



THE OPUS

Volume 42
Issue No. 5

February 2026

Dean's Message

Greetings and a happy 2026 to all of you! Our Chapter rang in the new year on January 2 with a delightful Epiphany party at Christ the King Catholic Church, hosted by Dawn Riske. We enjoyed the warmth of food, drink and fellowship, and even had some musical entertainment by our own Dr. Bill Sullivan at the piano.



Suzanne Manelli

Exciting news! Our Chapter is collaborating with the Bach Society of Saint Louis for their annual spring Bach Festival. Our Chapter will present a concert of Bach and Baroque Organ Masters on Sunday, April 26 at St. Peter's Episcopal Church, featuring three of our own Chapter members. See <https://bachsociety.org/festival> for information about all the festival events, and stay tuned here for more information.

In the meantime, please plan to hear Dr. Karen Black in recital at Peace Lutheran on March 1, and attend our program on Monday, March 2, as she shares insights with us. More information on pages 2, 3 and 4.

I hope to see you soon,

Suzanne Manelli
Dean



Attendees at the 2026 Chapter Epiphany Party

Looking ahead to the next Chapter activities:

Sunday, March 1
3:00 p.m. - Organ Recital

Monday, March 2
6:30 p.m. - Dinner
7:30 p.m. - Program

Both events will feature Dr. Karen Black
and will be held at
Peace Lutheran Church
737 Barracksview Road
St. Louis, MO

Please RSVP to Cathy Bolduan at 314-853-5011 or kathleen.bolduan@gmail.com to make your dinner reservation.
Cost is \$20.00 per person.



July 6 - 10, 2026

If you get this mailing before January 31, you can still take advantage of our Super Saver Rates. (They will not be extended after January 31).

Supersaver

(November 1, 2025 – January 31, 2026)

- AGO Young Organists (under 30): \$200.00
- AGO Regular Member: \$370.00
- AGO Special/Senior Member (65+): \$330.00
- AGO Spouse/Partner: \$330.00
- Nonmember: \$420.00

TRANSPORTATION PACKAGE: \$250.00

Early

(February 1 – March 31)

- AGO Young Organists (under 30): \$225.00
- AGO Regular Member: \$420.00
- AGO Special/Senior Member (65+): \$395.00
- AGO Spouse/Partner: \$395.00
- Nonmember: \$540.00

TRANSPORTATION PACKAGE: \$275.00

Final

April 1 final rates go into effect

- AGO Young Organists (under 30): \$250.00
- AGO Regular Member: \$470.00
- AGO Special/Senior Member (65+): \$445.00
- AGO Spouse/Partner: \$445.00
- Nonmember: \$590.00

TRANSPORTATION PACKAGE: \$300.00

Shortly, a volunteer page will appear. We need many hands to make this Convention successful. Watch for details here.

At our next Chapter meeting on Monday, March 2, 2026. Dr Karen Black of Wartburg College in Iowa will present a program on Women Composers. Also, at the meeting there will be a silent auction of wine, gift baskets and many other items including a signed copy of Harold Gleasson's "Method of Organ Playing". (There is a copy on eBay with the asking price of \$250.00.) The Executive Committee will meet at 5:30 p.m. and there will be a dinner at 6:30 p.m. (RSVP to Kathleen Bouldman at kathleen.bouldman@gmail.com) with Dr. Black's program to follow at 7:30 p.m.

(Continued on page 4)

(Continued from page 3)

We will also discuss details of the Convention at the March 2 gathering.

Dr. Black will be playing a recital at Peace Lutheran Church on the Martin Ott Pipe Organ on Sunday, March 1, 2026, at 3:00 p.m. Come early to view the various items in the silent auction and begin bidding.

In other Convention news, things are running very smoothly! Registrations keep trickling in. We expect a big rush as the January 31 deadline approaches.

If you have not fulfilled your 2026 pledge to the Convention, or would like to contribute, please let us know how we can help and we can make that happen.

As we prepare to enter the Lenten/Easter Season, may peace abound!



Burnell Hackman
Convention Coordinator

**A SILENT AUCTION FUNDRAISER
TO BENEFIT THE 2026 AGO CONVENTION
WILL BE HELD ON MARCH 1 AND 2!**

Location: Peace Lutheran Church (737 Barracksview Road)

Bidding begins on March 1 before and after Dr. Karen Black's organ concert and concludes on March 2 after Dr. Black's program on Female Composers. (See page 2 for more details about the concert and program.)

We definitely have something for everyone!

- a night in with a comfy blanket and a set of Mark Schweitzer liturgical mysteries
- an antique music stand
- a night out at the movies
- Kenrick Meat Market goodies
- luscious creams from a local lavender farm
- autographed Harold Gleason method book
- BBQ fun / child's pool party / cheese board
- wine, wine and more wine
- and much more!!



We can accept cash, check, or credit card payments from the winners at the conclusion of the auction.

Let's make this event a HUGE success and show our support for the 2026 Convention!!

Questions? Contact Michelle Sliger (Michelleysliger@gmail.com)

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2026 NOMINEES

The following slate of nominees has been presented by the duly appointed nominating committee. We thank Spencer Smith and Cathy Bolduan for serving on that committee. Additional nominations may be made by petition if each petition is signed by five (5) Chapter members in good standing and submitted to the Chapter Secretary within thirty (30) days of the announcement of the slate to the Chapter membership but no later than March 15. The actual election will take place beginning April 1. Instructions for voting will appear in the April issue of The OPUS. Bios and photos of each candidate will appear in the March issue of The OPUS.

Dean
Dawn Riske

Sub-Dean
David Sinden

Class of 2029
Kendra Ruesler
Connor Scott
Elizabeth Stull
Bill Wade

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 February 15 - 2:00 PM

Theater Organ: Juan J. Cardona, Jr.

Lincoln Theatre

103 East Main Street, Belleville, IL

St. Louis Theater Organ Society Members MUST show their membership badge at the box office to receive a free ticket. Otherwise, tickets are \$15.00 each.

Sunday, February 22 - 3:00 PM

Friends of Music Concert

Eliot Unitarian Universalist Chapel

100 South Taylor Avenue, Kirkwood, MO

This free concert begins at 3:00 p.m. and will also be streamed live at: <https://youtube.com/live/970t1LELgJk>. Jake Heggie's song cycle about the life and work of 20th-century French sculptress Camille Claudel will be accompanied by slides of Claudel's works during the performance. Titled "Camille Claudel: Into the Fire," it will be performed by the Con Brio Ensemble with Debra Hillabrand, mezzo-soprano. Also featured will be Endre Szveransky's "Bläserquintet" performed by A Fifth Above Woodwind Quintet. For more information, please email fomrcc@gmail.com.

Sunday, March 1 – 3:00 PM

Organ Recital: Karen Black

Peace Lutheran Church

737 Barracksview Road, St. Louis MO

Dr. Black is the Rudi Inselmann Endowed Professor of Organ at Wartburg College, Waverly, Iowa. On Monday, March 2, she will present a program to the St. Louis Chapter of the AGO.

Sunday, April 19 – 3:00 PM

PsalmFest

Hope Evangelical Lutheran

5218 Nesho Street, St. Louis, MO

Featuring Psalm settings and commentary by Rev. Stephen Starke. Led by organist Jacob Weber and the choir of Hope Ev. Lutheran Church. A reception will follow the festival. For more information visit hopelutheranstl.org.

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.

An Opportunity to Sing for a Special Event

Fellow AGO members,

I would like to put together at least a double vocal quartet to participate in my next organ concert which will be at Third Baptist Church (Grand and Washington) on Friday, March 20, 2026 at 1:00 p.m. This would require at least one rehearsal at a time to be arranged with participants. You will be performing two anthems by John Rutter ("For the Beauty of the Earth" and "The Lord Bless You and Keep You") along with a plainsong Alleluia (provided in modern notation if you wish). If you have an interest in participating, please contact me by February 1, 2026, at ps72@use.startmail.com or call 314-809-2716 (voice only). Looking forward to collaborating!

Bill Sullivan



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...

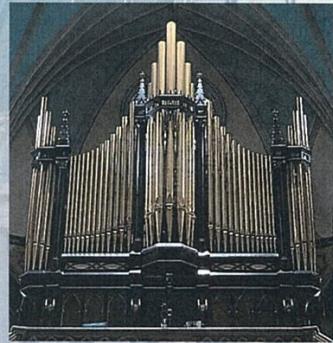
Pilgrim Congregational Church



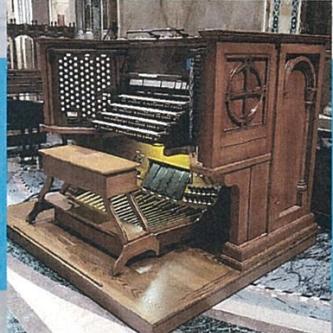
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WELCOME OUR NEW MEMBERS!

We welcome these most recent colleagues to join our Chapter:

Jacob Kazmierczak

Matthew Lawrence

Karen Zeferino



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Feb 1 All About Aeolian-Skinner
Feb 8 Eastman
Feb 15 Happy Birthday Jean Langlais
Feb 22 Rule Britannia

Sponsorship opportunities are available.
Email koi@kingofinstruments.show.

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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

Third Baptist Church in St. Louis invites applications from organists to join its music ministry team. The paid post of Principal Organist is offered on a part-time basis, with considerable flexibility for scheduling. Those interested in this opportunity should submit their resume with a cover letter and provide references who can address how they might best work in this collaborative environment. Applications should be sent to the Senior Pastor, Dr. Tommy Simons at <tsimons@third-baptist.org>.

ASSISTANT ORGANIST AND CHOIRMASTER

The Episcopal Parish of Alton is looking for an assistant organist and choirmaster. The Episcopal Parish of Alton is made up of St Paul’s Episcopal Church at 10 E 3rd St and Trinity Chapel at 1901 State St in Alton, IL. The Assistant Organist selected for this program will primarily play the new Viscount Cantorum Trio (3 manual) organ at Trinity Chapel. If you are interested in this position, please submit a cover letter and resume to episcopalalton@gmail.com. Should you have any questions, don’t hesitate to email the Parish Office or call us at 618-465-9149.

DIRECTOR OF PARISH MUSIC

Peace Lutheran Church, 737 Barracksview Road, Saint Louis, Missouri 63125 is searching for a Director of Parish Music. A full job description can be found at: [0e20459317_1759440402_peace-lutheran-church-director-of-parish-music-final.pdf](https://www.agostlouis.org/peace-lutheran-church-director-of-parish-music-final.pdf). Interested candidates should submit a cover letter and resume to jtroesch96@gmail.com. Applications will be reviewed and selected candidates will be contacted for an interview.

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 hiringcmte@faithoffallon.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.

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.

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/>.

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Have you joined The LOFT - an online forum of the American Guild of Organists? Once you have joined you will have the opportunity to “engage in meaningful conversations about the topics that matter to you, and build your presence in our online community.” There are currently quite a few discussion posts in progress, including topics such as: “Hauptwerk for Church Use,” “Obscure Repertoire,” “Music for Lent,” “Free Handbell Hymnal,” “Improvisation,” “Use of Hearing Aids,” and many, many more. The LOFT is also the place to search the full AGO Membership Directory.

Joining is easy. Log in to agohq.org using your membership credentials. At the top of the first screen, click on “The Loft” at the top of the page (next to “Cart”). On the next screen select “Quick Start Guide” at the top of the page and follow the instructions, and you’re in! You may then begin your own discussion stream about a topic of your choosing or join in on those already in progress. Give it a try. You always have the option to unsubscribe if you change your mind later.



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
Membership Coordinator
 Cathy Cassy
Historian
 Spencer Smith
OPUS Editor
 Rick Burk

Photographer
 Simeon A. Layne, Jr.
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Programs
 Biff Hackman
Publicity Liaison
 Dawn Riske
Registrar
 Regina Morris
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.

THE OPUS

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You are invited to submit material for publication consideration.
Material and calendar items should be e-mailed to newsletter@agostlouis.org.

Copy deadline for the March issue is February 10.

Send address changes or mailing label requests to:

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