Lehigh Valley Chapter

American Guild of Organists

October 2026

www.lvago.org

Chapter Officers 2026-2027

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610-657-4188
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Executive Committee
Charles Glandorf (2027)
Gary Raish (2027)
Bob Riday (2028)
Gwyneth Michel (2028)
Ellen Erb (2029)
Marisa Deshler (2029)

Letter from the Dean

Happy Fall Everyone!

Praying that all of you have had a great start to your choir season! I hear that our Fall Social at OLPH was a great event! Due to health reasons, I could not attend. I hope those who did attend had an amazing time!

As I mentioned in the last newsletter, we will be having a workshop on practical improvisation with Matthew Glandorf, son of one of our own Charles Glandorf! Matthew will start this workshop at 10:00 AM on Saturday, October 24 th, 2026. The event will be hosted by Grace UCC in Northampton. They have a wonderful Schantz that no one ever talks about! The workshop will go for about an hour, followed by a short recital. It will be a lovely morning of music! I hope that you can attend!

In November, we will have a workshop on tech updates, followed by another mini recital, both will be led by Andy Brown. Those of you who attended the organ crawl in April, Andy took us through the organ at Curtis. More information will be coming out soon!

Hope to see all of you soon!
Jeffrey



LVAGO Chapter Holds "Fall Mixtur" Event

by Bob Riday

Our chapter held an Autumn social gathering on Sunday, September 20th at Our Lady Of Perpetual Help Church in Bethlehem. Called Fall Mixtur, the event served as a celebration of our return to Fall calendars and scheduling, as well as being an event for which to invite church music colleagues and friends to possibly consider joining our chapter. The word Mixtur in the event title was purposely chosen to be an eye catcher. In fact, several Executive Committee members thought that it was a typo. (The word describes a particular rank of pipes on an organ and can be spelled several ways, depending on which language one is using to identify organ stops.) LVAGO Executive members Jeffrey Raub, Ellen Erb and Bob Riday formed a Social Committee to discuss and plan the event. Part of the discussion was ways to present the AGO and our Lehigh Valley Chapter as having evolved beyond the perceived (to some) reputation of being "...a stodgy group of organists too sophisticated to relate to current day church musicians and congregations". This writer has heard various permutations of the above paraphrased quote many times from quite a few people when discussing the AGO.

The Social Committee thought it would be good to present a program to our guests that shows that we really enjoy and yes, even have fun, taking seriously the music we select, the instruments we play, as well as our choral preparation and conducting.

We began by singing some clever and fun words to Old Hundredth as the invocation to our wonderfully prepared hors d'oeuvre buffet. Special thank you to OLPH Church member and Jeffrey's substitute organist Joan for preparing the hors d'oeuvres.

Our committee then gave a brief history of the AGO and our Chapter, then moved on to some "bloops and blunders" that have occurred during our time on the bench during worship. The group moved from the fellowship hall into the church worship space to hear the hybrid Rodgers/pipe organ at OLPH. Thank you to Chapter Sub Dean Michael Fister for playing a selection and explaining the difference between pipe, digital and hybrid organs. We then sang a few hymns with entertaining, alternate lyrics to familiar hymn tunes.

Following the organ discussion and hymn singing, we answered some questions from guests, and extended a warm invitation for them to consider joining our organization. We counted six guests that evening with twelve of our chapter members present. We know of at least one guest who is seriously considering joining our chapter.





Positions Available

Music Director (2)
Church: Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church, 121 South Home Avenue, Topton, PA 19562
Website: www.trinity-topton.com
Contact: Dennis Evans, 336-471-0077, dennyevans66@gmailcom
Weekly services: 1
Ensembles: Adult Choir - 5-8 members
Music Budget: $1000
Instruments: Pipe Organ, 2 keyboards, 22 ranks
Weekly attendance: 35-40
Position Fill Date: 9/1/26
Application Deadline: none
Total hours per week: 8 (2 playing services; 1 leading rehearsals; 1 rehearsal preparation; 1 meetings; 1 administrative tasks; 2 practicing music)
Salary: $12,000-17,000; 4 weeks paid vacation
Benefits: book/music allowance, secretarial assistance
Notes: In addition to weekly worship, opportunity to be supply organist at Grace Lutheran Church in Lutheran Home. They want a Prelude, Postlude and 2 hymns in their service, Our service ends at 10:00 a.m., theirs is at 10:30 a.m. They are 5 minutes away. Our organist has been their supply organist for the last 8 years. Grace pays a supply fee of $150 per service.

Church Organist (2)
Church: St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church, PO Box 120, 1565 Sleepy Hollow Road, Spinnerstown, PA 18968
Website: www.stjohnsofspinnerstown.org
Contact: Maureen Potsko, 610-216-8534, mpotsko@gmail.com
Weekly services: 1
Ensembles: Adult Choir - 8 members, Handbell Choir - 8 members (organist accompaniment only)
Music Budget: $1500
Instruments: Walker Digital 3 manual organ
Weekly attendance: 45
Position Fill Date: 9/6/26
Application Deadline: ASAP
Total hours per week: 14.25-18/25 (1.75 playing services; 2 accompanying/supporting rehearsals; 3 preparing/planning for rehearsals; 2.5 meetings; 5-8 practicing)
Salary: $12,320; 4 Sundays

Organist/Choir Director (2)
Church: St. Lukes (Old Williams) Lutheran Church, 20 Church Rd., Hellertown, PA 18055
Website: www.stlukesoldwilliams.com
Contact: Pastor Harry Kocotos, 908-967-2035, harrykocotos@yahoo.com
Weekly services: 1
Ensembles: Adult Choir - 5 members
Instruments: Electronic Organ, 3 keyboards
Weekly attendance: 32
Position Fill Date: 8/1/26
Total hours per week: 3 (1.25 playing services; 1 rehearsal preparation; .25 preparing/planning for reheraslas; .5 practicing music)
Salary: $10,000-14,000; 3 weeks paid vacation

Director of Music (2)
Church: Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church, 300 Roseberry Street, Phillipsburg, NJ 08865
Website: www.onlinegracelutheran.org
Contact: Judy Garrison, 908-859-0884
Weekly services: 2 (1 spoken, 1 with liturgy and music
Ensembles: Adult Choir - 10 members
Instruments: Möller Double Artiste with recently installed Opus Two control system with MIDI interface; Casio Privia electronic keyboard
Music Budget: $620
Weekly attendance: 69
Position Fill Date: 10/1/26
Total hours per week: 8-10 (2 playing services; 1.5 leading rehearsals; 2 preparing/planning; 3-4.5 practicing)
Salary: $13,000-17,000; 2 weeks paid vacation
Benefits: book/music allowance, secretarial assistance
Notes: While Grace desires candidates who can play the organ, we would be open to those who are proficient on the piano and learning to play the organ. This could be a wonderful initial position for a budding organist.

Director of Music Ministry (1)

Church: St. Peter's Lutheran Church (ELCA), 211 S. Main St., North Wales, PA 19454
Website: www.stpetersnorthwales.org
Contact: Ginny Bailey, Church Secretary, 215-699-4604, ginny@stpetersnorthwales.org; or Diana Sundar, 215-519-2837, Worship & Music Committee Chairperson, Sundard@comcast.net
Weekly services: 1 during summer months, 2 mid-September to end of May
Ensembles: Adult Choir - 13 members, Handbells (Belles) - 13 members, Misfits - 10 members
Music Budget: $1250; $850 Supply Organists, $1200 Guest Musicians
Instruments: A 1903 Durner tracker organ, new (3/24) Yamaha C6X Grand Piano in sanctuary, piano in Fellowship Hall, electronic keyboard
Weekly attendance: 225 (when 2 services)
Position Fill Date: ASAP or December 2026/ January 1, 2027
Total hours per week: 20 (3 playing services, 4 leading rehearsals, 4 preparing/planning, 1-2 meetings, 2 administrative duties, 3 practicing, 1-2 additional responsibilities)
Salary: $34,000-39,000; 4 weeks paid vacation
Notes: We are a very blessed church with lots of musical talents that are shared with the congregation. The DMM helps to coordinate these resources and continues to build new relationships with these talents. We have a praise band - A Common Thread - that also plays once a month (they also do community outreach performances. Our congregation loves to sing and loves the many wonderful traditional hymns as well as learning new update hymns.

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
Sally Reeser	Mon-Sat	610 730-6357
Michael Seroka	Mon-Sat	570 516-7207
Barbara Thomson	Sun-Sat	908 591-4499
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



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
(November issue) Saturday, October 24, 2026