

WORSHIP & MUSIC DIRECTOR, Full-Time Messiah Lutheran Church (ELCA), Wauconda, IL

Messiah Lutheran Church (ELCA), is a mid-sized and growing congregation in Chicago's north suburban Wauconda, IL with a long history of...

- Compassionate, community involvement;
- Significant children's and family ministries, including our large and dynamic preschool;
- Commitment to welcome and inclusion all God's people, and learning from folks who are different from us;
- High-participation, authentic, welcoming worship in both traditional Lutheran liturgical and "contemporary" Christian styles.

With new pastoral and faithful lay leadership, there's increasing excitement and financial strength as our systems get better, our staff gets bigger, and our dreams get bolder.

Staff-wise, we're grateful to God, kind to each other, curious about change, gracious about goof-ups, eager for improvement, and willing to work hard to change lives with Jesus' love. If that sounds like a team you'd like to join, keep reading below!

POSITION DESCRIPTION

FT or PT Worship and Music Director, responsible for planning inspiring worship services with the pastor and their team, increasing both musical quality and participation in two distinct musical styles:*

1. Traditional but creative, liturgical that's piano or organ-led, and
2. Contemporary praise-team with music that's alternately thoughtful and upbeat.

This person will serve as lead vocalist of this team.

*n.b.: We would also welcome conversation with candidates who excelled in either one or the other category and are open to a part-time position.

Our music program currently includes an adult choir, bell choir, and string/wind ensemble, along with holiday special music and programs, with increased youth participation in those and other nascent ensembles. Future plans: possible Preschool and Kindergarten music classes, as well as instrumental or voice lessons, which could lead to private instruction opportunities for the Director.

Director will be lead instrumentalist and vocalist of praise team.

Additionally, Director will support production technology as it relates to in-person and online worship, and work comfortably in programs like Planning Center and services, or demonstrate facilities with similar programs.

We're praying for a joyful and faith-filled Christ-follower who's been gifted with talent, faith, servant-leadership, good-humor, and deep people skills and strong musical abilities. Ideally this person would be experienced or apprenticed in running ministries, programs, and bands— plus recruiting and mentoring musical leaders.

Because all of us are unique, details of job description and schedule expectations will be finalized as conversations progress. Our part-time, gradually retiring Music Director is eager to help her new colleague learn the ropes and retain as many current program participants, particularly instrumentalists, as possible and beneficial.

SKILLS

- Working knowledge of the breadth of worship music that includes traditional hymnody, liturgy and contemporary worship music.
- Demonstrated ability to lead worship vocally and play guitar and/or piano with professional competence.
- A knowledge of or willingness to learn technical components (sound board, Planning Center, CCLI, and etc.) for their complementary use to enhance worship music.
- Demonstrated effective inter and intra personal skills
- Demonstrated experience in leading a praise team/band

WORK HOURS, COMPENSATION, and SUPERVISION

- Compensation: FT employee medical, retirement benefits and paid vacation/PTO at 32 hrs/wk, but true full-time hours possible, too.
- Workplace/Hours: Staff office hours are generally MTWTh 8am-3pm, but actual church vs work-from-home schedule will be determined based on priorities and schedule strategized with Supervisor. Thursday evening, Saturday morning and Sunday morning expectations for rehearsals and services, and holidays too.
- Supervisor: Sr. Pastor

TO APPLY

To apply for either the full time position, or to propose a part-time portfolio, please send cover & resume with links to relevant media that would illuminate your presentation/ leadership/performance style and skillsets, to Pastor Dan McKnight at pastor.dan@messiah-wauconda.org and hr@messiah-wauconda.org

For questions about church vision, direction, strategy, inclusivity, doctrine, or other questions, feel free to reach out to the pastor, as well.