



grace university lutheran church

324 Harvard Street SE • Minneapolis, MN 55414 • 612.331.8125 • www.graceattheu.org • info@graceattheu.org

Position Title: Pianist/worship leader

Reports To: Co-pastors

FTE: 12-15 hours per month (~ 1 Sunday per month, 12 Sundays a year)

Salary: \$28-\$34 hourly rate, dependent on experience and qualifications

Job Description

Grace University Lutheran Church's Pianist/worship leader, in tandem with the Director of Music Ministry, stewards the musical and liturgical gifts of the congregation. The Pianist/worship leader works collaboratively with the Co-Pastors and in consultation with the Director of Music Ministry to create faithful, inspirational, and diverse worship experiences for the Grace community approximately once per month. Proficiency and comfort with a wide variety of both traditional and new worship music are necessary, as well as a willingness and enthusiasm to work with volunteer musicians from within the congregation. Strong piano skills are required along with the ability to accompany instrumentalists and small ensembles from within the congregation.

Principal Duties & Responsibilities (Essential Functions)

1. Provide worship leadership for 12 worship services throughout the year at Grace with attention to Grace's mission of welcome and inclusion, its university setting, diverse population, commitment to justice, and passion for music.
2. Lead music for both Sunday morning worship services about once per month each for a total of 12 Sundays each year. Sunday worship services during the academic year are at 8:15 am and 10:30 am; throughout the summer months there is one worship service at 9:30 am.
3. Facilitate the assembly's song within the arc of the eucharistic liturgy through the excellent execution of hymns and songs; provide robust prelude, postlude, and offertory music.
4. Possess a thorough working knowledge of Lutheran/Protestant worship services and a theological understanding of church music and liturgical expression.
5. Demonstrate a familiarity with diverse expressions of worship music drawing on the gifts of various cultures, and a commitment to inclusive and expansive liturgies.
6. Nurture and encourage the sharing of musical gifts by Grace members including instrumentalists, ensembles, and soloists. Arrange for rehearsal times when necessary (often before or between worship services).
7. Engage in monthly meetings (Zoom) and regular communication with the Co-Pastors and Director of Music Ministry to plan worship services within the Pianist/worship leader's purview.
8. Support and collaborate with the Director of Music Ministry in determining the arc of the worship throughout the year, including setting the Sunday schedule, and coordinating volunteer musicians over the course of the year.

Additional Duties

1. When possible, relate to Grace's bell choir director (volunteer), and children's choir director (volunteer) supporting the efforts of the whole music ministry of the church.
2. Communicate effectively with the Office Manager for purposes of bulletin preparation, newsletter communications, etc.
3. Assist in arranging for a substitute musician when necessary.

Qualifications & Skills

1. Strong piano skills and repertoire.
2. Demonstrated ability to support vocalists, instrumentalists, and musical ensembles.
3. Ability and willingness to work in a collaborative environment for worship design and engagement.

Preferred Education & Experience

1. Studied music in an undergraduate or graduate setting.
2. Experience in a congregation or worship setting providing musical leadership.

Grace's Affirmation of Welcome & Commitment to the Gospel

Grace University Lutheran Church of Minneapolis is a spiritual community that celebrates the gifts of God that empower us to engage in the struggles of life, to care for each other, and to serve Christ where we work and live. Grace is a Reconciling in Christ congregation. We welcome the participation of people of all ages, ethnic backgrounds, sexual orientations, gender identities, educational backgrounds, and economic conditions—all who want to join in community to honor God and be of service to people.

Grace is also committed to racial equity. Led by the Grace Racial Equity Team, we seek to educate our faith community about racism and awareness of white privilege and carry out action steps that will help dismantle the racial status quo, both in our congregation and in the wider world.

Application process

The Search Team for the Pianist/worship leader at Grace University is receiving applications through May 22, 2023. Interested applicants should send the following materials to Pastor Justin Lind-Ayres (pastorjustin@graceattheu.org):

1. **Cover Letter** explaining interest in Grace's position;
2. **Resume** detailing relevant experience;
3. **Three recordings** (video or audio) that exemplify one's musical leadership and gifts, including, if possible, leading the assembly in congregational song.

Grace University Lutheran Church actively seeks a diverse pool of candidates. People of color and LGBTQIA+ people are encouraged to apply.