



## ST. LUKE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA

### **Job Description for Organist and Choirmaster**

We are seeking a dynamic musician and enthusiastic individual with extraordinary abilities in playing organ literature (including improvisation), leading congregational hymnody and service music, and choral conducting. The individual we seek is also able to exercise high levels of leadership, organization, graceful communication and work collaboratively with varied teams, including clergy. The Organist and Choirmaster will serve as contractor providing musical support for worship at one weekly Sunday service and holy days for St. Luke's Episcopal Church. The Organist and Choirmaster, as a contractor, may be asked to play at weddings and funerals and would be free to set the fee for these occasions in accordance with the guidelines of the American Guild of Organists, and as appropriate to local customs.

St. Luke's is an inclusive, historic parish in downtown Scranton with a rich history of musical excellence. We are a congregation that understands this importance of music as an integral part of our liturgy and worship. We value our affiliations with numerous musical and performing art organizations in Scranton including the Lyric Consort, Arcadia Chorale, and the Choral Society of Northeastern Pennsylvania. The pipe organ in St. Luke's is a 1964, 24 rank, 3-manual, M. P. Möller instrument (Op. 9916).

At St. Luke's we hope our music program and ministries will grow in new ways with the arrival of our new Organist and Choirmaster, while holding true to our Anglican and parish traditions. By further developing and growing our music ministries, we seek to support stronger connections within the church and more involvement with the broader community, through spreading the joy of music in worship, education, and outreach. With the anticipated growth of our music ministry, we hope in time to expand the position of the Organist and Choirmaster to a salaried position offering compensation that is competitive and in accord with AGO guidelines, commensurate with qualifications and experience, as well as benefits prescribed by The Episcopal Church.

If interested in applying for this position, please email the following to The Rev'd Rebecca A. Barnes, Priest-in-Charge ([mthrbarnes@gmail.com](mailto:mthrbarnes@gmail.com)):

- Résumé
- Three references

We will begin reviewing résumés and auditioning applicants on October 15, 2016.

For the audition applicants should be prepared to play:

- Two pieces of contrasting examples from literature for organ
- Three verses from two hymns of contrasting styles; including at least one verse of each reharmonized
- Provide a list of hymns and anthems you would suggest for one of the following feast days:
  - All Saint's
  - Christ the King
  - Christmas 11pm - The "ChristMass"

## **The Organist/Choirmaster Specifications**

### Choir Direction, Repertoire, and Organ Playing

- 1) Providing organ music (including improvised music) for the Sunday Sung Eucharist and Holy Days, including Christmas Eve services, Christmas Day, Feast of the Epiphany, Wednesday in Holy Week (Tenebrae Service), Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, The Great Vigil of Easter, Saint Luke's Day, October 18th (if observed outside of a Sunday service), and Thanksgiving Day. Music to be offered includes the playing of a prepared prelude and postlude; supporting hymnody, psalmody, and service music; accompanying and rehearsing anthems and service music with the professional singers and/or choir.
- 2) Select repertoire for the liturgical year in consultation with the Priest-in-Charge and in cooperation with professional singers and affiliated choral ensembles.
- 3) Oversee music for all special and occasional services including weddings, funerals, and public events, in consultation with the Priest-in-Charge and in cooperation with professional singers, affiliated choral ensembles, and/or guest artists.
- 4) Perform other musical duties, as assigned.

### Qualifications for the Organist and Choirmaster

- 1) Minimum of a university or conservatory degree in music and/or equivalent experience.
- 2) The Organist and Choirmaster ideally will be an expert musician who appreciates a broad spectrum of musical styles, is familiar with Episcopal Church liturgy, and is adept at employing music in support of the worship service.
- 3) Must be proficient in organ playing, including knowledge in registrations and ability to improvise or provide appropriate incidental music.
- 4) Must be knowledgeable in choral repertoire and have demonstrated experience in choral conducting and/or working with church choirs.
- 5) Must be proficient in sight-reading.
- 6) Organist and Choirmaster is one who views his/her role as a ministry that extends beyond the organ bench and rehearsal room, and understands that they are a vital component of the church's ministry and mission.

### Time requirements

- 1) Plays at least forty-eight (48) Sundays per year (and holy days as detailed above), with a time commitment of approximately 2 ½ hours each Sunday: one hour and fifteen minutes prior to service for rehearsal and prelude; one hour and fifteen minutes for the service.

- 2) Holy Days would entail a similar time requirement as the Sunday Sung Eucharist.
- 3) The Organist and Choirmaster, as a contractor, may be asked to play at weddings and funerals and would be free to set the fee for these occasions in accordance with the guidelines of the American Guild of Organists, and as appropriate to local customs.
- 4) Additional rehearsals may be scheduled and compensated for with prior consultation and consent of the Priest-in-Charge.

#### Compensation

The Organist and Choirmaster, as a contractor is paid by the service. Compensation is negotiable commensurate with experience.

#### Vacation/Time off

The Organist and Choirmaster may take four (4) Sundays off, with at least two weeks written notice given to the Priest-in-Charge, and arrangements made by the contract Organist and Choirmaster for a substitute organist to play and conduct choral music.

#### Accountability and Collaboration

- 1) The Organist and Choirmaster reports to the Priest-in-Charge. In accordance with Diocesan and Episcopal Church guidelines, the Organist and Choirmaster must comply with Safe Church requirements.
- 2) The Organist and Choirmaster may be requested to attend periodic meetings on music and liturgy with the Priest-in-Charge and other relevant parties.
- 3) The Organist and Choirmaster will work collaboratively and communicate effectively with parish staff, professional singers and/or choir members, and affiliated ensembles. The Organist and Choirmaster may be requested to communicate through announcements during worship time, when appropriate; and assist with offering a yearly summary of the music program in the church's annual report.
- 4) The Organist and Choirmaster may arrange with the Priest-in-Charge for rehearsal time in the church. They shall consult in advance with, and receive permission from, the Priest-in-Charge regarding any appearances, performances, concerts, lectures, or teaching commitments occurring on church property that are outside of specific responsibilities of the position as described above.