

Position Description: Parish Musician

Messiah Lutheran Church is a congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and welcomes all people into full participation in the body of Christ without regard to race, nationality, ethnicity, ability, marital status, gender identity or sexual orientation. We believe our God given purpose and mission is to be a Spirit filled congregation grounded in Jesus Christ, nourishing our local community in body, mind and soul in Rotterdam, New York.

The Parish Musician is classified as an hourly, part-time employee who reports to the Director of Operations.

Job Overview

The Parish Musician will oversee and care for the worship, uplift and well-being of the congregation through music, carrying out that work in line with the vision, core values, mission and long-term objectives of Messiah Lutheran Church.

Responsibilities and Duties

1. Prepare and lead/direct all music for Sunday morning worship services
 - a. Prep time approximately 1-1½ hours
 - b. Sunday Service time approximately 1½ hours
 - i. Prelude
 - ii. Hymns
 - iii. Service Music
 - iv. Offertory music (when no choir/anthem)
 - v. Postlude
 - vi. Other special music as required
2. Prepare and direct the Community Choir
 - a. One evening rehearsal per week
 - b. Rehearsal time approximately 1½ hours
 - c. Sunday morning rehearsal before church at 9:30am
 - d. Rehearsal time approximately ½ hour (or as needed by agreement with choir members) for anthem, hymns and other service music
3. Additional worship services
 - a. Ash Wednesday services
 - b. Mid-Week Lenten services
 - c. Holy Week services
 - i. Maundy Thursday
 - ii. Good Friday
 - iii. Holy Saturday (Vigil of Easter)
 - iv. Easter Sunday Matins
 - d. Mid-Week Advent services
 - e. Christmas Eve
 - f. Additional services as negotiated (see compensation section)

4. Support for additional musical events
 - a. Rehearse and accompany Sunday School children during the annual Christmas pageant.
 - b. Rehearse and accompany during the annual Community Christmas Concert.
 - c. Support the work of the Arts & Culture Committee in organizing additional special concerts and musical events.
5. Attend bi-monthly Worship & Music committee meetings for short and long term planning of approximately two hours in length
6. Secure appropriate music; Make available new resources and ideas to choir members
7. Arrange for proper maintenance of instruments and equipment (piano tuning, etc.)
8. Generally care for the worship, uplifting and well being of the congregation through music
9. Other tasks as assigned by supervisor.

Compensation/ Benefits

1. Hourly wages based on experience as negotiated with Personnel Committee with nine hours of work a week expected.
2. Six-eight weeks (including Sundays) of unpaid vacation. Vacations are not to be taken during Feast Days without supervisor's approval.
3. Additional church worship services not listed in "Responsibilities and Duties" are \$50 and four weeks' notice is customary.
4. Use of sanctuary (when not needed) for rehearsals and private lessons.
5. First refusal for weddings and funerals held at Messiah.
 - a. Compensation for weddings and funerals are \$200 each to be paid in cash the day of the event.

Skills and Qualifications

1. Bachelor's degree in music, church music, or other related degree preferred; long term experience in lieu of degree may be considered.
2. Demonstrated skill and competency as an experienced pianist, organ skills and experience preferred but not required.
3. Experience and competency directing a choir.
4. Ability to work well with others and participate collegially with the Pastor & Executive Director, staff members, congregational leaders and volunteers.
5. Demonstrated knowledge of Lutheran theology, liturgical practices and use of music in worship helpful.
6. Be able to pass a background check.
7. Agree to abide by all policies and procedures found in the *Employee Handbook*.