



JUDY OLSON ORGAN SCHOLARSHIP

2026-27 Scholarship Details

The Judy Olson Organ Scholarship was created by her Grace Lutheran Church family in 2024 to honor Judy Olson's life and ministry.

The purpose of this scholarship is to support and encourage students in their organ study, and to foster the next generation of organists.

Applicant requirements:

- Pianists and beginning organists between the ages of 13 and 23
- Residence in the state of Washington
- Previous keyboard experience
- Submission of one or two paragraphs describing interest in organ study
- Submission of a written recommendation from two references, one being the student's current or former piano instructor, neither being from the applicant's immediate family
- Demonstrated enthusiasm and musical potential for studying the organ in depth
- Demonstrated commitment to regular practice, along with an expressed willingness to occasionally research relevant topics
- A personal interview including the live performance of two contrasting pieces (on piano, organ, or a combination of the two)

Terms of the award include:

- No cash is given to the scholarship winner; the award is given on a per lesson basis directly to the organ teacher (Grace Lutheran Church's resident organist).
- The recipient will receive a minimum of 30-35 lessons and/or coachings per calendar year, the majority of which take place at Grace Lutheran, Wenatchee.
- The recipient will also receive a 1-year membership to the AGO (American Guild of Organists) - a \$60 value, including online/print subscription to TAO (The American Organist) magazine.
- The instructor shall determine the length and time of lessons, in consultation with the recipient.
- The award is for lessons only. Books and other sheet music are to be purchased at the student's own expense.
- The recipient will periodically serve as Organist's Assistant in worship services.
- After no more than one year's study under the award, the scholarship recipient may choose to appear as a student performer in a recital, or as a presenter in a worship service, selected in consultation with the instructor.
- The recipient may reapply for the scholarship in a following year.
- The recipient shall be named the Olson Organ Scholar.
- The resident organist will issue an agreement to the recipient, including a statement that releases Grace Lutheran Church from all liabilities.
- In the event that Grace Lutheran Church's resident organist cannot fulfill the duties in this agreement, a qualified member of the community may be invited by Grace's Arts Team to assume that role.

Application

Email (to deacon@glcwen.org) or send the completed application form and two references to:

Organ Scholarship Committee
c/o Deacon Ruth Anderson
1408 Washington Street
Wenatchee, WA 98801

Audition

An audition helps determine the basic keyboard skills of applicants and the suitable potential for future organ study. Auditions include a brief interview with the Committee to learn more about the applicant's music study history, inspiration, motivation, and experience.

All auditions take place the morning of September 26, 2026 at Grace Lutheran Church, 1408 Washington Street, Wenatchee.

Upon receipt of the application and references, the Scholarship Committee will notify the student of an audition time. Each applicant will play for the Scholarship Committee on the piano and/or pipe organ.

Applicants will prepare:

1. One Bach piece and one contrasting piece (student's choice), not to exceed a total of ten minutes in length.
2. Two stanzas of one hymn (student's choice).

Please specify which text is considered for each stanza played. (Interpretive accompaniment is expected.) An alternate harmonization may be played on the second stanza.

NOTE: The applicant will provide 3 copies of each selection noted above (for Committee members).

Award Stipulations

The scholarship must be used within twelve months of the date of issue.

Application deadline: September 18, 2026. Questions? Contact Deacon Ruth Anderson at the addresses above or call 509-663-2189.