

May 2026

Dean's Message

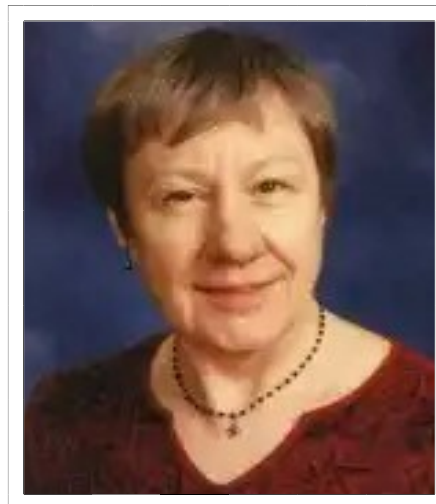
Our 2025-2026 Program Year is rapidly winding down, with one more dinner and meeting to take place in May. Please save the date for Monday, May 11, for our closing banquet, the installation of new officers, and presentation of the Avis Blewett Award. Additional details are provided in this newsletter. Be sure to reserve your place at the dinner by contacting Cathy Bolduan.

We congratulate new Dean Dawn Riske and new Sub-Dean David Sinden as they take over the leadership of our Chapter. We also welcome the Class of 2029: Kendra Ruesler, Connor Scott and Bill Wade. Many thanks to these new officers for their willingness to serve!

If you receive this in time, remember to make plans to attend the Spring Bach Festival organ concert on Sunday, April 26, 3:00 pm at St. Peter's Episcopal Church. Tickets are free but reservations are strongly encouraged. Please see <https://bachsociety.org/baroqueorgan> for more information. We are delighted to partner with the Bach Society of Saint Louis to present this program.

I hope to see you at our May Banquet!

Suzanne Manelli
Dean



Suzanne Manelli

**EXECUTIVE
COMMITTEE
MEETING**

MONDAY, MAY 11

5:30 P.M.

ST. TIMOTHY'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH



Biff Hackman

Sub-Dean's Message

Greetings STL AGO,

It's hard to believe that Easter has already passed and we will soon meet for our Annual Closing Banquet. We will meet on Monday, May 11 at St. Timothy's Episcopal Church, located at 808 North Mason Road in Creve Coeur, MO 63141. Dinner will begin at 6:30 p.m. and the Annual Meeting will follow at 7:30 p.m. Our 2026-2027 Program Year will also be announced at the meeting. Don't forget to RSVP to Cathy Bolduan (see details below).

I hope to see you there!

Biff Hackman

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

biffhackman@yahoo.com

314-650-9413

Annual Banquet and Meeting

Monday, May 11

5:30 p.m. - Executive Board

6:30 p.m. - Dinner

7:30 p.m. - Annual Meeting

St. Timothy's Episcopal Church

808 North Mason Road

Creve Coeur, MO 63141

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.

ELECTION RESULTS

Congratulations to the following Chapter members recently elected to serve as Officers and members of the Executive Committee:

Dean: Dawn Riske

Sub-Dean: David Sinden

Class of 2029: Kendra Ruesler, Connor Scott and Bill Wade.

These newly elected Executive Committee members will be installed at the May 11 annual meeting. They will officially begin their duties effective July 1, 2026.

We thank all who accepted a nomination for the various positions in this year's election.



Dean elect, Dawn Riske



Sub-Dean elect, David Sinden



Kendra Ruesler



Connor Scott



Bill Wade



July 6 - 10, 2026

With the Convention less than 80 days away the excitement is building!

There will soon be an on-line portal to sign up for volunteering to help during the Convention. These opportunities will include serving as a monitor in a workshop room, ushering at a concert, driving performers to rehearsals, working at the Hospitality desk as well as many other opportunities. We'll let you know when the site is up and running.

During the evening Exhibit Hours on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday during the Convention the cash bars will be offering drinks with organ-related names: *i.e.* the Swell Cocktail, the Posaune Punch, the Hauptwerk High Ball, etc. We are tapping into your creative juices to come up with some cocktails. Please email your recipes to me and we will see if we can use it.

God bless,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Burnell".

Burnell Hackman
Convention Coordinator
Agostl2026@agostllouis.org

A message from the Chair of the 2026 Convention Worship Committee:

In a few months, the 2026 AGO National Convention will be here in the "Show Me" state. We will have a great opportunity to show our Convention guests where we pray, how we lead music and the instrument(s) we use. It is likely that many Convention attendees will be in St. Louis by the morning of Sunday, July 5 - so let's welcome them with Midwestern kindness and hospitality. A further aspect characteristic of Midwestern life is adequate preparation - and so you are invited to help prepare a list of worship opportunities that can be shared with our Convention guests, mindful of their respective faith practices. If you and your congregation or church would like to invite Convention attendees to join you for worship on July 5, please contact Fr. Jeremy Secrist, Worship Committee Chair. You can contact him at jasecrist@yahoo.com or 573-797-0592. Let's offer our AGO colleagues from across the county a warm and prayerful welcome.



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



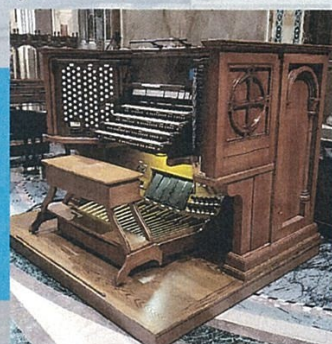
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May 3 Eric Plutz
 May 10 AGO Founders
 May 17 Ascending Glory
 May 24 Gerald Near
 May 31 Edward Elgar

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



**Sundays at
7:00 AM**

**Classic
107.3 FM**

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

June 7 The Schumanns
 June 14 More Americana
 June 21 Convention Preview
 June 28 Convention Preview II

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

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IN MEMORIUM



Dorothy Richterkessing

August 14, 1932 - February 18, 2026

We remember longtime Friend of the Chapter, Dorothy Richterkessing, who died this past February. A memorial service was held at St. Thomas Holy Spirit Lutheran Church on February 28.

Concert 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@brentmjohanson.net.

Monday, May 4 - 7:00 PM

[Organ Recital: Eric Plutz](#)

Organ Dedication Anniversary Recital
First Presbyterian Church of Kirkwood
100 E Adams Ave, Kirkwood, MO

Wednesday May 13 - 12:15 PM

[Organ Recital: Bill Stein](#)

Part of the Mid-Month Music Series
First Presbyterian Church of Kirkwood
100 E Adams Ave, Kirkwood, MO

Wednesday, June 17 - 12:15 PM

[Organ Recital: Kevin Chunko](#)

Part of the Mid-Month Music Series
First Presbyterian Church of Kirkwood
100 E Adams Ave, Kirkwood, MO

Friday, June 26 - 7:00 PM

[Organ Recital: Dennis Bergin](#)

Twin Oaks Presbyterian Church
1230 Big Bend Road, Ballwin, MO

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III/32
Trinity Lutheran Church
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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.)

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/ACCOMPANIST

Faith Lutheran Church (ELCA) in O’Fallon, IL is seeking an organist/accompanist. More is available at <https://www.agostlouis.org/organist-3/>. Interested candidate should submit a cover letter, resume and two professional references by May 1 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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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.

Placement

Denis J. Doelling

Professional Concerns Liaison

Shawn Portell

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.

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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 Summer issue is May 10.

Send address changes or mailing label requests to:

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