

Lehigh Valley Chapter

American Guild of Organists

December 2025

www.lvago.org



Chapter Officers 2025-2026

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Executive Committee

Marisa Deshler (2026)

Jeffrey Raub (2026)

Charles Glandorf (2027)

Gary Raish (2027)

Robert Riday (2028)

Michael Fister (2028)

From the Dean

Greetings from your Lehigh Valley Chapter Officers and Executive Board in these most holy seasons of Advent and Christmas! Thank you for faithfully proclaiming the Good News of the Gospel through your gift of music every week. The majority of your work is hidden, behind the scenes, yet it is so vital to the spiritual health of your people. This time of year brings the additional pressure of higher musical expectations, more time spent ensuring that every little detail is covered, and the heavy responsibility that all the musicians in your care are well prepared. You manage to do this in spite of the casualties of flu season, inclement weather, and conflicts with competing activities. We pray that you experience the true joy of this season; that your singers stay healthy and on pitch; that your organ has no ciphers; and that your fingers remain nimble. May the true love and peace of Christ's birth always sustain you!! A blessed Christmas to you and yours!



On a lovely fall day in early November we gathered at Our Lady of Perpetual Help RC Church in Bethlehem to share favorite anthems. Our host, Jeffrey Raub, told us a little about the history of the congregation, the impressive sanctuary and the organ, then the fun began! We "sampled" anthems by a variety of composers, and were even treated to some original anthems by some of our members. Then we moved to the beautiful fellowship hall, which had been the original sanctuary, now stylishly repurposed for social gatherings. A delicious supper awaited us; sandwich wraps, potato salad and homemade potato chips, tortellini pasta salad and chicken noodle soup with a side of relaxing fellowship. We thought the amazing desserts comprised our final course, then we were surprised with homemade mango sorbet! Thank you, Jeff, for the royal treatment!

Coming Events

JANUARY 17—Chapter members are encouraged to be inspired for the new year by attending the Philadelphia Chapter's annual January Jumpstart, a full day of workshops and concerts held at Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church. More info can be found in the article in this newsletter.

FEBRUARY 21—A choral workshop in observance of Black History Month will be presented by Dr. Derrick Thompson, Assistant Professor of Music and Director of Choral Studies at Kutztown University. The event will be held at St. John's Lutheran Church in Fullerton, beginning at 9:30 a.m. with hot beverages and light refreshments and concluding by 12:00 noon. You'll learn some new choral techniques and gain some insights into spirituals and gospel songs

MARCH—A celebration of women composers, hearing organ works, choral anthems, hymns, and more, all composed by women, will help us observe Women's History Month. Gwyn Michel will be our host at College Hill Moravian Church in Bethlehem.

APRIL—Chapter members and friends will be on the road for an organ crawl, traveling to Philadelphia, the birthplace of our country's freedom. We'll travel by bus, enjoy a boxed lunch, and visit interesting venues and churches with fabulous organs, both new and old.

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. A banquet and annual meeting follows the recital



Join the Angels Christmas Concert

Union Lutheran Church, 5500 route 873, Schnecksville, PA announces its annual musical Christmas Card to the Schnecksville community on Sunday, December 7 at 2:00 p.m.. Entitled "Join the Angels", the sacred Christmas Concert will showcase all of the church's musical groups directed by Susan L. Frickert: Glory Ringers Handbell Choir, Union Chorale, Praise Band, StarSong and Junior Choir, in a program of music in a variety of styles celebrating the birth of Jesus. There is no charge for the concert, with a free-will offering received for B.L.O.O.M. Women's Ministry, the highlighted charity for this year's annual Northern Lehigh Mission District Ingathering. Along with beautiful, unique choral and handbell anthems, the audience will participate in singing beloved Christmas carols with the Glory Ringers Handbell Choir. Delicious homemade holiday refreshments will follow the concert. What a great way to get into the Christmas spirit - a concert with a cause!



UNION LUTHERAN CHURCH PRESENTS
JOIN THE ANGELS!

A CHRISTMAS CONCERT
DIRECTED BY SUSAN L. FRICKERT
FEATURING:
UNION CHORALE | PRAISE BAND
GLORY RINGERS | JUNIOR CHOIR
STARSONG (TEEN) ENSEMBLE

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7 | 2PM

5500 ROUTE 873, SCHNECKSVILLE, PA
LIGHT REFRESHMENTS TO FOLLOW

A FREEWILL OFFERING WILL BE COLLECTED
BENEFITTING B.L.O.O.M. WOMEN'S MINISTRY



January Jumpstart

Saturday, January 17, 2026

8:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Travel with your LVAGO friends to attend the Philadelphia Chapter's Annual January Jumpstart! This event is a full-day organ music festival held at Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church, 625 Montgomery Avenue in Bryn Mawr. The theme this year is From the Old World to the New: British and American Organs and Organ Music, featuring an array of concerts and workshops. Presenters are Jeffrey Gemmel on Moravian choral music, James Kealey on British organ music, and Douglas Reed on American organ music, with special premieres by Libby Larsen and Trevor Weston. Coffee, tea, lunch and a free music exchange are included.

Watch for more details in the January newsletter, but in the meantime, plan to attend this informative and inspiring day with your AGO friends! If you are interested in carpooling, please contact Jeffrey Raub at raubjeffrey@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

Newsletter Editor

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Placement Service

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

Newsletter Deadline

(January issue) Wednesday, December 24, 2025