (phone/email) and Availability (Sundays, weekdays, etc) to Stephen Bueker, 2520 Clark Place, Easton, PA 18040; sfbueker@rcn.com.

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

Join the DeSales University Schola Cantorum in the singing of a Procession within the Second Week of Lent on Wednesday, March 4, beginning at 7:00 pm at St. Anne Church, 450 E Washington Avenue, Bethlehem.

Taking the form of a penitential procession, the choir moves slowly through the church to the singing of congregational acclamations and hymns in a symbolic pilgrimage from sin to redemption through Christ's death. There are resting stations along the way for readings and choral selections as the procession moves toward its climax at the altar.

Come for this beautiful Lenten musical and spiritual experience.



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!