



THE OPUS

Volume 42
Issue No. 6

March 2026

Dean's Message

It seems that the 2026 New Year has just begun, and yet the Superbowl is over, Mardi Gras and Lent are upon us, and the Chapter program year is moving swiftly along. With just a few months left, we have a lot to anticipate:

First, we have two more Chapter programs to finish out the year. Dr. Karen Black will address us on Monday, March 2, and our closing banquet will be held on Monday, May 11. Both events feature a dinner beforehand - please make plans to attend! Dr. Black will also offer an organ concert on Sunday, March 1 at Peace Lutheran Church. Please see page two for more information.

Second, we have Chapter elections beginning April 1. This year we will elect a new Dean, Sub-Dean, and three Executive Committee Members. Many thanks to the nominees who agreed to run for office!

Third, we are joining with the Bach Society to participate in the Spring Bach Festival. We hope this will lay the groundwork for more collaboration to come.

Finally - as you all are aware - our Chapter is hosting the AGO National Convention in July. We need the help of each of you to make this a success! Keep an eye out for any opportunity that you may be able to address.

I hope to see you Sunday, March 1 and Monday, March 2.

Suzanne Manelli
Dean



Suzanne Manelli

**EXECUTIVE
COMMITTEE
MEETING**

**MONDAY, MARCH 2
5:30 P.M.
PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH**



Biff Hackman

Sub-Dean's Message

Greetings STL AGO,

Our next program will take place on Monday, March 2 at Peace Lutheran Church, located at 737 Barracksview Road in South St. Louis County. Dr. Karen Black, the Rudi Inselmann Endowed Professor of Organ at Wartburg College, will present a program on Female Composers. The program will begin at 7:30 p.m. Dinner will be served at 6:30 p.m. Please remember to RSVP to Cathy Bolduan with your dinner reservation. Dr. Black will present an organ concert at Peace the day prior, Sunday, March 1 at 3:00 p.m.

We will meet for our Annual Closing Banquet on Monday, May 11 at St. Timothy's Episcopal Church in Creve Coeur. The dinner will begin at 6:30 p.m. Please look for further details in the April issue of The OPUS.

Thank you,

Biff Hackman

Sub-Dean, St. Louis Chapter of the American Guild of Organists

314-650-9413; Biffhackman@yahoo.com

March Chapter activities:

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

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

Silent Auction in conjunction with both events!

The recital and program 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.



**FUNDRAISER TO BENEFIT THE 2026 AGO NATIONAL CONVENTION
SUNDAY, MARCH 1 AND MONDAY, MARCH 2
Peace Lutheran Church (737 Barracksvue Road)**

Don't miss out on a chance to bid on some wonderful items for yourself or as gifts to friends and family while enjoying the satisfaction of helping make the National Convention a financial success.

Bidding begins on March 1 in conjunction with Dr. Karen Black's organ concert and concludes March 2 following Dr. Black's program on Female Composers. See page two for more information about those events.

The silent auction will definitely have something for everyone, including items such as the following:

- \$125.00 voucher to a St. Louis Symphony Orchestra performance
- \$79.00 Cresta Velia Cabernet Sauvignon from Napa Valley
- four Section I tickets to the Tallis Scholars concert at The Cathedra Basilica
- \$15.00 wine pull (18 bottles total)
- \$50.00 voucher to The Daily Bread Des Peres
- miscellaneous music morsels
- a collection of foreign musical instruments including a hand-painted Alaskan animal skin hand drum
- performance practice books
- metallic piano artwork
- voucher for Nutcracker on Ice (Webster Rink)
- an antique music stand
- a night out at the movies
- a night in with a comfy blanket and a set of Mark Schweitzer liturgical mysteries
- Kenrick Meat Market goodies
- luscious creams from a local lavender farm
- an autographed Harold Gleason method book
- BBQ fun
- child's pool party
- cheese board

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

Let's make this event a HUGE success!!

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



July 6 - 10, 2026

Things are moving quickly as we prepare for the 2026 National AGO Convention in St. Louis.

As of midnight on February 12, 2026, we had received the following registrations:

267 -Regular AGO Members

227 – Senior/Special

53 – Yong Organists

49 - Spouse/Partner

23 – Non-AGO Members

for a total of 619 registered attendees.

We hope to cap registration at around 1,000, so if you haven't registered, I would encourage you to do so soon.

Two of our three Friday tours are sold-out, and we are looking to add additional tours.

Fund-raising is a major part of the Convention process. We are doing fairly well in this endeavor but could always use additional funds. It is not too late to join the 2026 club or to give at any level you are comfortable with. Please visit www.agostl2026.org to donate or register for the Convention.

Also, in conjunction with our March 2 Chapter program there will be a silent auction of many fun and useful items (see more details on page 3). The proceeds from the auction will lend additional financial support to the Convention. Please come out and support our Chapter (and the Convention) by attending both the meal and the program (featuring a presentation by Dr. Karen Black on female composers) as well as supporting the silent auction. Checks, cash and credit cards will be accepted for auction items.

There will be many opportunities for Chapter members and friends to be involved throughout the Convention. Our Volunteer Coordinator, Dawn Riske, is working on a computer program which will make signing up to help very easy. Watch for more details!

With the Convention only about 130 days away, your Steering Committee is very pleased with the work they have done and is looking forward to the work yet to be done.

As we invite the organist world to St. Louis, please come and be a part of this historic occasion.

Thank you!

Burnell Hackman

Convention Coordinator

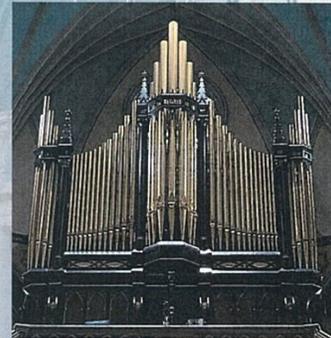


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Wicks is proud to have a part in the upcoming 2026 National Convention! Registration begins Fall 2025, but in the meantime, here is a small preview of some of our local instruments...

St. Alphonsus Liguori Catholic Church



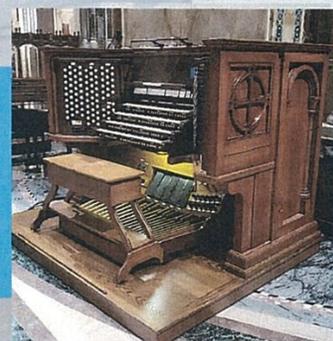
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2026 NOMINEES

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 appear below.

DEAN DAWN RISKE

Deaconess Dawn Riske serves as Director of Music Ministries at Christ the King Parish in University City. She also accompanies the weekly Hispanic Mass at St. Joseph, Manchester and teaches private music lessons. Her degrees in Music and Theology from Aquinas Institute and Valparaiso University provide a solid foundation upon which to build her ministry of music and liturgy. Directing choirs of all ages, planning liturgies, and leading music in worship provide her with a true sense of vocation. She treasures ecumenism and connecting with Latino and African American faith communities through music. Dawn is a Colleague of the AGO as well as a past Dean of the American Guild of Organists (2014-2016) and served as Director of the St. Louis Chapter February Flourish for many years. She also appreciates the collegiality provided by the National Association of Pastoral Musicians. Her professional colleagues in the American Guild of Organists leave her feeling a sense of awe and gratitude. Gardening, reading, and cooking are favorite activities when she is not visiting with friends and family—or even when she is!



SUB-DEAN DAVID SINDEN



Noted for his “centered leadership and solid musicianship,” David Sinden has been the Organist and Director of Music at St. Peter’s Episcopal Church in St. Louis since 2015. His recording with the St. Peter’s Choir, *Longing for Home* (Regent Records, 2020), has been met with widespread acclaim. Prior to his current appointment, Mr. Sinden served in the same capacity at St. Paul’s Episcopal Church, Capitol Square, in Richmond, Virginia. While in Virginia, he was the Artistic Director of the Central Virginia Masterworks Chorus for three seasons and served on the Standing Committee for Liturgy and Church Music for the Episcopal Diocese of Virginia.

Mr. Sinden has held leadership positions in several AGO chapters. His recent service includes the New Music and Program Committees for the 2026 AGO National Convention. He has previously served on the Program and Executive Committees of the St. Louis and Richmond Chapters and is a former Dean of the Indianapolis Chapter.

Mr. Sinden has appeared at conventions of the Hymn Society of the United States and Canada and the Anglican Association of Musicians. He holds degrees in music from Oberlin College and Indiana University.

NOMINEES CONTINUED

CLASS OF 2029

KENDRA RUESLER

Kendra Ruesler serves as Associate Organist at Peace Lutheran Church. She has been an organist and choir accompanist at Peace for 20 years. She has served as a part-time organist or substitute at a variety of churches since 1985. Kendra studied organ at St. Paul's College in Concordia, Missouri and Southeast Missouri State University. She graduated from SEMO with a Business Education Degree. Kendra was a business teacher for 35 years before retiring in May 2023. In the past, she has served as Membership Coordinator for the St. Louis AGO Chapter. She is currently serving as Executive Secretary for the 2026 AGO Convention.



CONNOR SCOTT



Connor Scott completed his Doctorate of Musical Arts in Choral Music in August of 2025. His dissertation research focused on the French Royal Chapel during the reign of Louis XIV. His scholarly work includes editing the first edition of *grand motets* by Pascal Colasse (1649–1709). Dr. Scott serves as Director of Music: Organist & Choir Director at the historic Christ Church Cathedral (Episcopal) in downtown St. Louis, where he leads musical worship for a congregation celebrating over two centuries of ministry. In this role, he directs the Cathedral Choir, a concert series, performs on the renowned 1964 64-rank Aeolian-Skinner organ, and coordinates music for diocesan events and ordinations throughout the region. Dr. Scott proudly succeeds his mentor and organ professor, Organist & Choirmaster Canon Precentor William “Pat” Partridge, M.M., F.C.C.M. who held the position for 42 years, from 1981 to 2023.

ELIZABETH STULL

Elizabeth (Betsy) Stull holds a B.A. in English from William Jewell College, with a semester of literary study in Harlaxton, England. She was initially a Church Music/Organ major for 2 ½ years. She holds teaching certifications in English, music, and elementary education, and a Colleague certificate from the American Guild of Organists. A lover of both music and the written word, Elizabeth has authored hymns, songs, and educational materials, is a three-term alum of the Getty International Hymn Writing Collective and has recently piloted a 52-week musical catechism of which she is co-author. Over the years, she and her husband, James, have served at four area churches, leading traditional and contemporary services. She has been involved in church music throughout her life but felt that God led her back to the organ in 2018, when she signed her first contract. At that time, she joined the AGO, determined to improve her long-neglected skills, and found great fulfillment in returning to the organ.



BILL WADE



Bill Wade (he/him) is the Minister of Music/Organist St. Paul UCC, St. Louis and the Handbell Director at First Presbyterian Church of Kirkwood. Dr Wade is a retired family practice physician who holds a Master degree in Public Health from Saint Louis University College for Public Health and Social Justice and a Master of Music degree in organ performance from Webster University. Bill is a past Dean of the St. Louis Chapter of the American Guild of Organists, holds the AGO Colleague Certificate (CAGO), and is Chair and a charter member of the Handbell Association of Greater St. Louis. Bill has served as music director and organist in churches in Texas, Oklahoma, Kansas, Missouri and Illinois. Bill is a strong advocate for advancing the mission of the American Guild of Organists to foster a thriving community of musicians who share their knowledge and inspire passion for the organ. Bill also serves on the steering committee of the 2026 AGO National Convention as Transportation co-chair.

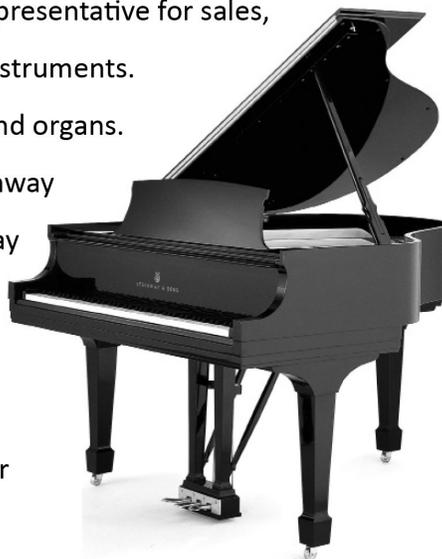
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Adoration

The Anniversary Concert

Friday, March 20 - 1:00 P. M.

Third Baptist Church
620 North Grand Blvd. (at Washington Blvd.)
St. Louis, MO 63103

Save the date for an exciting, inspirational, and fun concert featuring organist and former *Friday Pipes* favorite, Dr. William Sullivan, along with some very talented musical guests. We will be celebrating a very special anniversary (actually several anniversaries, as you will discover). One is 30 years, one is 5 years, and the other is . . . well, I'm not telling any more. You just need to be there!

This one-hour, thirty-minute program includes works and transcriptions by Felix Borowski, Eugène Gigout, Richard Wagner, Théodore Dubois, John Rutter, Edvard Grieg, Dom Paul Benoît, César Franck, as well as a writer of old melodies affectionately known as "anon."

And, for old time's sake, Dr. Bill will host one of his now famous (or now infamous) compact disk giveaways. Best answer to his trivia questions wins a prize.

One time only. Free and open to the public. Ample parking is available.



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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. There is much, much more information provided on the Chapter website for each of the events listed below.

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.

Sunday, March 1 - 3:00 PM
Organ Recital: Karen Black
 Peace Lutheran Church
 737 Barracksview Road, St. Louis, MO

Wednesday, March 4 - 11:00 AM
Organ Recital: Elin Hogan-Gomez
 Peace Lutheran Church
 737 Barracksview Road St. Louis, MO

Friday, March 6 - 12:00 PM
Concert: Perseid String Quartet
 First Presbyterian Church of Kirkwood
 100 E Adams Ave, Kirkwood, MO

Wednesday, March 11 - 11:00 AM
Organ Recital: Arthur Eichhorn
 Peace Lutheran Church
 737 Barracksview Road, St. Louis, MO

Friday, March 13 - 8:00 AM
Concert: St. Louis Irish Arts
 First Presbyterian Church of Kirkwood
 100 E Adams Ave, Kirkwood, MO

Wednesday, March 18 - 11:00 AM
Organ Recital: Matthew Gerhardt
 Peace Lutheran Church
 737 Barracksview Road, St. Louis, MO

Wednesday, March 18 - 12:15 PM
Organ Recital: John Cargile
 First Presbyterian Church of Kirkwood
 100 E Adams Ave, Kirkwood, MO

Friday, March 20 - 12:00 PM
Organ Recital: Kevin Chunko
 First Presbyterian Church of Kirkwood
 100 E Adams Ave, Kirkwood, MO

Friday, March 20 - 1:00 PM
Organ Recital: William Sullivan
 Third Baptist Church
 620 N Grand Blvd, Saint Louis, MO, United States

Sunday, March 22 - 3:00 PM
Recital: W. Mark Akin, guitar
 First Presbyterian Church of Kirkwood
 100 E Adams Ave, Kirkwood, MO

Sunday, March 22 - 3:00 PM
Concert: Metropolitan Brass and Organ
 St. Trinity Lutheran Church
 517 Koeln Ave, St Louis, MO

Wednesday, March 25 - 11:00 AM
Organ Recital: Kevin Huckshold
 Peace Lutheran Church
 737 Barracksview Road, St. Louis, MO

Friday, March 27 - 12:00 PM
Concert: Early Music Missouri
 First Presbyterian Church of Kirkwood
 100 E Adams Ave, Kirkwood, MO

Open POSITIONS

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/>.

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

CHOIR DIRECTOR

Glendale Lutheran Church, 1365 N. Sappington Rd. 63122, is seeking a Choir Director. The choir director leads a 15-person choir for an hour long practice once a week in the evening and regular Sunday morning offerings. The Choir Director's salary is \$250 per week. Services are on our website, glendalelc.org. We are also looking to fill the Organist/Pianist position (see below). We are open to combining the two positions depending on experience and qualifications of the candidate. If interested or for more information, contact Pastor Scott Jonas at 805-345-6658 or scottjonas314@gmail.com.

ORGANIST/PIANIST

Glendale Lutheran Church, 1365 N. Sappington Rd. 63122, is seeking an Organist/Pianist. The position requires leading the Sunday 9:15 a.m. service, Wednesday evening services in Advent and Lent and the Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services. Services usually consist of five hymns, a prelude and a postlude. We do a musical divine service every other week. Salary is \$250 per week. Services are on our website, glendalelc.org. We are also looking to fill the Choir Director position (see above). We are open to combining the two positions depending on experience and qualifications of the candidate. If interested or for more information, contact Pastor Scott Jonas at 805-345-6658 or scottjonas314@gmail.com.

ORGANIST/PIANIST

Resurrection Lutheran Church, 1211 W. Homer M Adams Pkwy, Godfrey IL is seeking an organist or pianist. Duties include playing hymns, Lutheran liturgies, and service music such as preludes, voluntaries and postludes. Sunday services are at 10:00 a.m. Additional services include mid-week services during Lent and Advent, Christmas Eve and special services as needed. Salary is \$150-200 per service based on experience. For more information or to apply please contact Neal at 618-433-1611 or Pastor Jan at 618-250-1608.

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.

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@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.

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.

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2025-2026 Chapter Leadership Team

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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

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Regina Morris

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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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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 April issue is March 10.

Send address changes or mailing label requests to:

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