

The Greater Columbia Organist

November 2025

A Publication of the Greater Columbia Chapter of the
American Guild of Organists



NOVEMBER PROGRAM: 2025 YOC Winner's Recital with Alisdair Welty

Friday, November 21, 7:00 p.m.
Shandon United Methodist Church
3407 Devine St, Columbia, SC 29205

Additional parking is available in the overflow parking in the lot across Devine Street next to St. Joseph Catholic Church.

The recital is open to the public and will be followed by a reception.

Congratulations to incoming CIM (Cleveland Institute of Music) freshman, Alisdair Welty, on skillfully performing works of Alain, Albright, Bach, Duruflé, Price, and Vierne at his high school senior recital on August 1, 2025. Kudos on this wonderful milestone!

For the past three years, Ali has studied with Kelsey Berg, who serves as Instructor of Secondary Organ at CIM. Kelsey is the Assistant Organist and Choirmaster at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Akron, Ohio, where Alisdair performed his recital. Alisdair was completing his senior year in high school when he won the Young Organist Competition in March 2025.



As winner of the 2025 Young Organist Competition, Alisdair Welty will perform a solo recital on Friday, November 21, 2025, at Shandon United Methodist Church. The recital will begin at 7 p.m. and will be followed by a reception. (There is limited parking in the church parking lot but there is overflow parking in the lot across Devine Street next to St. Joseph Catholic Church.) Mark your calendars to attend this special recital by the 2025 YOC Winner.

Please invite your friends and congregation to attend by sharing the following poster.

[Poster for the YOC Event](#)

SAVE THE DATE

JANUARY PROGRAM: Zoom Presentation on Using Fourscore/I-Pad for Organists

Date: Tuesday, January 13, 7:00 p.m. ET.

Presenter: Dr. Valerie Harris, Dean of Central Arizona Chapter of AGO.

This is a “How to” for downloading scores, applying notation, use in performance, etc.

RECAP OF OUR OCTOBER PROGRAM



New Pipe Organ Projects in Columbia

On Tuesday, October 7, at St. Joseph Catholic Church, we learned about two new pipe organs coming to the Columbia area. AGO members serving in these churches provided information about the selection process, the organ builders, specifications of the instruments, as well as structural changes being made within the worship spaces. First Presbyterian Church will install a 4 Manual, 69 Rank instrument built by Parsons Pipe Organ Builders, Op. 58. The presenter was Thomas Russell, Organist/ Assistant Director of Music. St. Joseph Catholic Church will install a 3 Manual, 50 Rank instrument by the Italian organ builder Mascioni. Information was given by Worth Lewallen, Music Director, and Patrick Hawkins, Organist. We look forward to adding these two fine instruments to Columbia's pipe organ registry.

Photograph: (L-R) Worth Lewallen, Thomas Russell, and Patrick Hawkins





First Friday Evening Organ Concert

Friday, November 7, 7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary
First Presbyterian Church,
1324 Marion Street, Columbia, SC 29201

Members of First Presbyterian will present a final recital on the Casavant organ followed by a reception in Jackson Hall in an evening where we commemorate how the Lord has used this instrument in the life of our church.

This celebratory recital will feature organists

Ezra Blackwell, Nick Eller, Judy Doudoukjian, Lenora Jeffcoat, Latimer Rogland, and Thomas Russell.

INTRODUCING THE LOFT, THE AGO'S NEW ONLINE COMMUNITY

THE LOFT, the new online destination for AGO members to connect, communicate, and collaborate, will be launching soon. The password-protected site will offer **online communities**, similar to social media channels; a searchable **member directory**; and **curated blogs** and posts with the latest AGO news and thought leadership about our profession.



..

Catching UP with YOC Alumni

Scott Scheetz



Scott Scheetz began playing piano at age three and realized soon after that music was his greatest passion in life. In middle school, he started organ lessons, was highly involved in his church's music program, and gained recognition in his hometown of Aiken, S.C., as a lounge pianist specializing in the music of Billy Joel. In 2010, he won the East Carolina University Pre-College Organ Competition for the Southeastern Region of the United States. **In 2011, he won Second Place in the Young Organist Competition in Columbia S.C.**

Scott completed his Bachelor of Music in Organ Performance at the Jacobs School of Music, Indiana University, where he studied with Dr. Christopher Young. He completed his Master of Sacred Music with a focus in Organ Performance at Perkins School of Theology, Southern Methodist University, where he studied with Professor Stefan Engels.

Scott served as Associate Director of Music and Organist at Christ United Methodist Church in Plano, Texas. In August 2025, he accepted the position of Interim Organist and Choirmaster in Knoxville, TN, at First Presbyterian Church.

Scott met his wife Katie Minion at Indiana University while they were both studying organ performance, and they were married in 2018. She is presently the organist and Associate Director of Music at Church Street United Methodist Church in downtown Knoxville. They enjoy performing duo recitals



YOUNG
Organist
Competition

Sponsored by the
Greater Columbia AGO Chapter

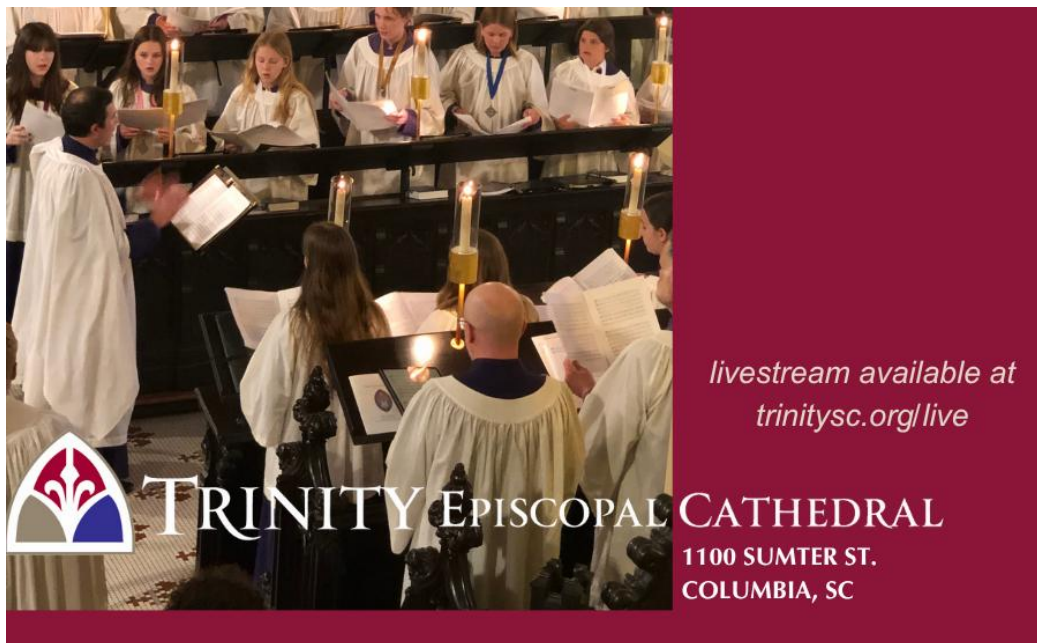
Saturday, March 7, 2026
Columbia, S.C.

Open to grades 8–12

First Prize \$3,000
Second Prize \$2,000
Third Prize \$1,500
Hymn Playing Award \$1000

For rules and application see
Young Organist Competition 2026
at www.columbiaago.org





All Souls' Requiem

Sunday, November 2, at 4:00 p.m.

Trinity Episcopal Cathedral, 1100 Sumter St. Columbia, SC 29201

The Trinity Cathedral Choir of Adults will present an All Souls' Requiem featuring the music of Herbert Howells. Join us as we observe All Souls' Day in remembrance of those we've lost in the past year. The service is free and open to the public. A reception will follow on the Cathedral Lawn until 5:30 p.m.

Bach Vespers

Sunday, November 16 at 4:00 p.m.

Trinity Episcopal Cathedral, 1100 Sumter St. Columbia, SC 29201

Trinity Episcopal Cathedral invites you to a service of Bach Vespers. The North Carolina Baroque Orchestra will accompany the Cathedral Singers on period instruments for "Jesu, meine Freude" (Jesus, my joy). Bach Vespers is free and open to the public. A reception will follow on the Cathedral Lawn until 5:30 p.m.

Choral Evensong

Sundays, November 9 and 23 at 4:00 p.m.

Trinity Episcopal Cathedral, 1100 Sumter St. Columbia, SC 29201

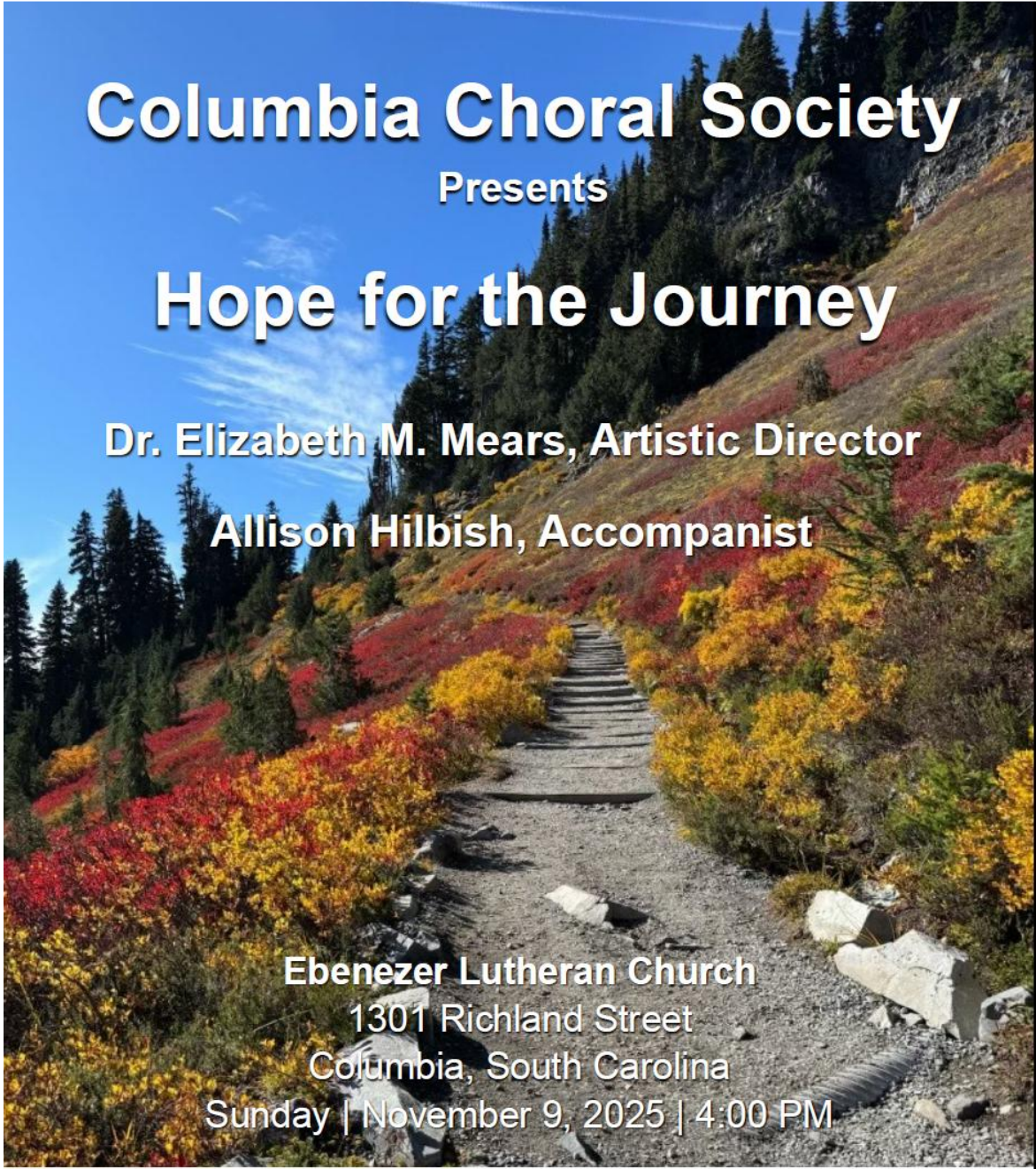
Join us on Sundays for Choral Evensong in the beautiful and historic Trinity Cathedral in downtown Columbia. Following each service, please join us for a reception on the Cathedral Lawn until 5:30 p.m.

Advent Lessons & Carols

Sunday, November 30 at 4:00 p.m.

Trinity Episcopal Cathedral, 1100 Sumter St. Columbia, SC 29201

Through lessons and music we meditate on the rich themes of Advent, the four-week season of waiting and joyful anticipation for the coming of Christ, first as an infant at Christmas, and then in glory at the last day. The service will be followed by a procession to the Trinity Center for the Advent Festival. Visit trinitysc.org for more information.



Columbia Choral Society

Presents

Hope for the Journey

Dr. Elizabeth M. Mears, Artistic Director

Allison Hilbish, Accompanist

Ebenezer Lutheran Church

1301 Richland Street

Columbia, South Carolina

Sunday | November 9, 2025 | 4:00 PM

November 9 4:00 P.M.

Themes of love, grace, and compassion will be explored through a variety of beautiful texts set to music by Vaughn Williams, Biebel, Gjeilo, Mendelssohn, and Schubert.

Tickets:

General admission - \$20

Seniors and Military - \$15

High school and college students -\$10

Under 14 - Free

Tickets available at the door or columbiachoralsociety.org



Chase Loomer

November 16 | 3 PM
St. Martin's-in-the-Fields

We're pleased to welcome Chase Loomer in concert as a part of our 2025-26 organ concert series at St. Martin's-in-the-Fields. Admission is free of charge.

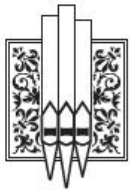
Chase Loomer is an award-winning organist who has given solo recitals throughout North America, in venues including Trinity Church, Boston; Holy Trinity Cathedral, Kingston, Jamaica; St. Joseph Cathedral, Columbus, OH; Coral Ridge Presbyterian, Ft. Lauderdale; Church of the Covenant, Cleveland; All Saints' Episcopal Church, Atlanta; and Trinity Cathedral, Portland, OR. In 2025, he was part of The Diapason magazine's class of "20 Under 30," and also featured as a "NextGen" artist in the June 2022 edition of The American Organist magazine. Chase has performed as a soloist and continuo player with numerous ensembles, including the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra, Atlanta Symphony Brass, Yale Philharmonia, Atlanta Baroque Orchestra, Indianapolis Baroque Orchestra, and Tonos del Sur.

Mr. Loomer was the first prize winner of the 2018 Taylor Organ Competition and the 2015 AGO /

Quimby Southeast Regional Competition, and he has been a semifinalist in the National Competition in Organ Improvisation and the Longwood Gardens International Organ Competition. In 2025, he was one of six organists selected worldwide to compete in the St. Albans International Improvisation Competition.

He holds degrees from the Eastman School of Music (B.M), Yale University (M.M), and is a doctoral degree candidate at Indiana University's Jacobs School of Music. While at Yale, he received the Robert Baker Scholarship from the ISM and the Julia R. Sherman Memorial Prize from the School of Music, both awarded for excellence in organ performance. His teachers have included David Higgs, Martin Jean, Christopher Young, Edoardo Bellotti, Jeffrey Brillhart, Jeffrey Smith, and Patrick Scott. In addition to his work as an organist, Chase is a jazz pianist and composer of choral, keyboard, and jazz music.

Learn more at
smifsc.com



R.A. Daffer Church Organs, INC.

ESTABLISHED 1977

has been serving churches since 1977, providing sales, installation, and service for pipe, digital, and hybrid organ systems. We represent the finest brands in the industry and tailor each instrument to fit your worship space.



**ST. KATHERINE OF SIENNA
WAYNE, PA
TWIN 3 MANUAL CONSOLES
39 RANKS**



Al Murrell, Vice President • 443-812-5999 • amurrell@dafferorgans.com

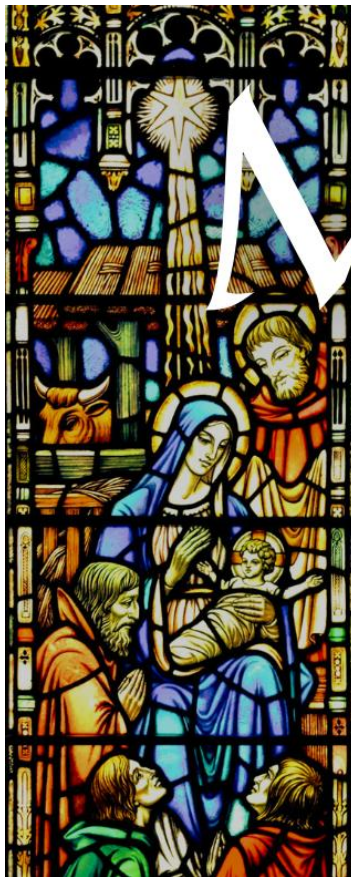
CH COPEMAN HART
Church Organ Builders

Fratelli Buffatti

RODGERS®

JOHANNUS

Makin
Church Organ Builders



HANDEL'S *Messiah*



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14
4:00 P.M.
TRINITY EPISCOPAL CATHEDRAL
1100 SUMTER ST., COLUMBIA, SC
TICKETS: TRINITYSC.ORG/MUSIC

*...and His name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor,
The mighty God, The everlasting Father,
The Prince of Peace.*



Save The Date

Handbell Festival
February 14, 2026
Shandon UMC

David Harris, from Raleigh Ringers, Director
More details to come.

Newsletter Deadline

The **20th** of every month is the deadline for the following month's AGO newsletter. Information received after that time may not appear in that month's newsletter.



11/01	Charlene Shealy-Lanford
11/04	Monty Bennett
11/11	Joy Ackerman
11/11	Ruthie Brannen
11/16	Donna McGehee
11/16	Thomas Blake
11/25	Nicholas Todd Shumate
11/26	Frances Webb
11/26	Louis Shirer
11/29	Elisa Moskovitz

2025 - 2026 CHAPTER ADMINISTRATION

DEAN	Don Grice ARCCO C: (520) 481-0037 E: dgrice@alumni.emory.edu
SUB-DEAN	Joy Ackerman H (803) 781-9781 E: jpackerman@att.net
SECRETARY	Jeff Clearman C (251) 656-3337 E: jefferey.clearman@gmail.com
TREASURER	Tony Roof C: (803) 606-1596 E: email@tonyroof.com

MEMBERS AT LARGE
Huger Caughman, Jr. C: (803) 924-7619 E: hpcaughman@gmail.com
Al Roberts C: (803) 603-6568 E: akr_dmd@windstream.net
Lenora Jeffcoat FRCO C: (901) 604-8260 E: lmorrow101@gmail.com
MEMBERSHIP
Susan Sturkie H: (803) 788-6807 E: sloopystur@aol.com

NEWSLETTER EDITOR
Tony Roof C: (803) 606-1596 E: email@tonyroof.com

Our
Awesome
Team!



POSITIONS AVAILABLE

**** NEW LISTING OR CHANGES**

Please contact Susan Sturkie (803-788-6807 or sloopystur@aol.com) to update this information or for more information on these openings.

CAMDEN

Lyttleton Street United Methodist Church, 1206 Lyttleton Street, Camden, SC, seeks a part-time organist and/or pianist. Responsibilities include one Sunday morning worship service (9:00 a.m.) and Wednesday evening choir rehearsals, plus seasonal services. There is potential to add accompanying services for the 11:15 contemporary service. For additional information please e-mail Patty Bellus at admin@lsumc.net or see our website, <https://lsumc.net/about-us/employment>. Organ specifications may be found here: <https://www.columbiaaqo.org/ColumbiaOrgans/Organs/LYTTLETONUMCSumter.pdf>.

COLUMBIA

Ashland United Methodist Church, 2600 Ashland Road, Columbia, SC 29210 seeks a pianist. Responsibilities include one Sunday morning worship service (11:00 am) and Tuesday choir rehearsal, (5:00 pm-6:15 pm), plus seasonal services. For additional information please email Robert Neese at music@ashlandumc.org.

Forest Lake Presbyterian Church, 6500 North Trenholm Road, seeks a part-time organist-accompanist. The applicant should also be well-versed as a pianist/accompanist. Responsibilities include one Sunday morning worship service at 10:00 (preceded by choir rehearsal at 9:15); Wednesday evening choir rehearsals at 7:00 pm; seasonal services; and wedding and funerals (with additional compensation). Instruments: Casavant pipe organ (installed in 2017) with 2 manuals and 25 ranks, and a Yamaha baby grand piano. Interested persons should submit resume and questions to Beth Mears, Director of Music via email: bethmears@flpc.org or hard copy submission: Dr. Elizabeth M. Mears/Forest Lake Presbyterian Church/6500 North Trenholm Road/29206.

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, 2200 Lee St., Columbia (Five Points), SC 29205. HTLC is a confessional liturgical congregation in fellowship with the Lutheran Church--Missouri Synod and as such we practice closed communion. An organist is needed for our 10:30 Sunday as well as seasonal services. We follow a liturgical order of worship, and have a two manual pipe organ. A permanent commitment is ideal, however, we are willing to consider short-term contracts such as 3 or 6 month. If you are interested in this position please contact Rev. Christopher Burger at (803) 799-7224 or via email at Rev.Burger@gmail.com

Rehoboth Global Methodist Church, located at 6911 Two Notch Road, Columbia, SC, is seeking a part-time pianist/choir director for weekly choir practice and Sunday morning worship and special seasonal services. Email resume to office@rehobothchurchsc.com and for more information.

St. Luke's Episcopal Church, Columbia, a predominantly African American Anglo-Catholic parish, is seeking a ¼ time - part-time Organist and/or Organist and Choirmaster for its 10:00 a.m. Sunday masses. The Organ is a 2-manual Allen Renaissance Quantum, Acoustic Portrait, 58 stops. Choir Rehearsals are on Wednesdays from 6:00pm-7:30pm (the day and time can be adjusted by the new organist). Job duties include leading congregational singing, accompanying and directing anthems, ensembles, and soloists at organ/piano. Also accompanies the Cantor in singing the psalms, and the Gospel Acclamation.

Special services include Epiphany Lenten Wednesdays, Holy Week, Ascension Day, Christmas Eve Mass, etc. The organist also plays for weddings and funerals per church policy. We seek someone with vision, imagination, creativity, flexibility; a self-motivator with the ability to teach and inspire our eight-member choir (four of whom are paid professional staff singers). The ability to work independently and in conjunction with the priest as well as an openness to versatility during special times of the Church year is a must. Hymns used come from *The Hymnal 1982*, *Lift Every Voice and Sing, II*, *Wonder, Love, and Praise*, and other liturgical resources that lend themselves to the appropriateness of the liturgy. Knowledge of the Anglican/Episcopal liturgy, classical solo and/or choral vocal pieces/works, and the literature and works of African American composers is highly desired, but not required. Salary negotiable depending on experience and ability. Please submit Cover Letter and Resumé along with two or three references to fr.raphiell@gmail.com with the word Organist/Choirmaster in the subject line: You may also call the church office (803) 254-2327 to speak with the priest, Fr. Raphiell Ashford, for more information, or email me directly at the email address above if you have any questions regarding the position.

Shandon Presbyterian Church (USA), seeks a part time Chancel Choir Director. The Chancel Choir Director will develop and lead the chancel choir program at Shandon Presbyterian Church in a manner that supports, complements, and enhances the church's Worship and Music Ministry. This work will be completed in collaboration with the Director of Music and Media and Senior Pastor. Masters Degree (or higher) in choral conducting or similar; prior experience successfully leading high-level choral programs in a religious setting. Piano and/or organ competence is preferred, but not required. Compensation is \$13,000 minimum. More information, including full position description is available at www.shandonpresbyterian.org/employment. To apply, submit resume and short cover letter to shandonpersonnel@gmail.com.

Westminster Presbyterian Church, 1715 Broad River Rd, Columbia, SC seeks a part-time pianist/accompanist and/or organist/accompanist. Responsibilities include one Sunday morning worship service (10:30 am) and Wednesday evening choir rehearsals (7:00 pm) plus seasonal services. Instruments: Zimmer pipe organ with 12 ranks of pipes and 12 general programmable pistons, and Yamaha baby grand piano. Interested persons please submit resume and questions to: music@westminsterpres.org

GILBERT

St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 246 St. Paul's Church Rd., Gilbert, SC 29054 is seeking a part-time Music Director for its Sunday worship services.

Our immediate need is for organist/pianist. This position includes Sunday morning services, Wednesday night rehearsals with the praise band, as well as any funerals/weddings, as scheduled. Music should be appropriate for use in the Lutheran service and follow the theme or the lessons appointed for the day. Hymns/Songs from the ELW and the Worship & Praise book should be used. Special programs are normally presented seasonally, i.e. Christmas Cantata/Children's Christmas Program, Easter, Lenten services and following special Lutheran celebration Sundays throughout the year.

St. Paul's would also like to resume the handbell choir and form a vocal choir for Sunday services. This will be discussed at the interview.

Compensation for this position is negotiable based on experience and merit. For more information and complete job description or to apply, contact Janet Boyd at boyd5janet@gmail.com or 803-634-0018.

HARTSVILLE

St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church, Hartsville, SC, is in search of a part-time Organist. Duties include Sunday services, Wednesday night choir rehearsals, and any special services during the year. Salary is \$300 per week (negotiable) and extra for additional services. The Organist gets two days paid vacation plus sick leave. Our instrument is a 32-rank, two manual, Casavant Freres Limitee. The Organist reports to the Music Director and the Rector. If interested in the position, please send your resume to St. Bartholomew's at 103 Campus Dr. Hartsville, SC 29550 or via email at stbartsepiscopal@gmail.com.

IRMO

****Bethlehem Lutheran Church**, in Irmo, SC, is seeking a part-time Director of Music / Organist. The Director is expected to rehearse and direct the chancel choir and bell choir, and coordinate with the pastor on worship music selections. The salary for the position will be commensurate with the level of education and experience of the applicant. Please send resumes and contact information to Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 10000 Broad River Road, Irmo, SC 29063, or e-mail bethlehemplutheranirmo@gmail.com.

ROCK HILL

Ebenezer Presbyterian Church, Associate Reformed, 2132 Ebenezer Road, Rock Hill SC. Director of Music The link below will take those interested to the specifics on how to apply, the specifications of our pipe organ, and the new job description with salary included. <https://ebenezerarp.org/>

SUMTER

The Church of the Holy Comforter, located at 213 North Main St., Sumter SC. is seeking a full-time, 40 hours per week, salaried Director of Music (Organist/Choir Director). The Director will develop and implement a music ministry, under the authority of the rector, that is consistent with Anglican theology and enhances the worship of God and the whole ministry of the church. The Director will also disciple the music teams under the Director's care (through theological reflection, prayer, and mentoring) grounded in the Great Commission. Ultimately, our desire is to worship the Lord in spirit and truth (John 4.24), that we might be filled, ever more fully, with His Holy Spirit (Eph. 5.18-19).

If you are interested in this position, please view the full job description, to include compensation range, & how to apply @ <https://www.holycomfortersc.org/copy-of-david-booman>

WEST COLUMBIA

Our Saviour Lutheran Church in West Columbia, SC, is seeking an organist to begin work in January 2026. The applicant must be accomplished in playing a pipe organ and other keyboard instruments. The church has a small 1974 Zimmer two-manual pipe organ. An electronic keyboard (Clavinova) is also available for occasional services in the Chapel or Fellowship Hall. The applicant should be acquainted with the liturgy and hymns of the Lutheran Church and must be able to provide organ accompaniment for the liturgy, hymns, and choir anthems, as well as preludes and postludes, at each Sunday Service and at special services during Lent, Easter, Advent, and Christmas. If schedule allows, the organist should also be available to play for funerals and weddings at the church.

The church has one service each Sunday at 10:30 a.m. It is a traditional service using *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* (ELW). Average Sunday-morning attendance is 40.

We are offering to pay \$250 per week for this position.

Please contact the church at 803-794-8180 or

email the pastor at pastorjoannagragg@gmail.com.