

Part-Time Organist & Choir Director

Location: Calvary Lutheran Church, 1009 Elizabeth Avenue, Laureldale, PA 19605
Position Type: Part-time
Reports to: Pastor
Compensation: Competitive and commensurate with experience

About Our Congregation

We are a vibrant, welcoming, and growing congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) with a strong sense of joy, curiosity, and hope. While rooted in the rich musical and liturgical traditions of the Lutheran church, we are also a community marked by energy, creativity, and intergenerational life. Children, families, and younger adults are an increasingly visible and vital part of our worshiping community, and music plays a central role in shaping that shared life. We are seeking an Organist & Senior Choir Director who understands music not simply as accompaniment, but as ministry—someone eager to help shape the spiritual, emotional, and communal life of the congregation through thoughtful, engaging, and inspired music.

Role Overview

The Organist & Senior Choir Director is a key leader in the worship life of the congregation. This position offers significant creative freedom to collaborate with the pastor and worship leaders in shaping meaningful, dynamic worship experiences that are rooted in tradition while open to fresh expression. This is an ideal position for a musician/director who values both musical excellence and relationship, who enjoys working with people of all ages, and who is excited to contribute to a congregation that is alive, evolving, and hopeful about its future.

Primary Responsibilities

Worship Leadership

- The Organist should rehearse sufficiently to maintain a high quality of music at the organ.
- Serve as organist for weekly Sunday worship services, festival days, and special services.
 - Examples: Advent, Christmas, Holy Week, Easter
- Sunday worship service includes playing a prelude, liturgy from the Evangelical Lutheran Worship hymnal, three to four hymns, accompanying the senior choir anthem, offertory, and postlude.
- Select and prepare music that supports worship themes, the liturgical calendar, and congregational singing.
- Collaborate closely with the pastor to plan worship that is theologically rich, accessible, and engaging.

Choir Leadership

- Prepare, direct, and accompany the choir for weekly anthem.
- Conduct weekly choir rehearsals from September through May that last approximately 1-1.25 hours.
- Actively recruit and encourage membership in the choir from congregation members.

- Foster a positive, encouraging rehearsal environment that emphasizes musical growth, good singing technique, community, and joy.
- Explore creative ways for choir music to support worship, including seasonal anthems and special services.

Congregational Life & Creativity

- Encourage and strengthen congregational singing, helping worship feel participatory and alive.
- Bring new musical ideas while honoring the congregation's musical heritage.
- Support the musical life of a congregation that includes children and young families, with openness to intergenerational participation.

Collaboration & Planning

- Select appropriate music based on the church calendar.
- Select choir anthems that are developmentally appropriate for the skill level of the ensemble.
- Organize and maintain the music library. Purchase music when needed within the approved budget.
- Work collegially with the pastor, worship and music committee, and volunteers.
- Assist with planning music for weddings, funerals, and special congregational events as needed and as availability allows.
- Oversee the tuning and maintenance of the pianos and organ within the approved budget and provide reports (as needed) specifying maintenance needs to the Worship and Music Committee.

Desired Qualifications

- High school diploma or GED required. BA or BS degree in Music or coursework in music preferred.
- Proficiency in organ performance, piano performance, and choral conducting.
- Ability to lead, teach, and inspire singers of varied musical backgrounds.
- A collaborative spirit and openness to creative worship planning.
- Experience in church music or a strong understanding of liturgical worship is preferred.
- A warm, encouraging presence and enthusiasm for being part of a lively, relational congregation.

Why This Role Is Special

- Supportive congregation that is committed to maintaining a music program that honors and continues the integral part that music plays in Lutheran worship.
- Dedicated choir members who are interested in learning and creating beautiful music honoring the Lord.
- Meaningful impact: Music is central to who we are as a congregation, and this position shapes the heart of our worship.
- A congregation with energy: We are not static or stuck—we are growing, curious, and full of life.

- Supportive leadership: The pastor and congregation value music deeply and see this role as a true ministry partner.

How to Apply

Interested candidates should submit a resume to The Rev. Dr. Lauren Wolfe Blatt at Pastorblatt@gmail.com