



Dean's  
Column

# CHIEF CHAT

## Lincoln Chapter American Guild of Organists Special Summer 2011 Edition

The Benedictines and the Rule of St. Benedict have interested me for some time. (No, I am not going into the monastery - I do like my creature comforts) So I got a book in which the author had "translated" the Rule of St. Benedict into modern English. In his preface, the author makes some interesting observations:

*Maintaining loving thoughts increases serotonin levels, which tends to reduce anxiety and increase calmness.*

*Simply being in silence reduces stress and blood pressure.*

*Choral singing and chant reduce serotonin levels.*

Hmmmm..... I suspect that most of us know some of these things even if we can't necessarily verbalize them. But the bottom line is

### **Singing in choirs is good for you!**

So if we could get this word out, perhaps we would have more people in our choirs. Something to think about.

In the meantime, summer is upon us and with summer comes a time to do new and different things. Attending our regional convention in Des Moines could be one of them. The convention registration seems to be going well because they have sold out of rooms in the convention hotel but are offering rooms in a nearby hotel at the same rate. It looks to be a good convention and one of the lowest hotel rates for a regional convention.

I am also going to the Hymn Society conference in July. A hymn festival every day for five days - sounds like heaven to me! The ALCM conference in Seattle also sounds quite interesting although I am not going to do that this year.

And check out the conference organized by Paul Soulek in Seward in July. It looks quite wonderful and is **highly recommended**. Congratulations to Paul!

But summer to me is a time to expand your horizons and hopefully expand your mind. I hope that you will find something that gets you out of the rut and doing something new and exciting. This will help you to approach the fall with a new enthusiasm.

And a word of thanks to Dan Ahlin, Chris Lyons and Dick Morris for their service on the Board. And a word of thanks to ALL of the board members for their work!

*Jim Lytton*

*I apologize because this edition of the Chiff Chat does not look like it's usual self. Rosemary is in Germany and the dean has put this together. The next edition should look better.*

### **A Word About Deadlines**

A dues renewal form is included with this newsletter. Our membership expires on June 30, 2011. All dues must be in to the National Office by September 1, 2011. If not, you will lose your subscription to *The American Organist* and you will not be included in the chapter directory. Because our treasurer, Bob Craig, will be out of town about that time, you need to get your dues renewal and check to Bob before **August 20, 2011**. So, please get your renewals in the mail as early as possible.

## Lincoln Organ Showcase

2011 - 2012 Season

The LOS season is still being finalized, but I can tell you that we will have programs at Wesleyan University, Southwood Lutheran, Vine Congregational and College View SDA Church. Artists to include Anne Wilson and Jonathan Ryan. Stay tuned for further details.

### Congratulations to our slate of officers for next year:

**Burns Davis, Dean**

**Stacie Lightner, Sub-Dean**

**Sinda Dux, Secretary**

**Bob Craig, Treasurer**

**Jim Hejduk, Board Member**

**Willa Foster Jones, Board Member**

## Region VI Convention



Are you attending the convention in Des Moines in June? Please let me know if you would like to carpool either by riding or by offering a ride. I will try to match up folks. 402-421-0975 or [jlytton@gmail.com](mailto:jlytton@gmail.com)

Thanks to retiring Board Members Dan Ahlin, Chris Lyons and Dick Morris for their service to the Guild. Chris Lyons is on his way to Mongolia for service in the Peace Corps.

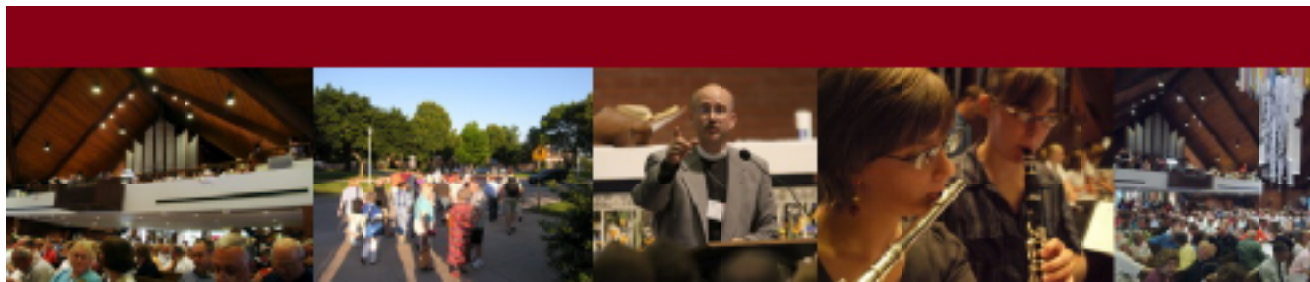


*This photo was taken at the recent board meeting in May. The board is obviously working very hard as you can from the expression on their faces.*

## Lincoln Organ Showcase

The final LOS concert for the season will take place on Saturday, June 11, 2011, at Grace Lutheran Church. Our featured artist will be someone who is no stranger to the Lincoln organ community or to Grace Lutheran Church, Vidas Pinkevicius. Hope to see you there!

# Sing His Praise, His Love Declare



In order to continue equipping and resourcing pastors and church musicians on worship-related topics, St. John Lutheran Church and Concordia University, Nebraska, will be co-hosting a conference in summer 2011. Sing His Praise, His Love Declare is a three-day event that will include sessions for pastors and musicians, both the professional church musicians and those without extensive training or experience.

Presenters include: Jeffrey Blersch, Paul Bouman, David Held, Joseph Herl, David A. Johnson, Carlos Messerli, Donald Rotermund, Paul Soulek, and Kurt von Kampen.

For details, check out [www.seward2011.org](http://www.seward2011.org) or call 402-643-5863.



**SING HIS PRAISE,  
HIS LOVE DECLARE**  
...a worship conference for  
pastors, musicians, and lay

Wednesday, July 27 to  
Friday, July 29, 2011



Handel's MESSIAH

Wednesday, June 29, 7:30-9:30 p.m.

First- Plymouth Congregational Church;  
2000 D Street

Tom Trenney, conductor and organist

Fauré REQUIEM

Wednesday, July 27, 7:30-9:30 p.m.

First- Plymouth Congregational Church;  
2000 D Street

Jeremy Bankson, conductor; Tom Trenney, organist

For more information, please contact  
the Abendmusik office, (402) 476-9933.

# Chapter Programs for 2011-2012

*A note from our new Sub-Dean*

## **Hello, fellow organ enthusiasts!**

I'm here to give you a preview of next year's AGO programs. A few details are still left to finalize, but I hope this list will whet your appetite for what's to come. In general, an effort has been made to keep our meetings on the second Monday of the month, which should help us plan ahead and avoid conflicts with first Monday church meetings. There are three programs that are to be assigned a month. First, we will meet at St. Andrew's Lutheran Church, where Ryan Luckey will report about his house organ and what he has learned about organ building in the course of installing it. Second, we will have an "instant voluntary" reading session, in which everyone will bring their favorite sight-readable organ piece to be read by another organist (backup sight readers will be available for those who don't want to be put on the spot). The last program that is waiting to be assigned a month is a presentation by Kurt Knecht and Jonah Sirota on the music used at the SPACE service at St. Mark's on the Campus. They are doing fascinating and beautiful things with improvisation and prepared piano, among other techniques.

Now for the programs which have been scheduled. On October 10, Nancy Forst Williamson will lead a session on Alexander Technique, a method for ridding the body of excess tension in everyday movements, which will surely help us all become more relaxed and efficient organists. Due to the support of high congregational attendance, the members' recital will be held at Redeemer Lutheran again this year on November 14. The student recital will be held on February 12 at Westminster Presbyterian. There will be two meetings held on Sundays. First, our joint meeting with the Omaha Chapter will be held in Fremont on April 22 at 3 p.m. This will be a choral concert with conductor David Batter. Second, our last meeting of the year will be an organ crawl and picnic in Beatrice on May 13, 2012, will mark the 150th anniversary of the Homestead Act, so what better time to visit the town where Homestead National Monument is located?

I hope this description of what lies on our chapter's horizon will tide you over until September. Have a great summer!

*Stacie Lightner*

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