

## **St. John's Lutheran Church - Organist & Director of Music**

### **SYNOPSIS**

St. John's Lutheran Church is an ELCA congregation located in Charleston South Carolina, which has been regularly recognized as a top travel and retirement destination. St. John's Lutheran Church is the "Mother Church of Lutheranism" in Charleston and in South Carolina with the founding of the Church from a German heritage dating back to 1742, making it one of the oldest Lutheran congregations in the country. St. John's has an outstanding tradition and regional reputation of music excellence and is now looking for a new leader of its entire music program. St. John's will consider a single candidate that can fulfill both musician performance and choral director responsibilities, but would also consider dividing the responsibilities, hiring two persons - a separate musician and a choral director for the appropriate candidate(s).

St. John's is a congregation who believes we have been called "to know Christ... and to make Christ known" by transforming ourselves, the community, and the world for Christ, especially focusing on the use of its music ministry. The instrumentation of the Church is a great source of pride. A Thomas Hall pipe organ was installed in 1823 in the current church and the case for that instrument still fronts the current 1965 three-manual 51-rank Schantz instrument (rebuilt in 1991 / completely refurbished by Schlueter in 2017, with the addition of digital stops and interface) which includes a trompette en chamade. A nineteen-bell carillon that may be played from the organ console was placed in the steeple in 1992.

Interested candidates should direct inquiries, resumes, salary requirements and an audio and/or video file demonstrating skill to the Vestry VP – Steve Trayte at [steve.trayte@gmail.com](mailto:steve.trayte@gmail.com).

### **EXPERIENCE, EDUCATION and QUALIFICATIONS**

- College degree / graduate study in music preferred or significant experience
- Proficiently skilled at performance of the organ and piano
- Experience and competence in playing hymns and liturgical music
- Experience and competence in conducting choral groups while playing a keyboard
- An understanding of the varieties of Lutheran church liturgies preferred
- Knowledge and appreciation of music from a wide variety of genres and generations – with emphasis on traditional, classical and sacred but also familiar with modern, gospel and non-traditional music
- Able to work collegially with volunteer singers and musicians
- Able to invite and encourage participation from parish musicians of varied abilities and to teach and encourage congregational singing
- Ability to ascend to the organist/choir balcony on one's own power

### **JOB DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

- Responsible for the leadership of all aspects of the music program
- Select appropriate music for each service and provide programming for the carillon
- Provide music and direct choirs at all regular and special scheduled services, children's programs, vacation bible school and all other programs requiring music
- Responsible for recruiting for and directing all choirs; including an adult chorale, hand bell choir, youth ensemble and children's choir
- Assist in developing additional musical choirs or programs, including a focus on community engagement and outreach
- Rehearse with each of the choirs once weekly
- Maintain and update the church's extensive choral music library (over 650 complete selections)
- Coordinate the hiring of other musicians to augment the music presentation
- Coordinate the hiring of a qualified substitute musician as necessary
- Other duties as assigned by the Senior Pastor

### **TERMS OF EMPLOYMENT**

- Expected commitment of twelve (12) to fifteen (15) hours weekly in preparation, rehearsal, practice and performance during a week without special services
- Additional compensation for all wedding and funeral services
- Two weeks paid vacation
- One week paid leave for continuing education / professional development
- Reimbursement for appropriate continuing education and professional certification expenses
- Dedicated office, choir rehearsal room and music library storage
- Reports to the Senior Pastor