



Called to Be a Living Voice

Lutheran church musicians lead the church's song. In the Lutheran tradition we are often known as cantors. This includes the roles of choir directors, organists, instrumental leaders, praise band leaders, song leaders, composers, arrangers, and worship planners. Since its founding in 1985 the Association of Lutheran Church Musicians (ALCM) has served its members by providing the support, learning, networking, grounding, inspiration and celebration to carry us into the future.

Lutheran church musicians proclaim.

We proclaim God's Word, Jesus Christ, in worship, through music. We are shaped by the Lutheran tradition as a confessing movement in the church catholic, and are rooted and guided by the western catholic musical and liturgical tradition. We are also responsive to our local contexts and cultures. We simultaneously care for our congregations' local musical heritage and tradition while being bridge builders to the ever-emerging songs of the church. We delight in the riches from our past, as well as the gems in our new songs. We incorporate global music, the music of many nations and cultures, into worship. In short, we have a love of the past, a passion for the present, and excitement for the future.

Lutheran church musicians lead.

While some of us are employed in full-time positions, most are employed part-time. Some are called as volunteers, often in churches that cannot afford to hire a musician. We lead the church's songs and hymns, we plan and perform choral and instrumental music, and use our talents to lead and grow the congregation's voice. We are all called to excellence in the music that we lead.

Lutheran church musicians celebrate.

We celebrate the fact that the Lutheran church is a singing church, and we work to keep and expand this singing tradition. We recognize that the gathered assembly is the primary musical voice in our worship. Lutheran music is built on the foundation of congregational hymns, songs, liturgical, and other music. Thus, we form choirs, handbell ensembles and various instrumental groups that enrich the music in our worship.

Lutheran church musicians challenge.

We respond to cultural changes by finding ways to engage people of all ages and backgrounds in the church's music. We creatively develop new ways to involve children, youth and adults in choirs and instrumental ensembles as integral leaders.

Lutheran church musicians grow and change.

We foster creativity in all its forms, but especially in new musical expressions for the church. We are part of a dynamic, evolving vocation. As the song of the church changes, we remain committed to the joyful task of bringing the church's song into our assemblies to proclaim God's Word and celebrate God's sacramental presence in our midst.