

Candidates for National Office

Secretary/Treasurer: Michael Krentz and Randy Knutson

Michael Krentz (incumbent)



Michael Krentz is director of music/organist at Christ Lutheran Church in Allentown, Pennsylvania, and he is a deacon in the ELCA. He is currently secretary/treasurer of the Association of Lutheran Church Musicians. He has served ALCM as chairperson of ALCM's 1997 national conference, president of Region 1, and director at large. He is a past-dean of the Lehigh Valley Chapter of the American Guild of Organists and is the chair of the worship team of the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod of the ELCA.

Vision statement:

It has been a joy and a privilege to serve on the board of The Association of Lutheran Church Musicians since 2015. In that time, we celebrated our 30th anniversary. Also, the board adopted our ALCM mission statement: "ALCM nurtures and equips musicians to serve and lead the church's song." This simple sentence captures well both where we have been and where we hope to be going in the future.

ALCM took a major step forward when we hired Jim Rindelaub as our first full time executive director. That was the outward sign of an inward reality – that we wished to take a bold leap. It was a leap because of the financial commitment that it entailed. More importantly, it was a leap programmatically: we wanted to do more – and be more focused – things that would nurture and equip not only our members. We wanted to serve musicians who were not members, and most importantly we wanted to serve Lutheran congregations.

Our mission statement and commitment to move forward has energized our entire Association in the last few years. Especially important were the Hearts •Hands •Voices local events held across the country in 2018, and now continuing in 2019 and beyond. A new series of webinars has also helped us reach more people.

There will be challenges for ALCM in the future, for sure – around membership, around finances, around raising up new leaders. But we are strongly positioned to meet these challenges and continue our mission to nurture and equip musicians to serve and lead the church's song.

Soli Deo Gloria!

Randy Knutson



The Rev. Randy Knutson is a charter member of ALCM. He was secretary/treasurer of Region 4 from 1992-1998 and co-chaired the regional ALCM San Francisco conference in 2008. At the national level, he was treasurer for the ALCM national conference in Houston, TX in 2007 and was on the planning committee for Seattle 2011, chairing the post-conference event. He has served as music director at Trinity Lutheran Church in Fresno, CA and in the same position at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Lodi, CA. He accepted the position of music director at St. John's Episcopal Church also in Lodi, CA in 2000, but remained active in ALCM and the Sierra Pacific Synod of the ELCA and chaired area XII's handbell conference in San Jose in 2000. He felt the call to ordained ministry and enrolled in seminary in 2006, graduating in 2011. Ordained a priest in the Episcopal Church in 2015, he

now holds a unique position on the north coast of California in a half-time position to each: as pastor to Trinity Lutheran Church, ELCA and priest-in-charge at St. Michael's Episcopal, in Fort Bragg, CA, preaching and leading worship every Sunday at both locations and overseeing life in both parishes.

Vision statement:

I wish to support the work of ALCM by serving as Secretary/Treasurer and helping to give strength and direction to our organization. I believe ALCM has provided a wonderful place for Church Musicians in the Lutheran Church and other liturgical traditions to better understand how music, Word and Sacrament come together. It has been a joy to see the Lutheran Church take the lead in developing new hymnals and new materials around worship leadership in the past few years and see how Lutheran Musicians and especially ALCM members have played critical roles in these resources. ALCM is a strong and dynamic organization that includes full-time musicians, clergy and musicians serving their local congregations as ministers of and through music. I am so glad for all ALCM offers me and hope to help in its growth into the future.

Member at Large: Karla Devine and Omaldo Perez

Karla Devine



Karla Devine is the director of music ministry at St. Mark's Lutheran Church in Hacienda Heights, CA, where she is organist and director of the adult choir and three children's choirs. She teaches music at Circle of Love Preschool in Manhattan Beach and teaches piano in her home.

Karla received her Bachelor of Music Education degree from Eastern Michigan University, where she studied with Erich Goldschmidt. She did graduate work with Eduard Müller in Basel, Switzerland, and with Heinrich Fleischer at the University of Minnesota.

Karla has worked on the planning committee for several national and regional conferences for ALCM, and has served as regional vice-president of ALCM for two terms. She is currently the artistic director of the concert series, Classical Crossroads, in Torrance, and serves as secretary of the Los Angeles Chapter of the American Guild of Organists. In 2014 Karla started a singing group in Manhattan Beach for seniors (with or without memory issues), which meets once a week. And she is on the board and volunteers for Ten Thousand Villages in Redondo Beach, a Fair Trade non-profit.

Vision statement:

My vision for ALCM is to continue to support church musicians through our network of new music, newsletters, journals, conferences and workshops, and collegiality. Our world, and our churches, are changing so rapidly. ALCM can provide essential guidance and creative worship leadership for all of us to move forward. And I feel that ALCM is still unfamiliar to many of our Lutheran church musicians. We can find new ways to share the good news about all the blessings membership in ALCM provides. We have so much to share! Finally, we have the gift of us, of people. The gift is not so much individual people but us, a community of people. Together, we have many gifts; together we can expand our reach to more musicians, enriching the song of more and more assemblies. Together we will nurture each other, equip each other, and serve the church.

Omaldo Perez (incumbent)



Omaldo Perez has served as an ALCM board member at large for the last two years. He is the cantor at Zoar Lutheran Church in Perrysburg, OH, where he supports and contributes to the musical and liturgical life of the congregation. As a church musician, interests dear to his heart are early baroque practice and musical diversity in today's church. Omaldo has served congregations in NY, NJ, AZ, WA, and OH, has helped lead music for ELCA synod assemblies, and has been a guest musician for ELCA events. He is an occasional contributor for *Sundays and Seasons* and *in tempo* magazine and has led workshops at both regional and national ALCM conferences.

Vision statement:

Serving as an ALCM board member for the last two years has been profoundly instructive. As a result, my understanding and admiration for the vital and multi-faceted work ALCM does continues to deepen.

Notwithstanding, my work for this cherished organization has been to identify and pursue areas of growth and opportunities which will best position our membership to live into our association's vision: serving the church's song by way of nurturing and equipping its musicians. Having encountered fertile soil, now I seek your support to till it. If elected I would be honored to work toward reinforcing and building ALCM's connections with (and to) local churches and educational institutions across the country. With your vote, I believe this will become another example of how ALCM moves forward sowing seeds for a brighter and more fruitful future!