

# THE WINDCHEST

OMAHA CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN GUILD OF ORGANISTS



APRIL 2020

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## FROM THE DEAN

Challenges? Challenges for those who serve as directors of music, organists and choral directors for those worshipping in parish, cathedral or synagogue environments during the Season of Lent as Holy Week and the Festival of Easter are approaching? Yes, these challenges are at hand, increased significantly with the presence of the global coronavirus known as COVID-19.

Wisdom needed? Another yes! The government has wisely directed that all citizens of the USA stay at home as much as possible. Moreover, the government has directed that no more than 10 people gather for meetings or fellowship, thus lessening the spreading of the contagious disease. While it is perfectly appropriate for 10 (or fewer) to participate as a group in corporate worship, most churches, cathedrals and synagogues have attendance much larger than 10 people. How is this challenge addressed? How does any group meet the needs for corporate worship that includes more than ten worshippers? Allow the writer of this column to offer a solution that is working well for the church which the writer serves as organist and director of music.

Some information regarding the church is appropriate. St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church, LC-MS, located in Council Bluffs, is a growing congregation with an average attendance of more than 200. Served by two ordained pastors, (both of whom are highly trained liturgical musicians,) support and encourage fully chanted liturgical worship, including the leadership of a choral choir, Kantor or Kantorei.

Now to the question: How does St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Council Bluffs, currently conduct a fully chanted service with Communion offered every Sunday as well as Lenten Mid-week Vespers with the entire congregation participating all "together" at the same time? Listed are the steps:

1. Hymns, Introit and Gradual are offered to Director of Music, Organist weeks ahead of date;
2. Dates and time of Wednesday evening and Sunday services announced to congregation;

## MISSION

The mission of the American Guild of Organists is to enrich lives through organ and choral music.

To achieve this, we:

- Encourage excellence in the performance of organ and choral music;
- Inspire, educate, and offer certification for organists and choral conductors;
- Provide networking, fellowship, and mutual support;
- Nurture future generations of organists;
- Promote the organ in its historic and evolving roles; and
- Engage wider audiences with organ and choral music.

3. Congregation informed that services will be broadcast via Facebook, including time; and that each service will be conducted from the sanctuary of the church with the clergy and musicians fully vested;

4. Congregation is reminded that service folders will be sent to email addresses of members and friends to be downloaded for use during worship. The service folders include the hymns, texts of lessons, liturgy, Introit, Gradual, all responses—everything commonly published in the service folder and/or hymnal available during services in the sanctuary.

5. Each service is complete with an organ prelude, offering and postlude, also listed in the service folder;

6. Five minutes before the prelude is to begin, the senior pastor alerts membership via a “phone tree” the prelude will begin in five minutes.

7. Two members monitor the worship as it is sent live through Facebook as the service unfolds in the sanctuary and nave of the church;

8. The service is fully chanted by one of the pastors in addition to a Kantor or by a Kantorei –with a maximum of five singers;

9. NOTE: the Sacrament of the Altar (Communion) is not administered during these services. At that point in the liturgy, one of the pastors announces it is available by contacting either pastor at any time, or by contacting the church office to arrange for the sacrament administered by one of the pastors at any time.

Questions? St. Paul’s Associate Pastor is Rev. Timothy Frank, a member of Omaha AGO. Pastor Frank has offered to answer any questions regarding this article: Telephone: (712) 322-4729; or frank1685@yahoo.com.

Peace and good will. Psalm 96:1,2. Sincerely yours,

*Dr. J. Gordon Christensen, AGO*

Dean

## CATHEDRAL ARTS PROJECT

The Joseph Adam recital on Sunday, April 19, 2020 at 3:00 p.m. and the concert featuring Susanna Perry Gilmore and Dr. Marie Rubis Bauer on Sunday, May 3, 2020 at 3:00 p.m. have been canceled. We look forward to these programs being rescheduled next season.

# APRIL OMAHA AGO MEETING

The April meeting of the Omaha Chapter will be presented using Facebook. Those who do not have Facebook will be able to view the presentation from our website. An email will be sent with details. The presentation will be available before April 25<sup>th</sup>. Those who cannot view the presentation may request a printed copy of the material which will be mailed to those who request it.

## MERCY, MUSIC AND MINISTRY ARE INSEPARABLE

August 26, 2016

By Sister Claudette Schiratti

For me, mercy, music and ministry are inseparable.

I have been making music since I was five years old. I experience and view the world through the audio lens of music.

I have been a Sister of Mercy since I was 19. I resisted the call to Mercy, but have found great joy and received much mercy in the community of Mercy. I am in awe of the varied gifts possessed by each Sister of Mercy. Through the years, God and Catherine McAuley, founder of the Sisters of Mercy, have called a motley group of women together—and now men also as Mercy Associates—for service to the Church and the world through the Works of Mercy, using the variety of gifts of each person.

I am grateful for the call to Mercy which centers me and makes me aware of issues of peace and justice. Mercy calls me to have an attitude of mercy and do actions of mercy. It is a joy for me to develop, with an attitude of mercy, the musical abilities of people in parish and diocesan ministry; to develop skills through music lessons; and to relate music to life through interactions, relationships and performing.

I am grateful for the gift of music which offers a spiritual dimension to life, expressing what words cannot express; giving comfort, bringing joy and adding to a celebration; helping to express grief, calm or excitement; deepening a sense of the sacred and of the soul; taking people from left-brain thinking to right-brain intuiting.

I encourage each of you to know that there is music, a song, in your heart. There is creativity in your spirit. Find it. Express it. It might be expressed through music, visual arts, dancing, cooking, sewing or photography, or many other mediums.

Our world needs beauty. Music is one expression of it. This quote from Philippians (4: 8-9) applies to music and beauty for me: "Fill your minds with everything that is true, everything that is noble, everything that is good and pure, everything that we love and honor, and everything that can be thought virtuous or worthy of praise."

## CHURCH MUSIC CONFERENCE

Back by popular demand, St. John Lutheran Church and Concordia University in Seward are partnering to host a three-day church music conference from July 7-9, 2020. Registration and meals are **FREE!** Low-cost lodging will be available in air-conditioned university dorms, or in local motels. Concordia music faculty and St. John music staff are donating their time as presenters. Stay tuned for more information!

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Music is a powerful tool for good. It helps the brain to organize, focus, make meaning and express beauty. It requires discipline to practice.

Mercy is also a powerful tool for good. It focuses the heart on compassion and action.

Together mercy and music are able to create harmony and bring hope to our chaotic world.

“There is a reason you glance up when you first hear a melody or tap your foot to the sound of a drum. All humans are musical. Why else would the Lord give you a beating heart?” –The Magic Strings of Frankie Presto, by Mitch Albom

## OPEN POSITIONS LISTED ON OMAHA AGO WEBSITE

Please visit the Omaha AGO website [www.omahaago.org/open-positions](http://www.omahaago.org/open-positions) for details regarding the following open positions in the area.

**Ralston United Church of Christ - Organist**  
7638 Maywood Street, Ralston, NE 68127  
[lynettejanssen@cox.net](mailto:lynettejanssen@cox.net)

**Pacific Hills Lutheran Church - Director of Music (Organist, Choir Director)**  
1110 South 90th Street, Omaha, NE 68124  
[www.pacifichillslutheran.org](http://www.pacifichillslutheran.org)  
Dennis Grindle, Consultant/Spokesman-Search Committee  
Telephone: 402-690-1103 Email: [dgrindle@seimjohnson.com](mailto:dgrindle@seimjohnson.com)

**Our Savior's Lutheran Church - Director of Worship, Music and Arts**  
1200 S 40th St, Lincoln, NE 68510  
(402) 483-4126

**Trinity Lutheran Church - Minister of Music**  
Mason City, Iowa  
Pastor Gerrietts at Trinity Lutheran Church, 213 North Pennsylvania,  
Mason City, IA

**St. Paul Lutheran Church, ELCA - Organist**  
Treyvor, Iowa  
Contact Pastor Meyer at (402) 800-7531 or [cmeyerspl@gmail.com](mailto:cmeyerspl@gmail.com)

## INSTRUMENT NEEDED FOR A STUDENT

A student of an Omaha Chapter member would benefit greatly having a practice instrument at home. A good, used, Rodgers, Allen, or comparable instrument would be greatly appreciated to assist in this student's formation.

Please contact Dr. Marie Rubis Baur at [mrbomaha@aol.com](mailto:mrbomaha@aol.com) or 402-598-2575

## SING YOUR FAITH REFRESH YOUR SPIRIT

What a joy it was to welcome you to our first ever Sing Your Faith...Refresh Your Spirit Choral and Spiritual Retreat at First-Plymouth Church last summer. The time together was blessed, and we are thankful for all you contributed to the music we made, the worship we offered, and the spirit we experienced.

We are grateful for this opportunity now to welcome you to this summer's retreat. We hope you might be willing, also, to invite colleagues and friends who you think might enjoy being here with us. Attached is a postcard that can be passed along, and details about this summer's clinicians, the retreat schedule, and registration can be found at this link: [www.firstplymouth.org/singyourfaith](http://www.firstplymouth.org/singyourfaith) We are most willing to offer partial or full scholarships to anyone who may express a need-- no questions asked.



## VAN DAALEN PIPE ORGAN FOR SALE

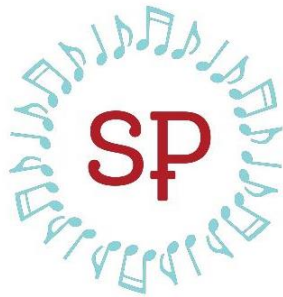
Angel Share, Inc., the non-profit corporation that owns the Dana College campus, buildings, and contents, desires to sell the Van Daalen pipe organ. The organ is listed here: <https://pipeorgandatabase.org/OrganDetails.php?OrganID=4536>

The instrument is still in the chapel and has been recently played by Mark Miller of the Bedient Organ Company in Lincoln. It is in good shape and reasonably well in tune after sitting dormant for 10 years. Anyone interested may contact Bill Hall at (402) 575-8220 (cell) or [bill.hall@christlutheranblair.org](mailto:bill.hall@christlutheranblair.org).

# TRINITY EPISCOPAL CATHEDRAL

All public worship in the Episcopal Diocese of Nebraska has been suspended through May 10, 2020, including the Compline liturgies. A recorded Compline liturgy may be found at <http://trinityepiscopal.org/compline>. Information on live stream worship at Trinity Episcopal Cathedral may be found here: <http://trinityepiscopal.org/health>.

## ST. PAUL'S MUSIC CONSERVATORY



### St. Paul's Music Conservatory

Where Music Serves



#### Teaching:

SPMC has 12 faculty members who teach in professional studios within St. Paul's Lutheran Church.

#### Reaching:

SPMC teaches many students through the church and community that may not otherwise have an opportunity to take music lessons.



#### Serving:

SPMC deploys students into churches and institutions throughout the community in order to encourage youth toward service and to show mercy and kindness to others.



St. Paul's Music Conservatory is located at 239 Frank Street in Council Bluffs. SPMC serves students in Eastern Nebraska and Southwest Iowa with professional studio lessons in the areas of Voice, Piano, Guitar, Organ, Strings, Winds and Brass. Our faculty is eager to serve the unique needs and interests of their students. For more information call:

712-322-8832 or email [pastorfrank239@gmail.com](mailto:pastorfrank239@gmail.com)

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



**Darrow Pipe Organ**

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 claireason@gmail.com  
 956 Hwy 30  
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 (Home) 402-652-3366

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 Fax: 402-593-1104  
 Email:  
 gj1814@earthlink.com  
 keyboardkastle.com  
 www.allenorgan.com

**Church Organs of  
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