

Lehigh Valley Chapter

American Guild of Organists

February 2025

www.lvago.org



Chapter Officers 2024-2025

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610-730-0328

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Robert Riday (2025)

Michael Fister (2025)

Marisa Deshler (2026)

Jeffrey Raub (2026)

Charles Glandorf (2027)

Gary Raish (2027)

Dean's Article

Dear Colleagues,

We affirm that the Christian Church consists of many people with diverse gifts and talents, yet one in ministry. Our various committees and church councils do the lion's share of keeping everything running smoothly. But did you ever stop to think about the partnership that can potentially make or break a congregation? You guessed it - the pastor and the church musician. Most congregations have only one pastor and one musician. Their ability to work together, to serve as pastoral support to each other, to balance each other's strengths and weaknesses, are absolutely essential for inspiring worship services and faithful ministry. I once received a surprising compliment from a parishioner, who said to me, "You have helped our pastor become a better pastor." Upon reflection, I replied, "Well, our pastor has helped me to become a more pastoral musician." And isn't that the ideal circumstance - mutual respect and support that makes the whole better than the two parts? Sadly, this isn't always the case - often relationships need deliberate nurturing. To help enrich that partnership, your officers and board are bringing back the tradition of an Organist/Clergy Dinner and Speaker for May 18. Our chapter is underwriting the costs of a delicious catered meal, and a presentation from a well-known theologian, writer and speaker, Dr. Karyn Wiseman (only \$25 per person). You can treat your pastor to a delightful evening that combines food and fellowship with valuable ministry insights. Dr. Wiseman will address the challenges faced by clergy and musicians with wisdom and humor. Now is the time to invite your pastor, before the Lenten "crazies" begin! If you're not sure what to say, how about something such as this:

"Pastor _____, in appreciation for all the support you give this church's music ministry, I would like to treat you to an Organist/Clergy Dinner on Sunday, May 18, at the Carriage House in Hellertown, sponsored by the Lehigh Valley Chapter of the American Guild of Organists. Hors d'oeuvres will be served at 4:30 p.m. with dinner at 5:00 p.m. I think we would both enjoy the guest speaker, Dr. Karyn Wiseman, a visionary

(Continued on next page)

author and educator, who has led numerous classes and workshops across the country on revitalizing worship, and reaching new generations through media. She is a wise and witty speaker. Would you please save the date?"

Feel free to share all or any of the above in your invitation!

See you at our exciting choral workshop with composer Mark Miller on February 22!

Blessings, Susan

JOIN US FOR THESE UPCOMING LVAGO EVENTS IN 2025!

February

A Day with Mark Miller

Saturday, February 22, 2025

10 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Christ Lutheran Church, 1245 Hamilton Street,
Allentown, PA 18102

If you are familiar with Mark Miller's music, you know what a treat it will be to spend a day with him on Saturday, February 22, at Christ Lutheran Church in Allentown. Well-known as a composer, conductor, and organist, Mark has a passion for creating music based on themes of social justice. The day will include learning some of his many anthems, enjoying lunch and fellowship, and concluding the day with a concert at 2:00 p.m. Cost for the entire day is \$25 (including lunch), but the afternoon program is open to anyone who wishes to come and hear his music. Please see detailed information in the registration form included in this newsletter. Plan to attend, invite your choir members, and share this information with other colleagues!

March

J.S. Bach Celebration with Shelly Moorman-Stahlman, organist.

Sunday, March 23, 2025

Time TBA.

St. John's Lutheran Church, Allentown, PA 18102

Shelly Moorman-Stahlman, organ professor at Lebanon Valley College, will present a recital of some of Bach's organ works, along with commentary. Come and celebrate Bach's 340th birthday!

April

No LVAGO Event

May

Organist/Clergy Dinner

Sunday, May 18, 2025

Carriage House, Hellertown

Invite your pastor to hear our guest speaker, the Rev. Dr. Karyn Wiseman from United Lutheran Seminary in Philadelphia and to enjoy fellowship and a delicious meal. Our annual meeting and installation of officers will follow the program. (See Dean's letter for invitation ideas.)

SATORI CONCERT

Music in Moravian America
Sunday, March 23, 2:00 p.m.
College Hill Moravian Church
72 W. Laurel St., Bethlehem

Come enjoy the lovely sounds of Satori's Two-Part Invention (Nora Suggs, flute, and John Arnold, guitar) as they perform music from the early Moravian tradition in the New World. Playing compositions from the Moravian Music Foundation collection, this promises to be a delightful and educational afternoon.

Tickets: \$10 at the door.
Your donation will help support College Hill's Organ Renewal Project.
For further information, visit
satori-chambermusic.org
or collegehillmoravian.org

Positions Available

Music Director/Organist(1)

Church: Wesley United Methodist Church,
130 W. Third St., Bloomsburg, PA 17815

Website: <https://wesleybloom.com>

Contact: Rev. Mark Reisinger, 570-784-1407,
mreisinger@susumc.org

Weekly services: 1

Ensembles: Adult Choir - 20 members

Instruments: Moeller pipe, 3 manuals, @20
ranks of pipes

Music budget: \$1500

Weekly attendance: 100

Position fill date: ASAP

Deadline: April 1, 2025

Total hours per week: 3.6 (1 playing services,
1 leading rehearsal, 0.5 planning for rehearsals,
.10 completing administrative or custodial duties,
0.5 practicing service music)

Salary: \$26000-\$28,000

Weeks vacation: 1

Benefits: Sick leave

Notes: Wesley United Methodist Church, Bloomsburg, PA, is currently welcoming applicants for Director(s) of Music Ministry. Candidates need to display a love for God and for worshipping through music. The successful candidate(s) must possess high proficiency on organ or piano, with capabilities in both strongly preferred. Additionally, the candidate we seek will have the ability to direct the adult vocal choir. Responsibilities will include planning and coordinating music choices and practices for weekly Sunday worship service(s), special events (including funerals, weddings, etc.), and special worship services throughout the year. Both traditional and contemporary praise music is encouraged! Opportunities also exist for leading small ensembles, handbell choir, children's choir, and individual performances. These responsibilities could be divided among multiple candidates depending on interest and qualifications. Pay structure will be commensurate with experience and final job scope. Please send your resume and three references to the attention of: Rev. Mark Reisinger, Wesley United Methodist Church, 130 West 3rd Street, Bloomsburg, PA 17815, or e-mail at: mreisinger@susumc.org.

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
Alan Birney	Sun-Sat	610 653-8097
Ellen Erb	Mon-Sat	570 350-0343
Charles Glandorf	Mon-Sat	610 416-1055
Eric Gombert	Mon-Sat	610 435-1641
Gail Hanzl	Mon-Sat	610 264-5859
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	Sun-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
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

(March issue) Thursday, February 20, 2025



A DAY WITH MARK MILLER

*Sponsored by the Lehigh Valley Chapter of the
American Guild of Organists*



Saturday, February 22, 2025
10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Registration at 9:30 a.m.

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH
1245 Hamilton Street
Allentown, PA

*Come to learn and be inspired by the
music of composer Mark Miller*

ABOUT MARK MILLER

Mark A. Miller has a passion for building community through music and believes that everyone is a child of God. He adheres to Cornel West's belief that "Justice is what love looks like in public."

A graduate of Yale and Juilliard, Mark is Professor of Church Music and Composer-in-Residence at Drew University. He is also a Lecturer in Sacred Music at Yale University's Institute of Sacred Music and Divinity School, and Minister of Music of Christ Church in Summit, New Jersey. Previously, he provided musical leadership for Marble Collegiate Church and The Riverside Church (both in New York City).

His sacred music is widely published and sung by communities of faith around the world. His newest album, *Revolution of the Heart*, is available on iTunes. His popular organ works are published with Morningstar and GIA. Mark has led choirs and performed in Sweden, South Africa, Austria, Russia, and the Baltic states. He spends part of the year traveling around the United States (often with his band, Subject to Change), lecturing, preaching, and presenting concerts focused on creating community and advocating for social justice for all people, especially the LGBTQIA+ community. His music has been called the soundtrack for a new generation to express and celebrate hospitality, equity, and justice.

Mark resides in Plainfield, New Jersey, with his husband, Michael Murden. They have two adult children, Alyse and Keith, and a cat named Harriett.

(See details on next page)

SCHEDULE FOR THE DAY

- 9:30 a.m. Registration
- 10:00 a.m. Introduction to and rehearsal of anthems & songs by Mark Miller
- 12: 30 p.m. Lunch
- 2:00 p.m. Concluding concert program (open to the public)

PARKING is available in the lot on Hamilton Street, across the street from the church.

ANTHEMS by Mark Miller will be utilized during the workshop and will be available for purchase after the workshop. Cash, check, or Venmo may be used to purchase the anthems.

COST is \$25, includes lunch. Payment by check or cash.

REGISTER BY MONDAY, FEBRUARY 17. If payment is made in advance, please include a check and mail the registration form below. Or you may register by email and make payment on the day of the event. Checks should be made payable to Lehigh Valley Chapter of the American Guild of Organists.

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REGISTRATION FOR "A DAY WITH MARK MILLER"

Name _____

E-mail _____

Phone _____

Return with \$25 payment to Linda Maule, 417 Stones Crossing Road, Easton, PA 18045. Or register by e-mail to maule@ptd.net and make payment at the door. Checks to be made payable to Lehigh Valley Chapter of the American Guild of Organists. Registration must be made by 2/17.