

Position Description for an Organist/Pianist Trinity Lutheran Church Stevens Point, Wisconsin

Purpose and Vision for Trinity Lutheran Church Worship and Music Program

Purpose

The music and arts ministry of a church exists for two primary reasons. The first is to bring out the voice and the engagement of the worshippers. The vocal and instrumental roles lead people in singing and help them find a voice for their own praise. The second purpose is to provide elements of praise and worship that are beyond the scope of what the worshiping members can provide. Some music and art requires rehearsal and more than average skill. The choirs and instrumentalists rehearse and perform so as to add engaging elements to services of worship. When the groups perform in worship, it is no “*mere performance*” which emphasizes the players’ and singers’ talents. It is godly performance that exists to draw people into an encounter with their Creator.

Vision

Like all elements of Trinity’s ministry, the music and arts program strives for excellence in serving God’s people in the Central Wisconsin region. In drawing upon the vast musical and artistic resources in the congregation, in this area, in our schools, and through the university, we are living into God’s call to flourish in the place where we are planted. We strive to nurture and sustain a distinguished program, not for reasons of congregational pride, but because we seek to draw upon the gifts and talents that God has placed abundantly within our reach. A distinguished program also engages the congregation and the community: it fosters bolder singing and spirited worship, it maintains creativity and interest, it draws in musicians and artists of all ages in the joyful activity of praising God, and it witnesses to the Gospel in ways that amplify within, and expand beyond the walls of the congregation.

Organist/Pianist Position Description

Trinity Lutheran Church seeks to hire an organist/pianist who will lead congregational song, accompany the choirs and worship band, and support the worship services each week with appropriate musical offerings. We seek a musician who plays at the distinguished level, but consideration will be given to those who are proficient. Ability to play piano in addition to organ is preferred.

Reports to the Minister of Worship and the Arts

Schedule: This is a year around commitment, salaried at 15 hours per week. This person will play for all Sunday services, plus mid-week services such as those for Ash Wednesday, Lent, Holy Week, Thanksgiving eve, Christmas, and summer services.

Key Responsibilities

- Meet with Sr. Pastor and the Minister of Worship and the Arts weekly to coordinate in planning, preparing, and playing music appropriate to each service of worship
- Select, with input from Sr. Pastor and the Minister of Worship and the Arts, preludes, postludes, offertories, and other service music

- Lead and lift up the congregation's song in worship
- Demonstrate a high level of competence on the organ and the ability to accompany groups and individuals
- Demonstrate a strong knowledge of the organ and the ability to play hymns, songs, and anthem accompaniments in various musical idioms
- Prepare sufficiently for optimum performance on the organ or piano both for rehearsals and for worship services.
- The ability to sight-read and improvise is desired, as well as knowledge of music theory in order to perform simple transpositions and harmonizations
- Accompany choirs, soloists, and other musicians as needed
- Serve as the congregation's lead (or default) musician for playing at funerals and weddings, as available (with compensation provided by families involved in these occasional services)
- Serve as chief custodian of the congregation's organ and pianos, scheduling maintenance and tuning as needed; and providing authorization for other musicians to use the instruments, as requested or required
- Maintain professional competency by practicing, performing, and attending educational opportunities

Desired Qualifications:

- Bachelors degree in music preferred; relevant experience will be considered in lieu of formal education
- Significant experience leading worship and accompanying musicians in worship on organ and piano
- The ability to work in various musical styles with flexibility and creativity, such as traditional, classical, folk, contemporary, gospel, jazz, and international and multi-cultural music

Salary: To be determined

Leave and Professional Development: The organist/pianist will have 4 Sundays off annually, as well as time and funding for professional development.

Opportunities: The organist/pianist will play on Trinity's excellent 3 manual (and pedal) instrument with 24 stops and 30 ranks of pipes. He/she will also play on a Yamaha 5-foot baby grand piano. *In addition to caring for and playing on these instruments, the organist/pianist will be encouraged to use these instruments in his/her personal teaching program and to use them and the worship space for recitals and concerts, as a way to foster musical education in the church.*