

Children's Choir Northern Metro Area

In an effort to provide a musical experience for the children of our church and surrounding communities, we are forming an area children's choir under the guidance, direction, and support of Christ the King Lutheran Church. The mission of this endeavor would be to:

- Provide children with an opportunity to learn music of a variety of genres.
- Provide performance opportunities for the ensemble.
- Teach proper performance and rehearsal etiquette.
- Teach children how to sing correctly.
- Teach children the fundamentals of music and its role in our society.
- Broaden their appreciation of music by providing enrichment opportunities over and above what is otherwise available to them.
- Provide children with an opportunity to be a part of a group, develop relationships and learn what it means to work together towards the accomplishment of a worthwhile goal.

Who is eligible? Any child in third through sixth grade. (Exceptions will be made for advanced second graders who are recommended by a music teacher and show an interest and aptitude for such an experience.)

When would the group rehearse? Saturday mornings from mid-September through mid-December and from mid-January through mid-May. A specific time would be determined based on a recommendation from the artistic director with input from outside sources.

When and where would the group perform? The ensemble could sing for area churches on occasion and present their own concerts in December and May and collaborating with other groups for special events. Other performance opportunities such as singing at nursing homes or in shopping centers during the holiday seasons will be considered at the appropriate times.

What are the expectations of the children?

- A rehearsal and performance schedule will be available at their first rehearsal. Singers will be expected to be at all rehearsals and performances. An absentee policy will be established and modified as the group grows.
- Participants will be expected to be respectful of each other and adult directors and supervisors.
- Singers will be expected to learn their music outside rehearsals by using provided practice CDs and study guides.

What are the expectations of the parents? We are counting heavily on the support and participation of parents to assist in making this a positive experience for all. All parents will be asked to commit time to the group. Here are some ways in which parents can help. All parents will be expected to volunteer to help.

- Provide transportation to and from rehearsals, performances, and other activities. Carpooling will be arranged so parents can share the transportation duties.
- Rehearsal monitors are parents who actually sit in the midst of singers during rehearsals to provide support and discourage disruptive behavior. The larger the group, the more parents will be asked to help monitor.
- Support from someone who is willing to manage the roster, attendance, and other administrative endeavors that will arise.
- Provide treats and refreshments when appropriate.
- Usher for concerts.
- Assist in setting up for concerts.
- Ticket sellers where appropriate.
- Assist with fundraisers when provided.
- Eventually, we would have a board of directors who would guide and direct the direction of the group.

How would this be funded and administered?

To begin with, the group would be under the supervision of the Minister of Music and other volunteers at Christ the King who would assist until such time as a board of directors could be established to run the organization.

- Rehearsal space will be provided by Christ the King Lutheran Church
- Singers will be asked to pay a semester tuition fee. The funds will be used to help provide salaries for musical leaders. Partial and full scholarships will be available to those unable to pay their tuition.
- Christ the King Lutheran Church will provide the necessary sponsorship until such time as the group can be self sustaining through fund raisers, tuition, concerts and donations.

Communication with Parents and Singers:

We will make every effort to keep singers and parents informed. We will use the following tools to accomplish this goal:

- To begin with, we will have a presence on the Christ the King website until such time as we can develop our own.
- Weekly notes will be prepared by the director and administrative staff and read at rehearsals and posted weekly on the website.
- Weekly emails will be sent to the parents with reminders and announcements.
- In case of cancellations of rehearsals due to weather or other factors, announcements will be posted on the website and we will use a phone tree to notify all the families.

Timeline for initiating this project:

February-April: Find a director who has a degree in music and experience working with children of this age group. Once the conductor is found, we would work to establish a curriculum, a rehearsal and performance schedule for the group, secure music, folders, instruments, and other start-up materials for the ensemble and discuss ways to market the opportunity to interested children.

April-August: Advertise the formation of this ensemble and begin taking registrations.

September: Start up.

Salary for Director: This will be negotiable and commensurate with experience and educational training.

For more information, please contact Bruce Phelps, Minister of Music at Christ the King Lutheran Church.

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