

Cantor / Minister of Music

Trinity Lutheran Church

Reading, Pennsylvania



Fast Facts

Scope of work: This is a full-time, salaried position.

Start Date: December 1st, 2024

Reports to: Senior Pastor

Supervises: Music Staff

Salary Range: Commensurate with experience and, if applicable, the guidelines of the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod of the ELCA

Benefits: Silver+ through Portico Benefits Services (or, if waived due to spouse/partner's coverage, a buy-out is offered); 6% match for retirement. Four weeks of paid vacation annually, including four Sundays. Two weeks of paid continuing education, including two Sundays.

Summary of Position

Trinity's Cantor / Minister of Music proclaims the gospel of Jesus Christ by developing, coordinating, and supervising the entire musical program of the congregation. Along with the other members of the Program Staff, s/he forms and develops the congregation's common life, especially in the areas of worship and spirituality. S/he represents Trinity throughout Berks County and the region as an ambassador for the congregation.



Responsibilities

Leads the Entire Musical Program

- Prepares, rehearses, and musically leads Sunday worship and all other scheduled liturgies.
- Directs all ensembles of the congregation, including the Trinity Choir (Adults), the Mixed Ensemble (Intergenerational), and the Trinity Ringers.
- Forms the children and youth of the congregation musically and liturgically through an organized program of education and practice.
- Hires and manages all paid soloists, including arranging their compensation with the Financial Administrator.
- Determines the scheduling of ensembles, soloists, instrumentalists as well as their preparation.
- Identifies a suitable substitute musician when they are absent for vacation or continuing education, including briefing the substitute on all worship details and arranging payment of their fee with the Financial Administrator.
- Develops deeper musicianship through weekly rehearsals and appropriate musical education for members of all ages.
- Encourages and facilitates participation by broad and diverse groups of church members in the music ministries of Trinity.
- Oversees the scheduling of volunteer worship planners, music librarians, and other volunteers and facilitates completion of their work.
- Secures usage and streaming rights for music used in worship and reports it to copyright holders in a timely and accurate manner.
- Manages the material resources of the music program, including budget preparation and management and the care of the church's instruments.



- Serves as Coordinator of the Wolfe Concert Series, Music from Trinity, and other concerts/events held at Trinity.
- Provide musical resources for weddings and funerals of members of the congregation as per the provisions of congregational policies, and for non-members as determined in consultation with the Senior Pastor.
- Reviews proposed scheduling of all music-related activities utilizing Trinity's facilities, instruments, and human resources, and gives approval in conjunction with the Senior Pastor.

Forms Our Common Life

- Models a faithful Christian life.
- Actively participates in the planning and implementation of the mission of the congregation, particularly as it relates to music as an expression of the Gospel.
- Participates as an integral member of the program staff in developing and providing worship, educational, and spiritual opportunities for the congregation.
- Works with the program staff under the direction of the Senior Pastor to plan rich liturgies faithful to the Lutheran tradition.
- Serves as a staff liaison to the Worship and Music committee.
- Acts as an advisor to the Music Scholarship Committee.
- Communicates with supervisor, Vestry, and congregation in a timely and effective manner.
- Other duties as assigned by the Senior Pastor or Church Vestry.



An Ambassador for the Congregation

- Recruits and retains skilled singers and ringers for Trinity's ensembles by making our ministries known in the community.
- Participates in various groups in the community to build awareness of the music ministry at Trinity and contribute to the cultural life in Berks County.
- Serves as liaison between the congregation and related community organizations in the area of music and the arts, including the Fall Festival of the Arts and Kindermusik.
- Works with outside music groups and artists wishing to perform, rehearse, and teach at Trinity.
- As appropriate, serves the wider church and their profession through regional and national professional organizations.



Minimum Qualifications

- A deep Christian faith and a capacity to share and teach the faith.
- Bachelor's degree in church music or music.
- Demonstrated knowledge of Lutheran theology and Lutheran liturgical practice.
- Experience in planning and executing varied and creative forms of musical expression within the context of liturgical worship.
- Experience in directing choirs of all ages, including a bell choir.
- Leadership ability.
- Ability to work collaboratively and collegially with the Senior Pastor, the other professionals on staff, congregational leaders, and ensemble members.

Desired Qualifications

- A master's degree or higher in church music or music.
- At least five years experience leading congregations of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.
- At least five years experience using *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* and its supplemental materials as the primary worship resource.
- Proven ability to grow a music program in a liturgical congregation.

Instruments

Organs

Sanctuary - Patrick J. Murphy & Associates, Inc. - Opus 58 (2013); 3 manual, 48 rank; 37 stop
Chapel - Andover - Opus 110 (1997); 4 stop positiv tracker



Pianos

Sanctuary - Yamaha G5 - balcony
Sanctuary - Yamaha G2 - main floor
Hintz Room - Yamaha C3
Bard House Choir Room - Yamaha G2
Auditorium - Petrof upright

Harpsichords

Sanctuary - Neupert
Columbarium - Sperrhake Passau
Owned by Reading Musical Foundation but often housed at Trinity - Digital Roland C-30

Handbells

5 octaves Malmark handbells
(original 3 octave set
purchased in 1986)
3 octaves Malmark
handchimes



Carillon

Belfry - 10 bell Petit &
Fritsen

Percussion

4 Timpani - Adams professional
Djembe
Snare drum
Cajon
Hand drum
Cymbal
Gong
Tambourine
Windchimes
Bongos
Bell Tree
Guiro (wooden & metal)
Triangle
Claves
Finger Cymbals
Maracas



About Trinity Lutheran Church

Trinity, founded in 1751, is a vibrant, liturgical congregation in the downtown of Pennsylvania's fourth-largest city. Our landmark building, built in the last decade of the eighteenth century, pulses with music, worship, learning, and service. Our professional staff of eight (five full-time, including two ministers) works alongside our Vestry and committees to ensure excellence in all we do.



A regional congregation, our members travel from across the county to worship, learn, and serve with us. We are proudly Lutheran, and all that we do is centered on Christ's call to us in Baptism and His presence in the Eucharist. Through our music-making, we offer a sacrifice of thanks and praise to God while also drawing closer to one another as siblings in Christ.

Our worship services, concerts, and other programming are produced in broadcast quality and can be seen on cable television in our region as well as on YouTube and Facebook. We have proudly been a *Reconciling in Christ* congregation for over two decades, making us one of the pioneering Lutheran churches in Pennsylvania to warmly embrace the LGBTQ+ community as valued and integral members of our Christian family.

About Reading and Berks County

Reading and Trinity have been intertwined ever since the Penn family deeded this prime, corner lot to us in 1752. Reading, population 95,000, is a growing, post-industrial city that is roughly 60% Hispanic. Redevelopment continues to occur in our immediate neighborhood, with GoggleWorks (an art center) and the new downtown campus of Alvernia University being exceptional examples.

In addition to Alvernia, Albright College, Penn State–Berks and Reading Area Community College make Reading a center of higher education. Our cultural life is vibrant, with a professional symphony orchestra, professional baseball and hockey teams,



and numerous theaters hosting everything from national tours of comedians and Broadway musicals to talented, local groups such as Vox Philia, Opus One, Reading Choral Society, and the Berks Youth Chorus (to name just the choral organizations).

The larger metropolitan area of 450,000 inhabitants has close-in suburbs with highly-ranked public schools, two large hospitals, as well as hiking, fishing, and biking in the mountains that envelop Reading. The cost of living here is far lower than in most other cities of the Northeastern US. We're located in the center of the Mid-Atlantic, about an hour from Philadelphia, two hours from New York, and three hours from Washington, DC and Atlantic beaches.

Desired Timeline

After thirteen years of service to Trinity, Karen S. Eddinger will retire on December 31st, 2024.

- **On or before June 1, 2024:** Candidates submit Resume and Cover Letter to Ralph Unruh and Pastor Hans Becklin for consideration.
- **June 1–July 31, 2024:** Committee discernment; first round of interviews (online)
- **On or before August 1, 2024:** Notification of finalists
- **August 1–September 15, 2024:** Finalists travel to Reading for in-person interviews
- **By October 15, 2024:** New Cantor hired and announced to the congregation

- **December 1, 2024:** Cantor-elect begins at Trinity; works with Karen Eddinger to get to know the ensembles, Trinity's culture, instruments, and music library
- **January 1st, 2025:** New Cantor takes full responsibility for music ministries at Trinity

Contact

Mr. Ralph Unruh, Chair of Search Committee

ralph.unruh@gmail.com

The Rev. Hans E. Becklin, Senior Pastor

hbecklin@trinityreading.org

(610) 374-4861