



VISION Statement

The Music Ministries of Salem Covenant Church endeavor to

- Draw together people of all ages to utilize their musical talents to honor and praise God
- Develop and sharpen music skills to higher levels of excellence while humbly giving praise only to God
- Explore and utilize a variety of styles and genres, from ancient to future, that demonstrate the greatness of God
- Find joy and spiritual encouragement working with each other and sharing the gift of music in worship and other opportunities for ministry, both within and outside of Salem

Music is integral to worship. It sets the tone of worship more than any other aspect...



Much of our worship is word-oriented, and Christianity needs its rational, discursive presentation. What people in our culture seem to crave, however, is a sense of wonder, mystery, holiness, transcendence.

For those churches who value liturgy, even the words alone, of course, can carry a sense of transcendence; but music can undergird, amplify, illuminate the language of praise and prayer.

Music gives wings to worship.

William Bradley Roberts
Music and Vital Congregations

Music Staff

Tanya Eliason
God's Children Sing Director
eliasontanya@gmail.com

Marilyn Jenson, Beth Hamilton, Cindy Reents
Praise Singers Directors
marilynejenson@yahoo.com
brhamilton@yahoo.com
cindy.reents@gmail.com

Stuart Opel
Swedish Singers Director
stopel66@gmail.com

Cindy Reents
Organist
Music Coordinator
cindy.reents@gmail.com

Darin Riedel
Handbell Ensemble Director
riedel.darin@gmail.com

Gary Schwartz
Salem String Band Director
salemstringband@musicians.org

Warren Starr
Wind Ensemble Director
jwstarr@centurylink.net

Carrie Ann Uwadiae
Doxology Director
carrie.uwadiae@gmail.com

Jonathan Veenker
Sanctuary Choir Director
veejon@bethel.edu

Andrea Zimmerman
Contemporary Worship Director
azimmerman@salem-covenant.church



2655 Fifth Street NW, New Brighton, MN 55112
651-633-9615 | salem-covenant.church

“Music gives wing to worship.”
—William Bradley Roberts

Ensembles for Children and Youth

God's Children Sing—Ages 0–5

God's Children Sing is a unique program for our youngest participants. Music, movement, and sensory-motor exploration experiences are combined with faith stories that begin to nurture the spiritual being of this young age. The children, along with a parent, meet on Wednesdays, from 6:00-6:40 p.m. The class is free.

Praise Singers—Grades 1–5

The Praise Singers learn about music in worship, theory skills, and vocal technique in really fun ways! The group sings four to six times a year in both the Traditional and Contemporary Services. This group will focus on learning about music, worship, and praising God through fun! Rehearsals are on Wednesdays, 5:45-6:40 p.m.

Joy Singers—Grades 6–8

The Joy Singers share their voices by participating in the Traditional Service throughout the year. During Joy Singers rehearsals, students learn how to read music, basic music theory, how to sing with a focused tone and breath support, the role of music in different types of worship, what the Bible says about music, and much, much, more! The Joy Singers honor God through music and learning how to serve others through our talents and gifts. Rehearsals are on Wednesdays, 6:00-6:40 p.m.

Doxology—Grades 9–12

Doxology means “a hymn of praise to God.” The group helps lead worship in both the Traditional and the Contemporary Services, singing music from Bach to Barlow Girl. Doxology is a group that desires to impact Salem and the community by demonstrating unity in Christ through the medium of music. Doxology welcomes any high schooler with a love for music and a positive, willing spirit. Rehearsals are held on Wednesdays, following youth group.

Ensembles for Adults

Handbell Ensemble—Grade 8 and above

The Salem Handbell Ensemble is comprised of experienced and dedicated ringers who use their talents to glorify God through the unique medium of English Handbells. We play 6-8 times per year in worship services and at the Christmas Concert. We are looking for a few more people with music reading ability. We will teach ringing techniques. Rehearsals are Wednesdays, 7:00-8:30 p.m.

Sanctuary Choir—High School and above

The Sanctuary Choir is the primary choir in the Traditional Service. Rehearsals are Wednesday evenings from 7:00 to 8:30. If you love to sing and can commit to the rehearsal and worship schedule, you are encouraged to become a part of this music ministry. Rehearsals have elements of worship, fellowship, aesthetic enjoyment, fun, and spiritual inspiration. The Choir usually sings at 3 out of every 4 Sundays at the Traditional Service.

Salem String Band—High School and above

The Salem String Band has a long historic tradition going back to its origins in 1895. The current String Band was organized in 1978 under the direction of Les Schwartz and has been performing and making recordings continuously since then. The Band plays gospel songs accompanied by guitar, mandolin, violin, uke, etc. String Band is open to anyone above the beginner level who plays a stringed instrument and enjoys singing and playing familiar gospel music.

The University of Northwestern—St. Paul (UNWSP) Academy of Music offers music lessons for all ages and abilities at affordable rates. Salem is one of their satellite locations. The Academy provides private and group music lessons in a Christian environment taught by UNWSP students, graduates, and faculty for all ages.

Intergenerational Ensembles

Brass Ensembles—High School and above

Salem's brass ensembles are frequently heard in worship services throughout the year. Various groupings—quartet, quintet, sextet, brass choir—may play a solo selection, accompany a choir anthem, or lead the congregation in hymn singing along with the organ. Rehearsals are scheduled as needed. This is a wonderful way to use your talents with others who also love to play a brass instrument.

String Ensemble—High School and above

The String Ensemble is open to any string player who has three or more years of playing experience. The ensemble may play for Christmas programs and worship services throughout the year, sometimes accompanying a choir anthem or presenting a solo selection. Rehearsals are scheduled as needed.

Swedish Singers—All Ages

Songs of our Swedish heritage, both sacred and secular, are the primary repertoire of the Swedish Singers. The ensemble sings in both Swedish and English at the annual Fika in December. All ages are welcome. Swedish language and pronunciation are taught and reviewed during the rehearsals. Performance and rehearsal schedules are announced in the weekly bulletin.

Registration and lesson information can be found at unwsp.edu/resources/academy-of-music/ or contact the Academy of Music office at UNWSP (651-631-5108).

Academy of Music
UNIVERSITY OF NORTHWESTERN — ST. PAUL

Wind Ensemble—Grade 6 and above

The Salem Wind Ensemble is a large, multi-generational wind and percussion ensemble. Our goal is to provide an opportunity for Salem members and friends to use their instrumental music talents in praise of God in a worship setting. Participants have played a wind or percussion instrument for at least two years. Younger members gain skill and confidence by playing with adults, and adult members enjoy helping and encouraging the younger ones. We normally play twice a year in the Traditional Worship Services and in the annual Salem Christmas Concert. There are two rehearsals previous to each worship opportunity. Participants are required to attend at least one of the two. Attending both is recommended, especially for the younger members. New members are always welcome! If you are thinking about joining, contact Warren or come to a rehearsal and try it out!

Worship Support

Tech Crew—High School and above

Volunteers are needed in the audio-visual area during both the Traditional and Contemporary services. Volunteers run the sound board, the worship slides, and the livestream. Training is provided for all positions. Contact Bjorn Pederson (bpederson@salem-covenant.church) for more information.

Make a **JOYFUL**
NOISE to the Lord,
all the earth;

break forth into joyous song and sing praises.

—Psalm 98:4