

Lehigh Valley Chapter

# American Guild of Organists

January 2025

[www.lvago.org](http://www.lvago.org)



## Chapter Officers 2024-2025

Dean: Susan Frickert  
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Treasurer: Stephen Bueker  
610-657-4188  
[sfbueker@rcn.com](mailto:sfbueker@rcn.com)

### Executive Committee

Robert Riday (2025)

Michael Fister (2025)

Marisa Deshler (2026)

Jeffrey Raub (2026)

Charles Glandorf (2027)

Gary Raish (2027)

## January Event

### January Jump-Start

Saturday, January 25, 2025  
9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church  
625 Montgomery Ave., Bryn Mawr, PA 19010

## Dean's Article

How many times would you estimate you have played "Silent Night" in your capacity as a church organist? Most of the churches I've served have had three, and in some cases, four services each Christmas Eve, so multiplying that by sixty years (time flies when you're having fun!), conservatively I've played that hymn well over 200 times. Being in a vocation that too often makes us feel overworked, unappreciated and underpaid, the average person would think it must be deadly boring to have to play the same hymns over and over again. And yet as I play "Silent Night" I love to watch the faces of children (and even adults) light up when the candlelight slowly illuminates the darkness as the singing gently begins. It's pure magic. As I play the familiar verses, I think to myself: someone is experiencing the beauty of this moment for the first time in their life, someone is experiencing this for the last time in their life, someone is singing this hymn for the first time with someone they love, someone is singing this for the first time after they've lost someone they love. And so that hymn transforms into a vessel of comfort and of hope, as does every hymn in our rich Christian heritage of hymns and spiritual songs. We are beginning a brand new year, facing an unknown future that is frightening on so many levels. And yet in every worship service we organists serve as musical messengers of God's unfailing love and strength. Let us continue to freshly inspire congregational singing by the spirit with which we play the peoples' songs. May God richly bless you as you lead your congregation in worship in 2025!

## JOIN US FOR THESE UPCOMING LVAGO EVENTS IN 2025!

### January

#### January JumpStart

Saturday, January 25, 2025, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

at Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church  
625 Montgomery Ave., Bryn Mawr, PA 19010

Be inspired and rejuvenated by an all-day event of outstanding workshops, discussions, and masterclasses. Rollo Dilworth shares warmup activities for choirs, Jeffrey Brillhart showcases techniques on adapting piano accompaniments for the organ, David Storey discusses how to make minor repairs on the pipe organ, Maxine Thévenot leads a choral reading session for Eastertide, and organist Renée Anne Louprette concludes the day with a recital.

Cost of the event is \$55.00 for AGO members and includes lunch. Registration must be made on-line at <https://pcagoo.wildapricot.org/event-5878865>. Our LVAGO Chapter will arrange carpooling for those who wish to attend. If you're interested in sharing a ride, contact Board member Jeffrey Raub at [raubjeffrey@gmail.com](mailto:raubjeffrey@gmail.com) or 484-541-8322, no later than Wednesday, 1/22.

### 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

Well-known as a composer, conductor, and organist, Mark Miller has a passion for creating music based on themes of social justice. Plan to attend his workshop in the morning starting at 10 a.m. and afternoon concert, with lunch in between. Watch for more details in the February newsletter, but in the meantime, save the date and invite others to join you!

### 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.

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Free choral music – 100s. Newer blended and contemporary adult and childrens' choir musicals, song books, cantatas with CDs (mostly Lillenas), hymnals, supplements with accompaniment editions, filing cabinets, a few organ/piano pieces, etc. Available for Churches and schools.

Michael C. Huffman

The Terrace at Phoebe – Allentown

1940 W. Turner St., Apt. 3051

Allentown, PA 18104

610-794-6056

[Christianmch3@gmail.com](mailto:Christianmch3@gmail.com)

*Happy New Year*

## Positions Available

### Organist(2)

**Church:** Annunciation BVM Church, 122 Union St., Catasauqua, PA 18032

**Website:** [www.Annunciationbvm.net](http://www.Annunciationbvm.net)

**Contact:** Rev. Eric Tolentino, 610-264-0332, Kim.stmarys122@gmail.com

**Weekly services:** 3

**Ensembles:** 8-10 Adult Choir Members

**Instruments:** Diane Bish Model Organ, Piano

**Music budget:** \$300

**Weekly attendance:** 125

**Position fill date:** ASAP

**Deadline:** Open

**Total hours per week:** 5 (3 playing services, 1 leading rehearsal, 1 planning for rehearsals)

**Salary:** \$15000-\$17,000

**Weeks vacation:** None

**Benefits:** secretarial assistance, unemployment

**Notes:** Due to the nature and mission of the Catholic Church, all employees are bound to exhibit respect for the teachings and discipline of the Church regarding matters of faith and morals. Knowledge of liturgical practices, worship and special functions of the Catholic Church. A good knowledge of repertoire available for liturgical music programs for both organ and congregation. A high degree of proficiency in the use of the organ as well as piano. An enthusiastic willingness to work with other people, good communication skills.

### Organist(2)

**Church:** Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church, 3355 MacArthur Road, Whitehall, PA 18052

**Website:** [www.faithon145.org](http://www.faithon145.org)

**Contact:** Claudette Nia, 610-435-0452, claudette@faithon145.org

**Weekly services:** 1

**Ensembles:** 10-12 Adult Choir Members; Handbells only as needed to accompany

**Instruments:** New electronic Allen Symphonic III Organ, 3 manual

**Music budget:** \$1250

**Weekly attendance:** 70-90

**Position fill date:** Immediately

**Deadline:** ASAP

**Total hours per week:** 7 (2 playing services, 2 planning for rehearsals, 1 in meetings, 1-2 practicing)

**Salary:** \$10,000-\$12000

**Weeks vacation:** None

**Benefits:** secretarial assistance

**Notes:** Organist is only responsible for accompanying the choir and playing on Sunday

## 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](mailto: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
Michael Huffman	Sun-Sat	610 794-6056
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](mailto:martasgig@gmail.com)

### Placement Service

Please visit the Placement page on [www.lvago.org](http://www.lvago.org) for information and the Placement Service Information Sheet.

### Newsletter Deadline

(February issue) Thursday, January 16, 2024