

**Bethel Lutheran Church**  
PO Box 175                      12919 NE 159<sup>th</sup> St.      Brush Prairie, WA 98606  
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### **Worship Pianist and Choir Director**

Bethel Lutheran Church is a congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America ([www.elca.org](http://www.elca.org)). Our Lutheran and congregational heritage places a strong emphasis on music, and especially congregational singing. Through hymns and the music of the liturgy we gather to praise God, to pray, and to proclaim the good news of salvation through Jesus Christ.

#### **Position description:**

- As church musician the primary responsibility is to help lead the congregation in our worship and praise of God.
- The pianist role is shared with another musician, with each playing 2-3 Sundays each month. Currently there is one Sunday service at 10:00 a.m. Additional services for festivals (e.g. Christmas, Easter) or seasonal Wednesday evening worship services may be scheduled.
- Funerals and weddings provide additional opportunities to play. Either pianist will be considered for these services, depending on the availability of each.
- The choir director role covers the rehearsals and worship presentations of both the vocal and handbell choirs.

#### **Responsibilities:**

- **Pianist:** Play for Sunday worship services (2-3x/month) including but not limited to:
  - Rehearse with song leader team (2-3 singers) an hour before the service.
  - 10-15 minutes of prelude music prior to worship
  - 3-5 congregational hymns/songs
  - Liturgical music (e.g. gospel acclamation, Kyrie, Holy Communion)
  - 5 minutes of postlude music following worship service
- Occasionally accompany a soloist or small group
- **Choir Director:** Select music and rehearse with vocal and handbell choirs to present either as anthems in worship or as embellishment of congregational singing.
  - Rehearsals are held Wednesday evenings.
  - Choirs contribute to worship as often as they can prepare music, with an emphasis on festivals (e.g. Easter, Reformation).

#### **Qualifications:**

- **Piano:**
  - Experience playing in order to lead large group singing
  - Able to play from a hymnal as well as lead sheets/chord charts.
  - Comfortable playing various musical styles
  - Experience with liturgical Christian worship preferred
  - Flexible Sunday schedule in case either pianist needs to change the schedule.
- **Choirs:**
  - Able to guide and encourage musicians of various levels of music literacy and experience with both vocal and handbell choirs.
  - Directing the vocal choir from the piano is preferred, but the other pianist may be able to accompany for Sunday presentations.
  - Experience with handbells is preferred. Additional training may be provided.
- Interpersonal and communication skills that support cooperation between pianists, and with the pastor and volunteer worship planning team.

**Interview and Audition Preparation:**

- Be prepared to play three pieces of music, appropriate for worship, of various styles. One should be a song with which the interview panel can sing along.
- Bethel worship videos may be viewed on our YouTube channel:  
<https://www.youtube.com/@BethelLutheranBrushPrairieWA> Click on the Live tab to view services that were livestreamed.

**Compensation:**

- **Pianist:** As the number of worship services per month varies, the pay for the pianist portion of this position will be based on \$110/service. If a second service using the same music takes place consecutively on the same day, an additional \$55 will be added.
  - Funerals and weddings are paid by the families at a rate of \$110/service.
- **Choir Director:** The choir director role receives \$500/month, September – May, with the understanding that this covers weekly rehearsals with both the vocal and handbell choirs and Sunday morning presentations.
- Paychecks are given on the last business day of each month.

Bethel Lutheran Church may terminate employment at will or the musician may terminate employment with two-week notice.

To apply for this position please send to the church office:

- a cover letter stating your interest,
- a listing of past musical experience,
- two references.