

SHEPHERD OF THE HILLS LUTHERAN CHURCH

4887 Valleydale Road, Birmingham, AL 35242 | (205) 995-9673 | www.sothl.org

JOB DESCRIPTION:	CHURCH ORGANIST/PIANIST
RESPONSIBLE TO:	Pastor
WAGE & HOURS:	Part-time, paid monthly \$16,000 - \$18,000 per year depending on experience

JOB SUMMARY

As the principal musician of the congregation, working in conjunction with the Pastor and the Worship Committee, select and provide organ and/or piano music to accompany, support, and enhance worship services.

ESSENTIAL JOB DUTIES

- Working with the Pastor and Worship Committee, select music for worship services which adhere to Lutheran theology and reinforce the lessons/message of the service or church season.
- Provide organ and/or piano music for each Sunday service, mid-week services, Advent, Christmas, Lent, Holy Week, and other special services as needed.
- Accompany weekly and special choir rehearsals.
- Rehearse weekly with the clergy, Worship Assistants, choir and/or other musicians.
- Provide information regarding music selections and liturgy setting for worship services in a timely manner to the church secretary for inclusion in the bulletin (as determined by bulletin input deadline, currently Wednesday evening).
- Maintain a positive working relationship with clergy, worship assistants, choir and bell choir directors, church secretary, and congregation members.
- Develop knowledge of the liturgy and worship traditions at SOTH and the current and future traditions of the ELCA.
- When requested, play for weddings and funerals which will be compensated on a separate fee basis.
- Attend and participate in monthly Worship Committee meetings.
- Ensure music use is reported regularly in compliance with our licensing agreements.
- Submit annual Music Ministry budget information to the Worship Committee chair each year, as requested.
- Oversee maintenance and tuning of all major musical instruments owned by the church including the organ, piano and handbells.
- Assist in locating a substitute whenever not available for scheduled worship or planned events.
- Participate in an annual performance appraisal which may incorporate feedback from choir participants, as well as the congregation and staff, and will require completion of a thoughtful self-evaluation and work environment assessment.

OTHER EXPECTATIONS

- Demonstrate creativity in planning musical participation in worship services; encourage members

of the church family to participate in worship music.

- Be diligent in preparation and performance to support and enable a positive worship experience.
- Participate in self-development activities including workshops provided by the ELCA or the musical community at large.
- Seek and accept feedback from the Pastor, choir members, and congregation, assuring positive collaboration and communication in delivery of your musical gifts with SOTH.
- Demonstrate a sincere desire to worship through music.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS

- Demonstrate a high degree of competence on the organ and piano sufficient to play hymns, liturgy, and anthem accompaniments at sight.
- Demonstrate the ability to use the piano and organ to provide music that can be accompanied by the choir, congregation, pastor, worship assistants and soloists.

WORKING CONDITIONS

To be qualified for this position an individual must meet the following standards and/or be able to perform the essential functions and activities with or without accommodation.

- Must successfully pass a nationwide criminal history background check. Must be free of illegal drugs during all work hours.
- Work is normally performed in a church setting using SOTH piano and/or organ. Physical work includes but is not limited to sitting for a minimum of one hour at a time, standing, moving arms and feet as needed to play instruments, lifting and moving musical supplies.
- Must be able to obtain or assure transportation to arrive at church or other venues for each service or event.

TYPICAL WORK SCHEDULE

- Attend weekly, mid-week, and special services where piano or organ music is scheduled.
- Attend and participate with Choir during their rehearsals. Attend monthly Worship Committee meetings. Provide paperwork or required information on a timely basis. Be available to discuss program with Pastor, Choir Directors and Worship Committee.

This job description is an overview of general expectations of this position; it is not intended to be an exhaustive list of duties and is subject to change. Job description reviewed and amended December 2024.

I understand these are the expected duties of my position as Organist/Pianist at Shepherd of the Hills.

Employee Name _____

Date _____