

OMAHA CHAPTER OF
THE AMERICAN
GUILD OF
ORGANISTS

SPECIAL
POINTS OF
INTEREST:

Recital Dates

Special Events

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The Windchest

MAY 2018

Celebrating 100 Years!

From the Dean...

Summer is here! Summer is a season filled with opportunities for professional growth and development, renewal of friendships and contact with associates, reflection and planning for the upcoming year.

Omaha AGO members have several outstanding opportunities for professional growth this summer. Of course there is the National AGO convention in Kansas City, offering numerous workshops, concerts, seminars, meetings and opportunities for growth. For young organists, AGO offers Pipe Organ Encounters, in POE Advanced. The Organ Historic Society offers informative conventions during the summer months, focused on significant historic pipe organs, providing opportunity for organists and enthusiasts historic information on specific organs and their builders. Many church denominations offer workshops, seminars and symposiums with a specific focus.

Many of our members plan to attend the convention in Kansas City this summer! Many hands were quickly raised when asked for a "show of hands" of those attending the convention. This convention is well planned with a wide variety of concerts, recitals, workshops and seminars. A record number of displays are scheduled, as well as special events including regional meetings, breakfast for those holding AGO certification, and alumni social events. Kansas City will undoubtedly be a land-mark point in AGO convention history.

Summer is also the season when local chapters finalize and announce their upcoming season. Omaha AGO is no exception: we are well on track planning and booking an outstanding season, based on collaboration with the CAP (Cathedral Arts Project) board; increased growth and eagerness within chapter membership; a successful fund-raising project; and enthusiastic membership that is visionary.

Enthusiasm? Yes! It is an observed fact that more and more Omaha AGO members are directly involved in season programming. Recall, for example, member participation in the "Clergy-Musician Task Force" (which will continue this upcoming season), the Hymn Festival held in April, and the "Volunteer Organist" workshop that was postponed due to winter weather conditions. Recall the number of AGO members directly involved with CAP. It is this enthusiasm among Omaha AGO members that is generating music leadership throughout our communities, Eastern Nebraska and Southwest Iowa.

Watch upcoming issues of WINDCHEST, Dean's Ciphers, Face Book, digital and US mailings for 2018-2019 programming opportunities!

SOLI DEO GLORIA!
Dr. Christensen, AAGO
Dean





Omaha AGO
Website

Kansas City
2018

American
Guild
of
Organists
National
Convention



SALLY HODGES

Recognition is due to Sally Hodges who has graciously served as Education Chairman for more than ten years! Sally is stepping down in order to have more time to spend with her family.

It is the Education Chairman that makes all the arrangements for members taking AGO certification SPC (Service Playing Certification) and CAGO (Colleague American Guild of Organists) at the Omaha AGO chapter site.

This is no easy task. The education chairman establishes all communications between National AGO headquarters and the local chapter; reserves space that includes a well-maintained pipe organ in an appropriate acoustic space; makes arrangements for recording the exam, which is sent to headquarters for evaluation; proctors the exam, and is the contact person between the candidate and the National Certification Committee. The proctor monitors the exam, assures the many specific policies and guide-lines are followed, and forwards the recorded exam to headquarters for evaluation. Confidentiality, accuracy, dependability, honesty and professionalism are characteristics demanded of a local chapter's Education Chairman. Sally Hodges has demonstrated and practiced these important characteristics of Education Chairman many, many times over the past several years Omaha AGO members seeking to earn AGO certification.

Thank you, Sally, for your many years serving Omaha AGO as our chapter's Education Chairman!



The next national convention of the American Guild of Organists will take place in July of 2018 in Kansas City. Look for information about artists in the August issue of *The American Organist* which should arrive around July 1. One of the best features of the convention is a second discount for early joiners. There has always been an Early Bird discount but now there is also a SuperSaver with a good discount. Here are the details:

Regular: \$495 Early Bird; \$435
Seniors: \$450 Early Bird: \$395
Students \$250 any time.

There will also be a Kansas City barbeque on July 4. Most national conventions have a banquet and you pay for it. In Houston, the banquet was \$60. In Kansas City the barbeque is included with your registration!

It's going to be a great convention. The steering committee is working very hard and it should be great! Hope to see you there!

*Pedaling
Around
Omaha*



AGO Board
Members

Committee Chairs



UPDATE ON CLERGY-MUSICIAN TASK FORCE

Jodi Korth, a new member who emerged quickly as a new leader in our chapter by becoming the facilitator of the Omaha AGO Clergy-Musician Task Force, will shortly be moving to Cedar Rapids where her husband has a new position assignment.

The important work of the Clergy-Musician Task Force Jodi implemented will continue. She has recommended an active member of the task force be appointed to be her successor as chairman. The board will appoint her recommendation at the monthly June board meeting. The Task Force has relevant visionary plans for a fall program, which will be announced later this summer.

Our best wishes to Jodi and her family. While she has expressed her regrets moving away from the Omaha area, Jodi and her family are pleased they will be closer to family members. Again, Jodi, thank you for your leadership in the Omaha AGO, but for your contribution to liturgical music leadership in the greater Omaha metropolitan community.

ELECTION RESULTS

On behalf of members of Executive Board, thank you for your vote of confidence re-electing your dean, sub-dean, secretary and treasurer for yet another term. Jean Johnson and Sonja Lundgren will continue their three-year terms as board Member-at-Large. Newly elected to Member-at-Large board member is Jeff Hoffman. Welcome, Jeffrey!

An expression of appreciation is in order for Claire Rae Roehrkas Eason, who opted not to run for a second three year term as Member-at-Large on the board. Because Claire and her husband spend the winter months in Texas, she opted not to run for re-election, feeling it is important for chapter leadership to be present throughout the year. Thank you, Claire, for your generous leadership to our chapter. We will miss you!

CURRENT AGO BOARD MEMBERS 2018–2019

Dean: J Gordon Christensen, AAGO

Sub-dean: Marie Rubis Bauer

Secretary: Gregory Johnson

Treasurer: Gina Simpson

Members-at-Large (3 year terms)

Jean Johnson: 2016/17 –2018-19

Sonja Lundgren: 2017/18 –2019-20

Jeffrey Hoffman: 2018/19 –2020-21



COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Education (AGO Certification)

Chapter Historian

Organ Historian

Membership

Membership Directory

Professional Concerns

Programming (2018-2019)

Publicity

Referrals

Webmaster

Windchest Editor/Publisher

Sally Hodges

Claire Eason

David McCain

Julie Sandene

Gina Simpson

Jerry Brabec

Marie Rubis Bauer

J Gordon Christensen

Julie Sandene

Jeffrey Hoffman

Rosemary Paul

SURVEY RETURNS

Twenty-six FEED-BACK SURVEY SHEETS were returned following the chapter's annual Finale Banquet and program at Dundee Presbyterian Church on May 21. Feed-back was exceptionally positive: there were dozens and dozens of "5" (strongly agree) checked; many "4," a few "3," and only six "1" checked. All six of the "1" ratings were in FUTURE SCHEDULING, indicating little or no interest in hosting a North Central Regional Convention in 2023; (there was, however, one "5" for hosting a convention: our member signed his name, offering to help);

Several "Strongly Agree" points, including written comments in margins;

Offer "More Educational Events"

Continue Hymn Festival

Continue to seek collaboration with CAP on organ recitals

Encourage chapter members to develop organ/choral events in respective churches, open to the public

More "Dean's Ciphers"

More columns in WINDCHEST

Programming that involves more members; including developing a multi-workshop day similar to January Jubilee, with promotion to non-members

Points to address:

Timely communications with members not using digital (email) resources

Maintenance of updated membership roster: new; renewal (challenge is ONCARD registration)

Board action information to membership: (publish board minutes in WINDCHEST)

Add columns in WINDCHEST

The executive board agenda for the June meeting will focus on 2018-19 season planning.



**Association of
Lutheran
Church
Musicians**



Lincoln Early Music Consort

REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN FOR JUNE 23 CHURCH MUSIC WORKSHOP

Sinai Lutheran Church in Fremont will host a one-day workshop for church musicians on Saturday, June 23. Clinicians include Brett Epperson, Artistic Director & Conductor of Lincoln Lutheran Choir and Director of Vocal Music at Lincoln East High School; Lara West, DMA, Music Review Editor of *CrossAccent* and Organist at Trinity Lutheran Church in Mission, KS; and Amber Wilson, Worship Leader at Lifegate Church and Midland University Dance Arts Company Manager, who works with liturgical dance and praise worship. (Full bios of presenters can be accessed at the ALCM link below.)

This is one of several events sponsored by the Association of Lutheran Church Musicians in the coming year. It is designed to be of practical value for all church musicians regardless of denomination, but presenters will make a point of addressing the needs of choir directors, organists, pianists, and other leaders in small congregations.

Schedule and registration information are posted on the ALCM website: <https://alcm.org/event/fremont-ne/>

If you have questions about registration you may contact Claire Bushong at Claire.bushong14@gmail.com.

Job Description

Head Organist (Part - Time)

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

Gretna, Nebraska

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church of Gretna, Nebraska seeks an outstanding musician for the part-time position of Head Organist. We are a faith community of approximately 1,700 members in Gretna, Nebraska which is located on the southwestern edge of Omaha. As a member congregation of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, we have a tradition of excellent, organ-led liturgical and traditional worship in our 8:00 and 9:30 Sunday services and 7:00 p.m. Wednesday service.

Qualifications and Requirements:

The Head Organist shall be a person committed in faith to their Lord and Savior Jesus Christ exemplified by a servant's heart of Christian love to the Lord and His people.

The Head Organist will be conversant with Lutheran liturgy and hymnody and value its importance in the worship-life of God's redeemed people.

The Head Organist position shall consist of approximately 10-15 hours per week which includes personal rehearsal time.

The Head Organist will have a high degree of competence on organ, piano, and the ability to accompany groups and individuals. Ideal candidates will have a degree in church music, organ, or several years of organ study at a post-secondary institution.

The Head Organist shall provide organ and piano music for *most of* (see following paragraph) the 8:00 and 9:30 a.m. Sunday services and the 7:00 p.m. Wednesday service as well as Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, and Easter.

The Head Organist will have one Sunday and one Wednesday off per month and will Schedule Good Shepherd's two other assisting organists to fill in on those days.

The Head Organist will provide organ and piano music for weddings and funerals whenever possible, and be permitted to receive additional compensation from the parties involved. The use of the organ or piano by a guest musician may be done by special arrangement.

The Head Organist will accompany the choir, or arrange accompaniment for the choir, during the choir season (September through Spring – April or May).

The Head Organist will encourage the musical talents and participation of members of the congregation through organizing and coordinating special musical offerings, including instrumentalists, and small ensembles.

The Head Organist will collaborate with the Director of Choirs in coordinating and scheduling choral music for worship.

The Head Organist will provide collaboration with the pastors in the selection of hymns for each service.

The Head Organist will arrange for organ and piano maintenance with a qualified organ and piano repair person as needed.

The Head Organist will consult with couples / families regarding the wedding policies of the church including selection of appropriate Christian wedding music.

The Head Organist will provide a list of needs for purchase to the Board of Elders for the annual budget.

Salary and Other Opportunities

The annual salary of this part-time position is \$18,000/year with no benefits other than below.

The Head Organist shall have one Sunday and one Wednesday off each month.

Three weeks paid vacation shall be provided.

Two weeks sick pay is allowed. (This can be reviewed by the Board of Elders when necessary)

The church will provide \$500 annually for professional growth.

The organ and piano are available to give private lessons for additional pay to the organist. Recitals and concerts may be scheduled in coordination with the church calendar.

Summary of Congregation and Resources

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church was founded in 1979 and is located in a fast-growing community in Sarpy County, southwest of Omaha. Besides the 8:00 and 9:30 Sanctuary services, Good Shepherd also provides a 10:45 contemporary service in our Ministry Activities Center which is led by a separate music leader and group of musicians. Our Sr. Pastor is Rev. Gary Werling who has served the congregation for 31 years. Our Associate Pastor is Rev. Sam Pitsch who is serving his third year as Director of Adult Ministries following a year of vicarage with us. In addition we have a Director of Contemporary Worship, a Director of Youth Ministry, a Director of Children and Family Ministry, a Preschool Director, and an office staff. Music for the Sanctuary worship is serviced by a MDS-26 Allen Digital Electronic Organ and a Kohler-Campbell baby grand piano (both located in Sanctuary balcony) and a Yamaha Clavinova located in the Sanctuary to the left of the chancel. A budget of \$1,000 is provided for new music equipment, and \$1,200 for worship resources (additional needs may be brought before the Leadership Council for approval). The church also has an extensive music library.

Additional Position Possibility

Though not required, if the Head Organist would also be interested to serve as Choral Director for the Choir season (Fall through Spring), a separate job description and additional salary could be made available.

Deadline

Applications will be accepted through July 31, 2018. We hope to have the position filled by September 1, 2018. If applying, please provide a resume, 3 letters of reference including one from clergy, and a cover letter explaining why you are interested and why you would be a good fit for this position. Applications should be sent to:

Head Organist Position

C/O Rev. Gary Werling, Sr. Pastor

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

Box 39

Gretna, NE 68028

Or gary.werling@gsclgretna.org

Job Description
Director of Choirs (Part - Time)
Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
Gretna, Nebraska

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church of Gretna, Nebraska seeks a candidate for part-time Director of Choirs. We are a faith community of approximately 1,700 members in Gretna, Nebraska which is located on the southwestern edge of Omaha. As a member congregation of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, we have a tradition which values music as an expression of the praise of God by His redeemed people.

Qualifications and Requirements

- The part-time Director of Choirs shall be a person committed in faith to their Lord and Savior Jesus Christ exemplified by a servant's heart of Christian love to the Lord and His people.
- The Director of Choirs shall value both young and old alike, and shall provide energy, excitement, and encouragement in recruiting and leading God's people of all ages to sing in worship.
- The Director of Choirs position shall consist of approximately 5-10 hours per week and fewer hours in the summer.
- The Director of Choirs shall provide (recruit and direct) a Children's Choir in conjunction with Good Shepherd's Mid-week School program (Grades 3 – 8) which is held from September to May on Wednesday evenings.
- The Director of Choirs shall have a goal of having the children sing in worship once per month during the Midweek School year for selected services (8:00, 9:30, and 10:45).
- The Director of Choirs shall provide (recruit and direct) an Adult Choir with the goal of singing at least once each month from September to May in the 8:00 and 9:30 services. It is especially important to have choral and/or special music on Christmas and Easter, and Holy Week.
- The Director of Choirs shall enlist soloists and small groups to sing periodically throughout the year for the 8:00 and 9:30 services.
- The Director of Choirs shall provide rehearsals (usually on Wednesday evenings from fall to spring to prepare all choirs, small groups, and soloists for singing in worship).
- The Director of Choirs shall work cooperatively with the Head Organist (or other pianist) who will provide accompaniment for solos, ensembles, and choirs.
- The Director of Choirs shall be responsible to the Sr. Pastor and the Board of Elders.

Salary and Other

The annual salary for this part-time position of Choir Director is \$4,000 with no benefits other than below. The Choir Director shall have three weeks paid vacation. Two weeks sick pay is allowed. Professional growth opportunities will be considered by the Board of Elders.

Summary of Congregation and Resources

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church was founded in 1979 and is located in a fast-growing community in Sarpy County, southwest of Omaha. Besides the 8:00 and 9:30 services, Good Shepherd also provides a 10:45 contemporary service in our Ministry Activities Center. Our Sr. Pastor is Rev. Gary Werling who has served the congregation for 31 years. Our Associate Pastor is Rev. Sam Pitsch who has served for 3 years as Director of Adult Ministry. In addition, we have a Director of Contemporary Worship, a Director of Youth Ministry, a Director of Children and Family Ministry, a Preschool Director, and an office staff. The adult choir consists of approximately 10-15 talented members with special servant hearts for sharing their musical gifts. Midweek Children's Choir is approximately 30 children per grade level. Sanctuary worship is served by a MDS-26 Allen Digital Electronic Organ and a Kohler-Campbell baby grand piano (both located in Sanctuary balcony) and a Yamaha Clavinova located in the Sanctuary and in the Ministry Activities Center. Good Shepherd has a set of Shulmerich hand chimes and bells. An annual budget of \$500 is allowed for music resources. Good Shepherd has an extensive choral music library.

Deadline

Applications will be accepted through July 31, 2018. We hope to have the position filled by September 1, 2018. If applying, please provide a resume, 3 letters of reference including one from clergy, and a cover letter explaining why you are interested and why you would be a good fit for this position. Applications should be sent to:

Choir Director Position
C/O Rev. Gary Werling, Senior Pastor
Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
Box 39
Gretna, NE 68028
Or gary.werling@gslcgretna.org

