

Lehigh Valley Chapter

American Guild of Organists

June/July 2026

www.lvago.org



Chapter Officers 2026-2027

Dean: Jeffrey Raub
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Sub Dean: Michael Fister
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Secretary: Janice Butz
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Treasurer: Stephen Bueker
610-657-4188
sfbueker@rcn.com

Executive Committee

Charles Glandorf (2027)
Gary Raish (2027)
Robert Riday (2028)
Gwyneth Michel (2028)
Ellen Erb (2029)
Marisa Deshler (2029)

Notes from the Dean

Dear colleagues,

I am so excited to be your new dean! I'll start with a little about myself. I am an Easton native, growing up on a farm in Palmer Township. I started with piano lessons at a young age, but after being introduced to Diane Bish by my older brother, I knew I wanted to play the organ. Growing up I would attend a little Lutheran church in Phillipsburg, New Jersey with my grandparents. At that point, I had really fallen in love with the organ and church music. In high school I started taking organ lessons with our former sub-dean, current secretary, Janice Butz. In the 11th grade I started playing for a little Lutheran church, from there I've served in the Moravian and Anglican churches and currently serve as Director of Liturgy and Music at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church in Bethlehem. In high school, I played tuba in the marching band, sang bass in the choir, and played bassoon in the wind ensemble and symphony orchestra. I had also attended Lutheran Summer Music (LSM) for 3 summers. I attended Moravian University studying organ with Dr. Bryan Holten, then Stephen Williams, and finally with Dr. Barbara Thomson. Although I did not finish my degree at Moravian, I will be starting at Thomas Edison State University in July to complete the rest of the non-music courses I need to complete my degree. As we begin this new journey together, I look forward to getting to know all of you in the coming year!

Jeffrey



A GRAND CELEBRATION

What a glorious ending to our program year as chapter members came to hear Luke DiGi-acinto perform on the organ at Christ Lutheran Church in Allentown on Sunday afternoon, May 31. We were delighted that Luke, one of our own members, was able to be our Young Artist recitalist. The program included chorale preludes by J.S. Bach, a Rheinberger Organ Sonata, as well as works by Georg Leyding, Paul Manz, Horatio Parker, and Camille Saint-Saëns. And, of course, the audience was dazzled by Luke's skilled pedal work as he played William Albright's Jig for the Feet. At one time Luke served on the board of our Lehigh Valley Chapter and was the education coordinator, organizing the Pedals, Pipes, and Pizza events that introduced young people to the organ. He is finishing his Masters degree in organ performance from the Peabody Institute of Johns Hopkins.



Following the recital, we enjoyed a delicious catered dinner, so beautifully prepared for us by Christopher Lutz-Long. Susan Frickert, retiring Dean,

conducted the brief business meeting that included the election of new officers for the coming year. Michael Krentz installed the newly elected chapter board: Jeffrey Raub, Dean; Michael Fister, Sub-dean; Janice Butz, Secretary; Steve Bueker, Treasurer; and Board Members Charles Glandorf and Gary Raish (2027); Bob Riday and Gwyn Michel (2028); and Marisa Deshler and Ellen Erb (2029).



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Special thanks to Board members Susan Frickert, dean, and Linda Maule, secretary, for their faithful and dedicated service to our Board during the past two years.

Many of our members enjoyed conversation and fellowship during the meal, and we were especially thrilled to see Gloria Snyder, who for many years served on our chapter board and most recently spearheaded the POE+ in 2022. Special thanks to Christ Lutheran Church for graciously opening their doors to us, and to Michael Krentz and Drew Lutz-Long, host musicians.



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
Ellen Erb	Mon-Sat	570 350-0343
Charles Glandorf	Mon-Sat	610 416-1055
Eric Gombert	Mon-Sat	610 435-1641
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	Mon-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	Mon-Sat	484 541-8322
Sally Reeser	Sun-Sat	610 730-6357
Michael Seroka	Mon-Sat	570 516-7207
Barbara Thomson	Sun-Sat	908 591-4499
Bruce Tonkin	Sun-Sat	610 220-5457
Dennis Varley	Sun-Sat	610 739-3567
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

(September issue) Monday, August 24, 2026

Positions Available

Church Musician (2)

Church: First Presbyterian Church of Easton, PA, 333 Spring Garden Street, Easton, 18042

Website: www.eastonfpc.org

Contact: Jonathan Acheson, Office Administrator, office@eastonfpc.org; Susan Charlton, Search Committee Chair, 610-393-0179, char4susan@rcn.com

Weekly services: 1

Ensembles: Adult choir - 12 members, Adult Handbells - 8 members

Music Budget: \$5000

Instruments: Three-manual Allen electronic

Weekly attendance: 35

Position Fill Date: 6/30/26

Total hours per week: 6, 8 if directing handbells (1 playing services; 1 accompanying choir/occasional other musicians, 2 if handbells also; 1 only if leading handbells; .5 in meetings; .5 completing administrative/custodial duties; 3 practicing)

Salary: starting at \$15,000, 4 weeks paid vacation

Notes: First Presbyterian Church in historic Easton, PA, seeks a versatile church musician with strong organ and piano skills in a variety of genres to join our congregation as we embark on a new chapter of our church history serving our neighbors locally and globally. Candidates for this position can expect to play service music for one weekly worship service, as well as special services throughout the year; accompany the adult choir in rehearsal and during worship, as well as periodically accompanying vocal and instrumental soloists and small ensembles; and possibly direct the handbell choir.

Organist (1)

Church: All Saints Episcopal Church, 310 North 2nd St., PO Box 147, Lehigh, PA 18235

Website: www.allsaintslehigh.org

Contact: Father Charlie Barebo, charliebarebo@otterbine.com, 610-509-8767

Weekly services: 1

Music Budget: \$200

Instruments: Pipe Organ, Piano

Weekly attendance: 35-45

Position Fill Date: 6/21/26

Application Deadline: ASAP

Total hours per week: 3 (1.5 playing services;

1-2 practicing music, less than 1 additional responsibility to congregation)

Salary: starting at \$156.32/week gross, 4 Sundays off per year, \$100 per wedding/funeral service

Benefits: book/music allowance, secretarial assistance, music library assistance, sick leave

Notes: We are searching for a musician who will stay within the suggestions of the Episcopal Musician's Handbook and will pick hymns that support the liturgical season/scripture of the day, and will be within the ability levels by the congregation to sing. The congregation loves music and singing hymns. Music is an integral part of the Episcopal service. We are a warm, welcoming and loving congregation.

Organist/Choirmaster (1)

Church: Church of Saint Luke (Roman Catholic), 818 Main St., Stroudsburg, PA 18360

Website: www.churchofsaintluke.org

Contact: Rev. Michael Quinnan, 570-421-9097, pastor@churchofsaintluke.org

Weekly services: 3 (Saturday at 4:00 and Sunday at 8:00 & 10:30)

Ensembles: Adult choir - 12 members, Youth Choir - 6 members, cantor rehearsals

Music Budget: negotiable

Instruments: electronic organ (relatively new and grand piano)

Weekly attendance: 200-500

Position Fill Date: 9/1/26

Application Deadline: 7/30/26

Total hours per week: 40 (8 leading rehearsals, 7 preparing/planning for rehearsals, 4 meetings, 3 administrative duties, 4 practicing, 4 additional responsibility to congregation)

Salary: \$45,000-50,000, Accrued PTO

Benefits: health insurance, book/music allowance, unemployment

Notes: Organist/Choirmaster is responsible for planning weekly music, choir practices, cantor practice, leading music in special prayer services during liturgical year. The person in this position collaborates closely with the Pastor to enhance worship, foster congregational singing and develop/maintain a vibrant choral program. Needs to have familiarity with Catholic Mass music and responses.