

Job Title: Lead Accompanist

Organization: West Linn Lutheran Church, ELCA

Location: 20390 Willamette Drive, West Linn, OR 97068

Position Type: 7- 10 hours per week, with seasonal variation.

About Us:

WEST LINN LUTHERAN CHURCH MISSION STATEMENT:

West Linn Lutheran Church invites ALL PEOPLE into a trusting relationship with God through Jesus Christ. Open and affirming of all people

Job Description:

We are seeking a talented and dedicated Lead Accompanist to enrich our worship services and enhance the spiritual experience of our congregation through music. This individual will have the opportunity to collaborate with our clergy and worship team in selecting and performing music that reflects the rich heritage of Lutheran liturgy and theology, while also incorporating a diverse range of musical styles and traditions to engage worshippers of all ages and backgrounds.

Key Responsibilities:

- **Musical Leadership:** Serve as the primary musician for worship services, playing piano and keyboard, leading congregational singing, and providing instrumental accompaniment for hymns, liturgical responses, and other musical elements of the worship service. Additionally, provide piano and keyboard accompaniment for the adult choir, worship team, seasonal ensembles, rehearsals, and other groups as needed.
- **Music Selection:** Participate in music ministry team meetings as requested. Collaborate with clergy, worship leaders, and other staff members in selecting appropriate music for each worship service, taking into account the liturgical season, thematic elements of the service, and the diverse musical preferences of the congregation.
- **Special Services:** Provide music for special services and events throughout the church year, including holidays, weddings, funerals, festivals, and other occasions as needed, working closely with event coordinators and participants to ensure musical selections are tailored to the occasion. The Lead Accompanist would receive an additional fee for playing at weddings and funerals.

- **Communication:** Work collaboratively with other staff members, volunteers, and ministry teams within the church to support the overall mission and ministry of West Linn Lutheran Church, contributing your musical talents and expertise to enhance the worship experience and foster spiritual growth among worshippers. Proactively communicate and provide appropriate materials with the office, AV team, choir, worship team, special music, and other necessary entities. Communicate in a timely manner.
- **Congregational Engagement:** Encourage congregational participation in worship through vibrant and inclusive musical leadership, incorporating a variety of musical styles and genres that resonate with worshippers of all ages and cultural backgrounds.
- **Music Ministry Development:** Cultivate a culture of musical excellence and spiritual growth within the congregation by offering opportunities for musical education, enrichment, and participation in various music ministry programs and activities.
- **Equipment Maintenance:** Monitor the condition of church-owned musical instruments, musical equipment, and other resources used in music ministry, to ensure they are kept in good working condition and properly stored when not in use. Recommend maintenance as needed.
- **Continued Learning:** The congregation encourages you to utilize opportunities to advance in training and learning opportunities. Stay informed about trends and best practices in church music ministry, participating in relevant training opportunities, workshops, and conferences to further develop your musical skills and deepen your understanding of Lutheran worship traditions.
- **Professional Conduct:** Conduct yourself with professionalism, integrity, and sensitivity to the sacred nature of your role as a church musician, upholding the values and standards of West Linn Lutheran Church in all aspects of your work and interactions with others. The Lead Accompanist will be required to make a genuine commitment to finding a substitute musician for any worship services or special events where they are unable to perform.

Qualifications:

- Proficiency in playing piano and keyboard, with strong sight-reading and improvisational skills. Additionally, singing capabilities are highly desirable. Willingness to use in-ear monitors.
- Experience directing vocal and instrumental ensembles as well as leading congregational singing in a church or worship setting. In particular, leadership is needed in directing the worship team.

- Familiarity with Lutheran liturgical traditions, hymnody, and worship practices, with an appreciation for the diverse musical styles and cultural expressions found within the Lutheran tradition. (Preferred, but not required.)
- Strong interpersonal and communication skills, with the ability to collaborate effectively with clergy, staff, volunteers, and congregants of all ages and backgrounds.
- A commitment to excellence in music ministry, with a passion for creating meaningful and spiritually uplifting worship experiences that draw worshippers into deeper relationships with God and one another.

Schedule:

- This is a part-time position, requiring availability on Sunday mornings for worship services, rehearsals during the week, and occasional weekday evenings for special events or meetings. This position will have concentrated responsibilities in the Advent, Christmas, Lent, and Easter seasons and fewer obligations during the summer months.
- Break down of average 7-10 hours per week.
 - Worship Team Rehearsal: Midweek- 1.5 hours. Sunday- 1 hour before worship.
 - Choir Rehearsal: Midweek- 1.5 hours. Sunday- 45 minutes before worship.
 - Accompaniment: 1.5 hours on Sunday.
 - + Personal Practice

Benefits:

- Defined PTO: 2 weeks, allowance for 1 continuing education opportunity with prior Congregational Council approval.
- Onboarding training as needed.
- Compensation: \$18k-20k salary, commensurate with experience.

Application Process:

- Qualified candidates are invited to submit a resume, and cover letter to the church office at wllcoffice@wllc.org. In your cover letter, please share why you feel called to serve as the Lead Accompanist at West Linn Lutheran Church and how your skills and experiences align with the responsibilities outlined in this job description.
- Applicants may also be asked to provide references or participate in an interview process.

- The deadline for applications will be September 30th, with the intention to fill the position, starting late December or early January. We look forward to hearing from you!

Join our team and contribute to the vibrant community at [Lutheran Church Name] as we work together to fulfill our mission and serve others with compassion and grace.

Prepared: June, 2024