

October 2026

Dean's Message

Dear Colleagues,

While walking in the neighborhood recently, I saw a neighbor open his storage shed. It was packed to the top, there was no room to add in anything else. He was storing his treasures. I wondered how he managed it when he needed something from the back of the shed. Hmmm . . .

I also have my “stash,” places where I am storing treasures, but cannot always put my hand on what I need when I need it. Staying organized is time-consuming, yet a great use of energy. I thought my recent retirement would give me more time to organize what I have and release that which I no longer need. It is hard to make such incremental progress; I want it to be organized and in perfect shape . . . yesterday. Why do I have so much stuff?

When asked what is most important to them, parishioners in a recent survey replied, “Activities and time shared with family and friends.” It was not the shelves of books or exercise equipment or car or money. Time spent with those we love is a high priority. Attending worship builds in time for people of every generation to spend time together. Children who attend church are 1) seeing, 2) being seen and 3) gaining a rich experience. Worshipping communities offer opportunities for people of every age to strengthen human connection and build relationships. It can be exhilarating, confusing, uplifting, and messy . . . but oh, what connections are being made!

Those of us who are making music in these communities have opportunities to unpack treasures of inspiring melodies, meaningful lyrics, and beautiful arrangements. Our contributions through music ought not to be underestimated. Each week is a sharing of treasures, experiences, and motivating sounds. Take a moment now to remember when an experience of music lifted your heart in a way that words could not express. Then take a moment to reflect on how your musical gifts bring people of all ages together and strengthen them to face the week ahead.

Yes, it is time for me to unpack some of those repertoire books from the bottom of the box and restore a hidden gem to my hands and heart. Will you join me? Then let's share our treasures—perhaps at the October 26 event at St. Gabriel Church, or with people who are dear to you.

Soli Deo Gloria
Dawn Riske, CAGO, Dean



Dawn Riske

Sub-Dean's Message



David Sinden

Dear Chapter Members,

I am excited to share details about our next three chapter programs, the first of which will rely on your input to succeed.

Do you have one or more pieces in your repertoire that you love to play but suspect are not played by anyone else? Or have you ever played a piece and then been asked right away about the composer? Have you even surprised an organist with your repertoire? If so, you have a candidate for our Monday, October 26 program, **Buried Treasure: Members' Favorite "Unknown" Pieces.**

Everyone — even if you can't attend this meeting! — is encouraged to send information about their "buried treasure" pieces (title, composer, publisher) by email to dsinden@gmail.com by Friday, October 23. I will prepare a program handout with as much Buried Treasure as we can find.

Then, on Monday, October 26, we will meet at St. Gabriel's Catholic Church ([6303 Nottingham Ave., St. Louis, Mo.](#)). Dinner will begin at 6:30 p.m., and the program will follow in the church at 7:30 p.m. We are grateful to Laura Cooman, who will be our host for the evening. If you are coming to the meeting, please bring one, two, or three of these pieces and plan to play a short excerpt (60 seconds or less) if you would like. Laura Cooman, our host for the evening, is also willing to let organists play the organ ahead of time. Please email Laura at lcooman@stgabrielstl.org for details. Please contact Cathy Bolduan at [\(314\) 853-5011](tel:3148535011) or kathleen.bolduan@gmail.com by Thursday, October 22, to make your reservation for dinner.

Two weeks later, on Monday, November 9, we will meet at the Church of St. Michael and St. George ([6345 Wydown Blvd., Clayton, Mo.](#)) and visit with Schoenstein & Co., who are here installing the church's new 40-rank pipe organ. We will hear a presentation about the instrument from **Bryan Dunnewald, President and Tonal Director of Schoenstein.** Joseph Arndt will be our host.

And looking ahead to Friday, January 8, 2027, please mark your calendar for the chapter's annual **Epiphany Party**, which will be held at St. Francis de Sales Oratory ([2653 Ohio Ave. St. Louis, Mo.](#)), where James Marck will be our host.

David Sinden,
Sub-Dean

Monday, October 26
6:30 p.m. - Dinner
7:30 p.m. - Program
St. Gabriel's Catholic Church
6303 Nottingham Avenue



Please RSVP by October 22 to Cathy Bolduan at kathleen.bolduan@gmail.com or 314-853-5011 to make your dinner reservation. Cost is \$20.00 per person. You may also purchase your dinner in advance with the QR Code above. This code is only valid for the October 26 dinner. The dinner cost is still \$20 but the link will ask if you want to add a donation to cover credit card costs. You can easily choose "Other" at the donation request field and enter a zero (0) and you will only be charged \$20. The Chapter does not pay credit card fees regardless of what you choose. But you still must RSVP with Cathy Bolduan so she knows to order your meal. If you have to cancel or cannot attend, we apologize that there are no refunds for advance purchases.

FEBRUARY FLOURISH 2027



The St. Louis Chapter of the AGO has a rich tradition of presenting a "February Flourish." Besides sharing great workshops and inspiring presentations, it is an excellent event for inviting and including musicians who are not yet part of the Guild but would like to know more. The National Committee on Membership Development and Chapter Support has just updated the Guide for these Membership Development Events, which can now be held any time of the year and can be given the name that best suits the chapter's objectives. Check out the booklet here:

https://agohq.org/common/Uploaded%20files/Website%20Files/2026/MDEGuide_Final_07_2026.pdf

Saint Louis has a positive reputation for our events, and indeed, we have gained some excellent members through our February Flourish offerings. Dawn will be looking for some Chapter members to join her in planning the event for February 2027. If you have ideas . . . let us know.



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Events Calendar

If you, your church or other organization has an organ/musical event that you would like to have included in the calendar, **please** send an email to events@agostlouis.org. The Chapter website is currently functioning at less than 100% but is being repaired. Visit the Chapter website at www.agostlouis.org for more detailed information on all events once the website is fully restored.

JAMES O'DONNELL, ORGANIST

Friday, October 2 - 7:00 p.m.

St. Peter's Episcopal Church
110 N Warson Rd.
St. Louis, MO

To celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Mander organ at St. Peter's Episcopal Church, internationally acclaimed organist James O'Donnell, former Organist and Master of the Choristers at Westminster Abbey and current Professor of Organ at Yale University, will return to St. Peter's to present an organ recital Friday, October 2, at 7:00 p.m. Widely praised for his "exceptional command of light and shade" and "impressive virtuosity," O'Donnell is recognized as one of the leading organists of our time. The recital is free, and all are welcome. There is ample parking in the lots surrounding the church. The recital will be followed by a gala reception in the church's undercroft.



PAUL FEY, ORGANIST

Sunday October 11 - 7:00 p.m.

Webster Groves Presbyterian Church
45 West Lockwood Ave
Webster Groves, MO 63119

Free and open to the public
This is part of his US Concert Tour

Paul Fey is a German concert organist and composer who has rapidly emerged as one of the most distinctive voices of a new generation of church and concert musicians.

If you plan to attend the Paul Fey Recital on Sunday, October 11 you are welcome to join AGO friends and "Plus Ones" for supper at Llywelyn's Pub, [17 Moody Avenue](http://17MoodyAvenue.com) at 5:00 p.m. that afternoon. We will enjoy some conviviality and finish our dessert in time for the 7:00 p.m. concert. RSVP to Dawn Riske by October 9 at [\(314\) 397-2651](tel:3143972651) or email dean@agostlouis.org. *Viel Spaß!*

FRIENDS OF MUSIC CONCERT

Sunday, October 18 – 3:00 p.m.

Eliot UU Chapel
Kirkwood, MO

This free concert will also be streamed live at: youtube.com/live/25y_CPnygnk. Pavel Ilyashov, violin and Shen Wen, piano will perform a varied program featuring works by J.S.Bach, W.A.Mozart, Maurice Ravel, Max Reger, Sergei Prokofiev, and Rodion Schchedrin. For more information, please send an email to: fomcrcc@gmail.com

(continued on page 6)

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HELEN ROTHFUSS, ORGANIST
Sunday, October 25, 2026 – 4:00 p.m.

Dardenne Presbyterian Church
 7400 South Outer 364
 Dardenne Prairie, MO

Free concert open to the public

Helen Ruthfuss is the Director of Music at First Presbyterian Church of St. Louis. Born in Hannibal, Missouri she received a Master of Arts degree in Music Education with an emphasis in Organ Performance from Catholic University of America. Helen taught general music for over 25 years and has served in music ministry positions on the east coast and in the Midwest for over 35 years. She has performed three concerts with the theme "The Liturgical Year" as part of the Sunday Music Series in Quincy, Illinois, and this will be the first concert with this theme in the St. Louis area.

NUTCRACKER ON ICE!
Saturday, December 12 & 13 – 2:00 p.m. & 4:30 p.m.

Webster Groves Ice Arena
 33 E. Glendale Rd.
 Webster Groves, MO

Tickets are \$20 in advance and \$25 at the door provided that the show isn't sold out, which often happens with the afternoon shows. You may want to check out the website and order your tickets in advance at nutcrackeronice.org. Get there early to get a good parking space because the lot fills up! (Street parking is allowed in some of the neighborhoods near the arena.)

DENNIS BERGIN, ORGANIST
Friday, February 26, 2027 - 7:00 p.m.

Twin Oaks Presbyterian Church
 1230 Big Bend Road
 St. Louis, MO

St. Louis concert organist Dennis Bergin will present an organ recital titled "BEHOLD OUR SAVIOR." The church's splendid 49-rank Quimby pipe organ will be heard in music by J. S. Bach Prelude and Fugue in D Major BWV 532 and Organ Chorales BWV 645, 646, 650, and 622. The featured work on the program will be Marcel Dupre's monumental Symphonie-Passion Op 23 in four movements (complete), each movement depicting a central event in the life of Christ. The concert is free and open to the public. For further information, contact the church at (636) 861-1870.

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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, be sure to visit the “Open Positions” section of our website at <https://www.agostlouis.org/job-openings/>. To post an opening for an organist, choir director or other liturgical music position or to remove a posting, email placement@agostlouis.org.

ORGANIST

Holy Trinity Reformed Episcopal Church (1016 S. Elm, Webster Groves, MO) is seeking an organist. In addition to regular services, the organist will have the right of first refusal for weddings and funerals. For more information, please contact Sr. Warden Ted Watkins at crsprat@charter.net or 636-221-1512.

ORGANIST

Third Baptist Church invites applications from trained organists to join its music ministry team. The full-time position also includes serving as media director. Full position description may be found on the church's website. If interested, please send a cover letter, resume, references to Senior Pastor, Dr. Tommy Simons at tsimons@thirdbaptist.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. 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 other special services. For more information or to apply please contact Neal at 618-433-1611 or Pastor Jan at 618-250-1608.

BOARD OFFICERS



2026-2027 Chapter Leadership Team

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 Sub-Dean - David Sinden
 Secretary - Gaye Anderson
 Treasurer - Mike Kaberline
 Past Dean - Suzanne Manelli

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UPCOMING CHAPTER EVENTS

Monday, October 26

Saint Gabriel's Catholic Church

[6303 Nottingham Ave.](#)

[St. Louis, Mo., 63109](#)

6.30 p.m. – Dinner

7.30 p.m. - Buried Treasure: Members' Favorite "Unknown" Pieces

Monday, November 9

The Church of St. Michael and St. George

[6345 Wydown Blvd.](#)

[Clayton, Mo. 63105](#)

6:30 p.m. - Dinner

7:30 p.m. - A presentation about the new Schoenstein organ at St. Michael and St. George
 by Bryan Dunnewald, President and Tonal Director of Schoenstein & Co.

Friday, January 8, 2027

The Oratory of St. Frances de Sales

[2653 Ohio Ave.](#)

[St. Louis, Mo. 63118](#)

6:00 p.m. - Epiphany Party

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Copy deadline for the November issue is October 10.

Send address changes or mailing label requests to:

**Brenda Tripp
5 Villawood Lane
St. Louis, MO 63119**