

Music Director
Messiah Lutheran Church, Oakland, NJ

Job Summary

The Music Director provides music, leadership, and oversight for worship and the music ministries of Messiah Lutheran Church. We are seeking someone who will honor and build upon our church's history while bringing fresh ideas and Spirit-led energy to both traditional and contemporary music using piano, organ, and vocals to support our worship, band, and choir.

Primary Roles and Responsibilities

- Provide music for regularly planned worship services of the congregation, including but not limited to Sunday Morning, Christmas Eve, Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter Sunday, and seasonal midweek services.
- Collaborate with the Pastor to plan worship, music, and liturgy in alignment with the church year and worship themes.
- Encourage the use of a variety of musical styles and liturgical variation, and introduce and teach new music and liturgy to the congregation as appropriate.
- Attend and participate in staff and committee meetings as needed.
- Develop and rehearse music ministries as requested by, and in commitment with, the congregation including the choir and contemporary band.
- Coordinate and oversee the care and maintenance of worship instruments, including the organ and piano.
- Hold right of first offer for all funerals and weddings held at the church as specified in the contract.

Ministry Expectations

- Maintain organized and accessible music files and resources.
- Manage music-related budget items and licensing.
- Arrive on time and prepared, maintain a professional appearance, and keep performance skills and music knowledge up to date.
- Review online worship recordings and offer recommendations for improvement.
- Schedule outside musicians to enhance worship and cover time away.

Requirements, Skills, Qualifications

- Proficiency in organ and/or piano accompaniment, including sight-reading and improvisation skills. Proficiency with other music instruments including vocals is welcome.
- Choral leadership experience preferred.
- Familiarity with, or willingness to learn, Christian liturgy, hymnody, and the church year.
- Strong communication, reliability, and a heart for ministry.
- Working knowledge of music technology, software, instrument care, etc.
- Music degree or equivalent training experience preferred.

Schedule and Compensation

- This position is a quarter time position with an estimated 6-10 hours per week typically consisting of Sunday morning worship and choir rehearsal, Thursday band practice, occasional special services as noted above, and extra rehearsal time as needed.
- The Music Director reports directly to the Pastor and works closely with the Pastor and Office Administrator.
- Compensation commensurate with experience, negotiated responsibilities, and church budget ranging from \$12,000 to \$18,000 per year.
- Four (4) Sundays of vacation or sick leave (with pay) annually.
 - Additional vacation or sick time in excess of these four (4) Sundays may be negotiated without pay.

To Apply: please submit a cover letter and resume to Pastor Courtney Smith Westerlund at info@messiahoaklandnj.org