

Christ the King Lutheran Church, Great Falls, VA

Position Description – Organist/Music Director

Christ the King (CTK), an Evangelical Lutheran Church in America congregation, will hire an Organist/Music Director (“Organist”) to lead and direct Instrumental, Organ & Vocal Music. As Lutherans, worship stands at the center of our church community life; worship is where we receive strength from God’s Word and Sacrament, and where we are empowered for God’s mission in the world. Music is central to worship and integral to the mission and vision of our congregation. CTK worships using traditional liturgical forms and a hymnal (*Evangelical Lutheran Worship*) that draws from a wide range of musical styles and traditions. The Organist will lead from a 3 manual Rodgers 950 organ (with a floating 4th, full MIDI capabilities, 60 stops; digital sequencer and sound module) and a Mason & Hamlin grand piano and lead a volunteer choir and other duties as directed by the Pastor and Worship Committee.

Purpose

The Organist reports to the Pastor and works with the Pastor, Worship Committee and volunteer musicians. The Organist will serve CTK through the support of a music program to enhance the musical and spiritual life of the congregation.

Duties and Responsibilities

- Lead, support, and accompany from the organ (or piano) the congregational singing of hymns and liturgies. The keyboard is our primary musical support (*there are typically no other musicians on a weekly basis*).
- As a leader of the congregation, the Organist is expected to exemplify the Christian spirit.
- Support and strengthen hymn and liturgy singing of the congregation.
- Lead and rehearse the adult choir weekly (subject to seasonal scheduling) and at special rehearsals and during worship. Encourage congregational participation in the choir.
- Provide appropriate solo keyboard music - typically a prelude, during the collection of the offering, communion and postlude, for all worship services.
- Provide a variety of musical traditions and styles on organ and piano.
- Assist with technological aspects of worship service (e.g., Facebook Live), as needed.
- On special occasions and holidays, strive to include additional instrumental music for worship using musicians from the congregation or as otherwise available. The use of a variety of instruments appropriate to liturgical worship is encouraged.
- Select all hymns and service music in consultation with the Pastor and Worship Committee.
- Serve as an *ex officio* member of the Worship Committee.
- Oversee maintenance of church musical instruments. Report to the Worship and Music Chair on the condition and needs for the maintenance of CTK musical instruments.
- Obtain substitute organists during vacation, absence, or declined wedding or funeral.
- Provide organ music for all weddings and funerals held at the church, consulting with wedding couples or families as needed. For weddings and funerals, the Organist will receive an additional fee as specified in church policy.
- Provide input to budget process as it pertains to the music program.
- Purchase music as needed for all instrumental groups.
- Maintain the choral and instrumental music library in an orderly fashion. Maintain, at CTK’s expense, a suitable number of copies of musical pieces to enable performance of those pieces by the choirs or ensembles. The Organist shall not engage in the unauthorized

duplication of copyrighted materials. If photocopying of music becomes necessary, the Organist, on behalf of CTK, shall first obtain all necessary permissions and authorizations prior to any such reproduction of copyrighted materials.

Additional or Expanded Duties as desired/appropriate

- Serve as an educational resource to educate the congregation on music's role in Lutheran worship and liturgical concepts.
- Enrich the lives of CTK members and the greater community through music and fine arts educational offerings of all varieties.
- Seek to grow the music ministry of CTK.
- Provide for and organize musical concerts at CTK.
- Foster relationships and collaborations with artists and ensembles in the area.
- Ability to compose special works.
- Ability to provide leadership in teaching liturgical music & hymnody.

Skills Required for the Position

- Ability to work well in a Christian team environment, with choir and volunteer musicians, church staff and Church Council committees.
- Bachelor's music degree preferably in piano or organ (performance or theory).
- Skills in music theory, including simply transpositions or harmonizing a melody.
- Very good keyboard skills – piano and organ.
- Ability to sing and play with accurate pitch and rhythm.
- Knowledge of the history of church liturgy, especially in the Lutheran Church, and its use in worship.
- Knowledge of church music in general, matching appropriate keyboard music with themes of the Church Year.

Other: Terms of Employment

1. This is a professional, part-time position – it is salaried, but the expectation is that it will require approximately 13-16 hours per week.
2. Subject to special and summer scheduling, CTK has two Sunday worship services (8:30 & 11 am) during the school year and one service (10:00 am during the summer); the choir sings at one Sunday worship service most every Sunday. The adult choir typically practices for 60-75 minutes one evening/week.
3. CTK typically worships on these major holidays that typically fall on weekdays: (i) Mid-week Advent services; (ii) Christmas Eve (three services); (iii) Christmas Day; (iv) Ash Wednesday; (v) Mid-week Lent services; (vi) Maundy Thursday; (vii) Good Friday; and (viii) Thanksgiving Day.
4. Salary commensurate with experience and relevant guidelines.
5. There are no health or unemployment insurance benefits, but 4 weeks of paid time off. (Vacation may be taken during Thanksgiving, but not during other church festival days/weeks such as Christmas and Easter).
6. Federal, state and social security taxes will be paid as permanent, part-time Organist.
7. The Organist is permitted to use the church facility and instruments (organ & piano) for teaching privileges (i.e. group or private music lessons).
8. The Organist is given "first right of refusal" to provide music for all weddings and funerals held at the church (typical fee ~\$250).
9. We provide time and an annual allowance for continuing education, professional dues, and for books, periodicals, and other publications. "Continuing education" may include instrumental study, trends in worship, and administrative skills.