

Job Description Position Title: Director of Bell Choirs

Hours per week: Approximately 5 hours per work

Congregation Name: St. John's Lutheran Church of Mound, 2451 Fairview Lane, Mound, MN

St. John's Lutheran Church of Mound (ELCA) is a vibrant church community located in the city of Mound which is nestled into the northern shore of Lake Minnetonka. We worship approximately 250 people weekly and enjoy a high quality of music and worship. In addition to the Chancel Choir, there is an Adult Handbell Choir, JuBELLation (Youth Handbell Choir), St. John's Youth Choir and St. John's Cherub Choir. We own a set of Schulmerich Handbells (5 octaves) and Choirchimes (4+ octaves). Our rehearsal pianos are Kawai and Howard grand pianos and our sanctuary instrument is a 7-foot Baldwin SF10 Concert Grand Piano. Worship is also led from a 3-manual Rodgers electronic organ. We have a strong volunteer base of wonderful musicians who support and uphold excellent worship and music.

Essential Duties and Responsibilities

- Direct Adult Handbell Choir during at least one 9:00 AM service a month from September through May.
- Plans, schedules and leads the rehearsals for the Adult Handbell Choir on a weekly basis (Sundays 7:45-8:30), September through May, for participation in worship services.
- Organizes youth handbell choir ("JuBELLation"), twice yearly. JuBELLation meets 4 times to rehearse (Wednesday 5:30-6:00) and plays one Sunday. This happens once in the fall and once in the spring. *This portion of the job description is negotiable.*
- Works with the Director of Music to arrange the yearly schedule for performances.
- Recruits and trains new Handbell Ringers as needed for the choir.
- Plans music for the church year, coordinating pieces, as much as possible with the theme and/or texts for performance Sundays.
- Maintains the handbell music library and purchases new music when desired out of budgeted funds.
- Is open to new opportunities to offer additional ringing opportunities for children, seniors, etc. when the interest is present.
- Is open to additional ringing opportunities such as working in combination with the Chancel Choir.
- Pursues activities as necessary to maintain and grow skills to perform the job such as participating in continuing education opportunities relating to handbells, church music, etc.
- Oversees maintenance of the handbells and handchimes as needed to keep them in good playing condition.
- 5 hours per week includes rehearsal, performance and preparation time.

Qualifications

- Advanced music background – music degree preferred but not required
- Advanced skills playing handbells, and complete knowledge of all handbell techniques.
- Experience directing a musical ensemble where musical interpretation and phrasing are emphasized. This person must be a competent and sensitive musician.
- Strong leadership and communication skills to effectively coordinate Bell Ringers, enthusiasm and the ability to inspire.
- Strong skills in recruiting and developing volunteer Bell Ringers.
- The ability to set realistic goals.
- Advanced skills to evaluate, make corrections and move forward
- Ability to receive feedback, integrate new ideas, communicate mission and to respond with respect and clarity is necessary.

Pay and Benefits

- Hours may vary week to week (Sept-May); hourly pay follows Association of Lutheran Church Musicians hourly rate chart.
- 3 Sunday rehearsal vacation days

The duties of the position require coordinating many people. Creativity and innovation are needed to engage many levels of talent. This individual should consider the job as a ministry as well as a profession and have a love and passion for glorifying God through music and worship.

Contact Information

Inquiries and application (cover letter and resume) may be sent to Sarah Garner, Director of Music & Organist.

Please specify if you are interested in the position of accompanist, bell choir director, or both.

sarah@stjom.org or 952-472-1416 ext. 227

St. John's Lutheran Church of Mound

Attn: Sarah Garner

2451 Fairview Ln., Mound, MN 55364