



## **LPM Program returns to the Atlanta area**

The Leadership Program for Musicians (LPM) covers key areas in church music education, pastoral skills, leadership and confidence building. This empowering program will be offered in greater Atlanta beginning Saturday, September 13. It is open to Lutherans, Episcopalians, musicians, pastors, lay persons, everyone! The first Saturday session will be an Open House where interested parties can observe LPM in action free of charge, and will be held at Christ the King Lutheran Church, Norcross. For complete information and a downloadable brochure with registration form, visit the LPM website ([www.lpm-online.org](http://www.lpm-online.org)) and look under “Upcoming Events” on the homepage.

The program seeks to respond to many concerns:

- Church musicians working in small churches struggle with new ways of doing things and new materials.
- Young people, who have the potential skills to be a congregation's musician, need encouragement and support.
- Established musicians value an opportunity to gather and learn from one another.
- Pastors and laity with an interest in the music of the church need a boost to their worship lives.

The program can be taken in part or whole; in other words, you can take only the classes that interest you. However if all course requirements are met, the LPM Certificate in Church Music is awarded at the successful completion of the program. Classes call on participants' imagination and creativity, asking them to explore the different opportunities music in worship presents, such as diverse ethnic repertoires and styles and music's role in evangelism, liturgy, and parish life. Attention is particularly given to the needs and ways of small churches.

The program's ultimate goals are to give participants an increased commitment to music ministry, and self worth as lay ministers, to improve their musical, pastoral, and leadership skills, and to expand their own and their parishes' visions of the variety of music and leadership practices.

### **What's in it for me?**

Here is a summary of each course and the type of work that you are asked to do.

## **I. Philosophy of Music Leadership/Ministry**

This course helps participants to define their role as leaders in music and worship and to explore that role from the perspectives of history, theology, and pastoral concern. You assess your own parish's situation and the importance of recognizing and using the gifts members of your congregations have to offer. The use of the voice for music leadership is emphasized. Students are asked to write a short paper summarizing their understanding of church music. This course has been completely rewritten in 2007.

## **II. Teaching New Music to the Congregation**

This course helps you train both congregations and less able choirs. The background and analysis of hymns and tunes, and ways in which to introduce different kinds of music not previously experienced by your congregation, are studied. Hands-on practice with the group is included so that all can "have a go" with the encouragement of their peers. Your assignment is to teach a hymn, song, or service music selection in one of several situations, such as to an intergenerational group attending a parish supper.

## **III. Leadership of Congregational Song**

This course helps you develop the skills to lead the congregation in singing hymns, songs, and service music. Teaching is given both to keyboard players, whether on organ, piano or synthesizer, to cantors, and to those who play a non-keyboard instrument (guitars or other instruments). So those involved in leading contemporary music will particularly benefit from this class. Emphasis is placed on adapting music to a given situation. Assignments include teaching and leading the group in singing music of many different types and styles.

## **IV. Survey of Christian Hymnody**

This survey covers historical analysis and playing and singing of materials in various styles. You also explore the resources of the hymnal's accompaniment edition and look particularly at material new to this hymnal. This course has been revised in 2008.

## **V. Music and Liturgy**

This course uses denominational resources as starting points, with emphasis on developing cooperation between pastor and musician. Aims include developing awareness of the congregation's pastoral needs and the use of negotiating skills, the church year, and the role of silence in worship. Your assignment involves planning different liturgies. This course was completely revised in 2007.

## **VI. Resources for an Effective Music Program**

This course looks at the congregations, and at the help we need for our jobs, local resources, methods of communication, networks, and collegial assistance. It also covers practical concerns such as simplifying music for particular situations, arranging hymns and service music as anthems, planning music for worship, sound systems, multi-media resources, children/youth choirs, handbells, and developing skills in critical thinking and analysis as a help in decision making. Assessment is done by class discussion, and a short paper outlining your plans to develop and strengthen your church's music program.

## **VII. Principles of Choral Leadership**

This class consists of two five-week courses: Conducting for Church Musicians (to learn basic conducting skills) and Voice Training for Choirs (to learn techniques for vitalizing choral singing).

The program begins on Saturday, September 13. Everyone is welcome to attend the Open House: you can observe either part or all of the day. If you have ANY questions, contact one of the three area coordinators: Joanne Brown, 404-545-3998, [organist227@bellsouth.net](mailto:organist227@bellsouth.net); John Marsh, 770-449-1211, x109, [marek2go@gmail.com](mailto:marek2go@gmail.com); Sue Mitchell Wallace, 770-594-0949, [suemwallace@bellsouth.net](mailto:suemwallace@bellsouth.net). A descriptive brochure with information tuition, locations and scholarship possibilities is available on the LPM website. For complete information about the Leadership Program for Musicians and its offerings, visit [www.lpm-online.org](http://www.lpm-online.org).