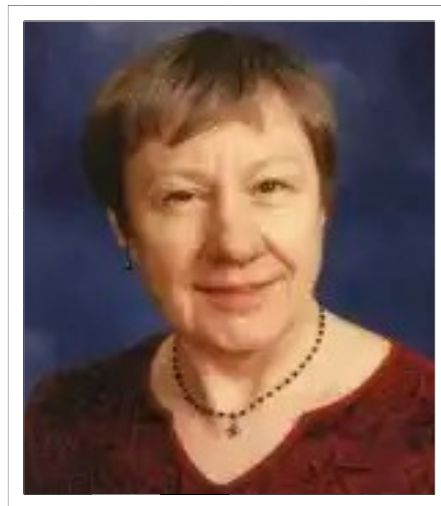


October 2025

Dean's Message



Suzanne Manelli

As you read this, we will have transitioned into fall - officially, if not in terms of temperature. It seems that summer does not want to let go. We St. Louisans need to keep three-quarters of our wardrobe on hand at all times, as sudden unseasonal changes are often the norm. However, there is a constant "season" we can rely on, and that is the St. Louis Chapter Program Year. Ours began on September 21 with a recital by Dr. Nicole Keller and continued with a Chapter dinner and presentation on September 22. I hope you were able to avail yourself of one or both of these events.

While we have a full program year, the climax of our season will be the AGO National Convention in July 2026. No doubt you have heard about it! The complex plans and arrangements for this are being adeptly handled by the National Convention Steering Committee under Burnell Hackman's leadership. However, it will take more than a committee to pull this off - it will take each one of us! Stay tuned throughout the year to learn how you can help make this convention a success.

Thank you for your participation in the St. Louis Chapter,

Suzanne Manelli

Dean

CHANGE OF PLANS

Sadly, the Halloween Concert, Reception and Silent Auction scheduled for October 24 has been canceled.

At the March 2, 2026, Chapter Meeting at Peace Lutheran Church, 737 Barracksview Road, St. Louis, Missouri, the 2026 National Convention Steering Committee will host a silent auction to raise funds for the Convention. It is not too early to donate items to the auction – please contact Michelle Sliger at michelleysliger@gmail.com.

At the March meeting Dr. Karen Black of Wartburg College will present the program. She will also perform a recital on the Martin Ott Organ at Peace Lutheran Church on Sunday, March 1, 2026 at 3:00 p.m. Save the dates on your calendar now!



The 2026 National AGO Convention is just months away. For my column in the OPUS this month, I would like to discuss giving to the Convention.

We now have 24 members of the 2026 Club. Those who give at this level (\$2,026.00) or higher are invited to a special reception on Friday, July 4, 2026 in the Parkview Room at the Hyatt Regency St. Louis at the Arch where those attending will have a fantastic view of the fireworks.

23 members of our Chapter have donated to the Convention. These amounts – both large and small - are much appreciated. We would like to have 100% participation as this looks good when we go to visit local business about sponsoring our Convention.

Several AGO Chapters and individuals from other parts of the country have sent us checks, either as a donation or to sponsor a composition, performer or workshop presenter. I would be happy to discuss this possibility with you.

Jospeh Arndt, one of our newer members, has taken on the task of contacting businesses to support the Convention. Joseph was chairperson of the 2023 Tulsa Regional Convention and had a very successful campaign there.

It's easy to give to the Convention. Visit AGOSTL2026.org and click the donate button. We are using a service called ZEFFY which covers the service fees for us. 100% of your gift goes to support the Convention. Or you can always mail us a check to AGO 2026 National Convention, Post Office Box 515031, St. Louis, MO 63151.

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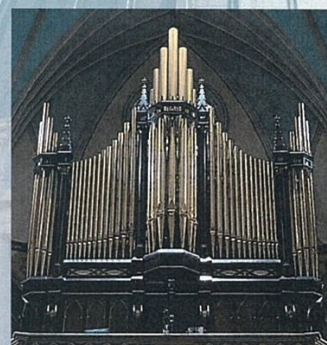


WICKS ORGAN L.L.C.
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Meet me in St. Louis!

Wicks is proud to have a part in the upcoming 2026 National Convention! Registration begins Fall 2025, but in the meantime, here is a small preview of some of our local instruments...

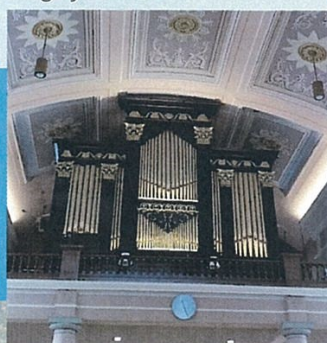
*St. Alphonsus Liguori
Catholic Church*



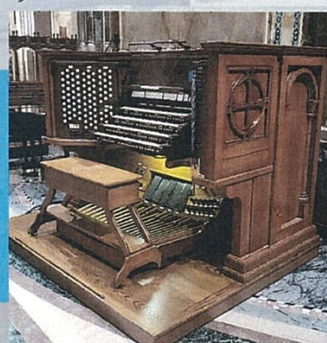
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(Continued from page 3)

The Fundraising Concert, reception and silent auction has been canceled for the Chapter's October event. At the March 2 Chapter meeting we will host a silent auction of donated items. It is not too late to donate an item for the silent auction!!

Your Steering Committee and Officers of the Convention have been working very hard as we prepare for the organ world coming to St. Louis.

Our Convention Website, with all performers and information will go live on Wednesday, October 1, 2025. Registration will open on Saturday, November 1, 2025. Your team is working hard to meet those deadlines.

I don't think any of us realized how much work would be needed to pull off a convention of this magnitude. THANK YOU everyone who has helped!

As I close, I wish everyone a great Fall season and please keep our Convention in your thoughts and prayers as we welcome the Organ World to St. Louis!!

God bless,



Burnell Hackman
Convention Coordinator





The 2025-2026 Chapter Yearbook is in the process of being prepared and will be mailed to each current member once it is completed.



**Sundays at
7:00 AM**

**Classic
107.3 FM**

**Find past episodes online
at kingofinstruments.show**

Oct. 5 - Music from Methuen
Oct. 12 - St. Luke's Evanston
Oct. 19 - St. John's Denver
Oct. 26 - At the Riverside

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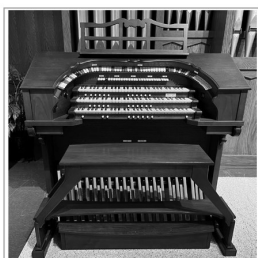


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Open POSITIONS

(Please note that some positions may no longer be available past the time of going to press.)

For more details on these and other job opportunities, please visit the “Open Positions” section of our website at <https://www.agostlouis.org/job-openings/>.

ORGANIST

Faith Lutheran Church (ELCA) in O’Fallon, IL is seeking an organist. More is available at <https://www.agostlouis.org/organist-3/>. Interested candidate should submit a cover letter, resume and two professional references to hiringscmte@faithofallon.org.

ORGANIST

First Presbyterian Church of Alton, IL is seeking a part-time organist and accompanist. If interested, contact firstpres1831@gmail.com or call 618-465-3592.

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC / ORGANIST

St. Gabriel the Archangel Roman Catholic Church is seeking a Director of Music and Organist. A detailed job description is available at <https://www.agostlouis.org/director-of-music-and-organist/>. To apply, send a CV detailing your musical, liturgical, and educational background, relevant Catholic parish experience, and references to ????. By September 30, 2025.

CHOIR DIRECTOR / ORGANIST

Grace Episcopal Church, Kirkwood, is seeking a Choir director/Organist who will work with the Rector to craft liturgy while also being responsible for all vocal and bell choirs at Grace. Make application by sending cover letter, resume, and list of references to The Rev. Dr. Lisa Corry at lisa.corry@gracekirkwood.org

CHOIR DIRECTOR

Parkway United Church of Christ seeks a part-time choir director. If you feel that we could be a good fit for you and your gifts, please send a cover letter and resume to employment@parkwayucc.org. Please indicate that you are applying for the choir director position.

ORGANIST/PIANIST

Resurrection Lutheran Church, 1211 W. Homer M Adams Pkwy, Godfrey IL is seeking an organist or pianist. For more information or to apply please contact Neal at 618-433-1611 or Pastor Jan at 618-250-1608.

Events Calendar

Check the Concerts and Events section of the Chapter website (www.agostlouis.org) for the most current list of upcoming events. When visiting that page, be sure to click on the heading of each concert listing for full details, including contact information, driving directions, etc.

Sunday, October 5 - 3:00 PM

Concert: Arianna String Quartet with Mieko Hironaka Bergt, piano

Eliot Unitarian Chapel

100 S Taylor Ave, Kirkwood, MO

Friends of Music Concerts announces the first concert of its 2025-2026 season. The concert is free.

Questions may be sent to the Friends of Music Concerts email at: fomcrcc@gmail.com.

Sunday, October 5 - 7:00 PM

Light Divine: A Hymn Festival on the Light of Christ

October 5th at 7:00 p.m.

Immanuel Lutheran Church and School

214 W 5th St., Washington, MO

Come raise your voice in beloved hymns as we celebrate the light of Christ with the musical groups of Immanuel Lutheran Church, including a brand-new Children's Choir special for this event. Refreshments to follow in the Fellowship Hall.

Wednesday, October 15 -12:15 PM

Organ Recital: [Kevin Chunko](#)

First Presbyterian Church of Kirkwood

100 East Adams Avenue

Kirkwood, MO

Join us for a free half-hour recital performed on our beautiful Casavant organ.

For more information, please visit conspirito.kirkwoodpres.org

Saturday, October 25 - 3:00 PM

Part of the [Con Spirito Concert Series](#)

First Presbyterian Church of Kirkwood

100 East Adams Avenue

Kirkwood, MO

The St. Louis Chamber Soloists, founded in 2021, regularly throughout St. Louis and employs some of the finest local musicians. St. Louis Chamber Soloists concerts include standards of the string orchestra repertoire as well as music by contemporary and under-represented composers.

Sunday, October 26 - 3:00 PM

Organ Recital: Amanda Mole

Third Baptist Church

620 N Grand Blvd, Saint Louis, MO

Concert organist Amanda Mole will be performing on the Kilgen-Moller-Reuter organ of Third Baptist Church.

Wednesday, November 12 - 12:15 PM

Organ Recital: Bill Stein

Join us for a free half-hour recital performed on our beautiful Casavant organ.

For more information, please visit conspirito.kirkwoodpres.org

Friday, November 14 - 7:00 PM

Organ Recital: Dennis Bergin

Twin Oaks Presbyterian Church

1230 Big Bend Road, Ballwin, MO

St. Louis concert organist Dennis Bergin will present an organ recital, "Lo! He Comes To Us."

The concert is free and open to the public.

For further information, please contact Twin Oaks Presbyterian Church at (636) 861-1870.

If you or your church has a musical event that you would like to have included in the calendar, **please** send an email to events@agostlouis.org and "cc" brent@brentmjohnson.net.

BOARD OFFICERS

2025-2026 Chapter Leadership Team



OFFICERS:

Dean - Suzanne Manelli
 Sub-Dean - Biff Hackman
 Secretary - Gaye Anderson
 Treasurer - Mike Kaberline
 Past Dean - Jeffrey White

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

Class of 2026

Stephen Jones
 Mark Lawson
 Sharon Whitlock

Class of 2027

Mary Hitchcock-Reinhart
 Earl Naylor
 Spencer Smith

Class of 2028

Joseph Arndt
 Luella Foster
 Matthew Gerhardt

APPOINTED POSITIONS:

2026 Convention Coordinator

Burnell Hackman

Auditor

Denis J. Doelling

Certification Coordinator

Brent Johnson

Dinner Reservations

Dr. Cathy Bolduan

Directory Editors

Jeff White & Regina Morris

Educational Resources

Dr. Barbara Raedeke

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Cathy Cassy

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Social Media Communications

Suzanne Chisum

Webmaster

Brent Johnson



Check out our presence on Facebook



Consider following our “Saint Louis Chapter AGO American Guild of Organists” Facebook Page. View photos from the AGO Events and Meetings. Stay abreast of all the organ happenings in the St. Louis area.

Have you joined the STL AGO Member Group yet?

Our “[AGO St. Louis Members](#)” Group is a private group where you can find humor, post questions and ask questions of others in the St. Louis Chapter of the American Guild of Organists.

For more information on either, please contact Suzanne Chisum at suzchisum@gmail.com.

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Material and calendar items should be e-mailed to newsletter@agostlouis.org.

Copy deadline for the November issue is October 10.

Send address changes or mailing label requests to:

**Regina Morris
3526 Oxford Blvd
St. Louis MO 63143-4209**