

Lehigh Valley Chapter

American Guild of Organists

May 2025

www.lvago.org



Chapter Officers 2024-2025

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Treasurer: Stephen Bueker
610-657-4188
sfbueker@rcn.com

Executive Committee

Robert Riday (2025)

Michael Fister (2025)

Marisa Deshler (2026)

Jeffrey Raub (2026)

Charles Glandorf (2027)

Gary Raish (2027)

Dean's Article

Dear Colleagues,

Do you remain receptive to the unexpected small blessings in your music ministry? I'd like to share a recent true story with you. I always create a rather detailed lesson plan for each Junior Choir rehearsal, even including a variety of fun activities as the children straggle in before we start. Of course those plans are tempered with the understanding that I may have to totally change them as things progress (or deteriorate!) Our rehearsal just before Palm Sunday this year took the prize for the most chaotic I've ever had in my three years with these children. First, a singer who had missed more rehearsals than she had attended due to soccer practice entered the choir room proclaiming "I need to leave in a half hour." A brother and sister ran in ten minutes late announcing "We have to leave ten minutes early today." I'm guessing it must have been a full moon, because all the children seemed unfocused no matter what I tried. When rehearsal was finally over, they all stampered wildly from the choir room, except for six year old Barrett, who was still at his chair struggling with his hoodie zipper. Barrett has been in Junior Choir since he was barely four years old, and only this year has he actually started talking to me and singing. I walked over to him and asked, "Do you need some help, Barrett?" He replied, "No, I'm always last because I have a little trouble getting this. But it's a good thing - I get to stay here longer, and this is my favorite place." Wow! All I could stammer was, "Well, I love having you here, Barrett." Almost lost it! So, friends never think that the things you teach in choir aren't being appreciated and absorbed by even your tiniest singers. *And keep your heart open for those unexpected small blessings - they're all around us!*

See you at the Organist Clergy Dinner!



UPCOMING LVAGO EVENTS

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.

(Information and registration on last 2 pages)

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

ORGAN CONCERT



MARK PACOE

ORGANIST & ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR OF MUSIC AT
 ST. PATRICK'S CATHEDRAL, NEW YORK CITY

Mr. Pacoe will perform a varied program of classical organ literature from the Baroque to the present day.

May 2, 2025 at 7:00PM

THE PARISH OF ST. JOHN XXIII 307 PINE STREET | TAMAQUA, PA 18252
 570-225-7410 SJ23TAMAQUA.ORG

Charcuterie, wine, cake, and coffee reception in the Parish Hall immediately following the concert

DOORS OPEN AT 6:00PM \$15 PER TICKET

TICKETS AVAILABLE AT THE DOOR OR IN ADVANCE AT
 THE PARISH OFFICE DURING NORMAL BUSINESS HOURS

We are honored to have Mr. Pacoe play the 50-rank Walker organ at St. John XXIII, Tamaqua. Since the organ is in the rear gallery, a live feed will be viewed on the screens in front of the church so that everyone will be able to watch Mr. Pacoe in action!

The Bach & Handel CHORALE

40th Anniversary Spring Concert
 Saturday June 7 at 2 pm.
 St. Joseph Catholic Church
 526 North St., Jim Thorpe.

This concert features works of Bach and Handel with accompaniment by The Festival Orchestra with Maestro Perry Conducting.

Tickets are \$25.00 (\$20 for Seniors and Students).
 Tickets will be available at the door.

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

(June issue) Thursday, May 22, 2025

~ *Better Together* ~

Featuring guest speaker

Rev. Dr. Karyn Wiseman

ORGANIST and CLERGY

BANQUET & ANNUAL MEETING

Sunday, May 18, 4:30 p.m.

The Carriage House at Heintzelman's

326 Main Street (rear), Hellertown, PA 18055

Please invite clergy friends and colleagues for an evening of socializing with AGO friends and clergy, a delicious meal served by Brooklyn's Catering, our annual meeting and election of officers, culminating with Rev. Wiseman's stimulating words about collaboration among and between church musicians and clergy.

Dinner Menu

Hors d'oeuvres & Wine

Tossed Green Salad

Chicken Française

Signature Roast Beef

Penne Alla Vodka

Roasted Redskin Potatoes

Vegetable

Assorted Desserts

Water, Soda, Iced Tea, Hot Coffee & Tea

Cost is \$25 per person for chapter members and guests.

Reservation for LVAGO Annual Banquet and Meeting, May 18, 4:30 PM

Name(s) _____

of persons attending _____ Amount enclosed _____

Please send a check for \$25 (per person) payable to: "Lehigh Valley Chapter of the American Guild of Organists" and mail to Gary Raish, 110 Meadow Run Lane, Stroudsburg, PA 18360 by **Saturday, May 3**. (garyraish@hotmail.com or 570-460-3816 with any questions)

REV. DR. KARYN WISEMAN

The Rev. Dr. Karyn L. Wiseman is an ordained pastor in the United Church of Christ. She is the Stuempfle-Folkemer Professor of Homiletics at United Lutheran Seminary, where she teaches on both the Philadelphia and Gettysburg campuses. Preaching is her main teaching focus, but she also teaches several Queer Studies courses. Karyn has taught seminary courses for 19 years. She grew up in Texas and received her MDiv at Saint Paul School of Theology in Kansas City.

Karyn also has 20+ years experience pastoring churches in Kansas, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania. She has a Ph.D. in Liturgical Studies/Preaching from Drew University. Her first book, *I Refuse to Preach a Boring Sermon: Engaging 21st Century Listeners*, was published by Chalice Press. Her newest book, just published by Cascade Books, is *Queering the Pulpit: A Sexegetical Approach to Preaching an Inclusive Word*. She is currently working on her next book, *Delivery Matters*.

She is married to Cindy Clawson, a social worker in Philadelphia and has a son, Shelby, who lives in Pittsburgh. Karyn loves action movies, social media, Broadway musicals and plays, New York Yankees baseball, and the Dallas Cowboys.