

Christmas Festival Choir 2025

Featuring: *Fishing for Joy: A Christmas Journey*

I am excited to extend a warm invitation to you to join our Christmas Festival Choir for 2025.

Our Festival Choir is a wonderful short-term opportunity to sing alongside our 100-voice adult choir, accompanied by a full professional orchestra, handbells, and soloists. Whether you are a seasoned singer or simply love to raise your voice in worship, this is your chance to be part of something truly special.

There is no cost to participate, and we provide all necessary materials, including rehearsal learning tracks and sheet music (both in paper and electronic formats). The commitment is flexible, and our rehearsal schedule is designed to accommodate busy lives, with several optional bonus rehearsals available.

Rehearsal Schedule:

- **Wednesday, September 24:** 7:15–8:15 pm
- **Saturday, September 27:** 9:00 am–12:00 pm
- **Sunday, October 5:** 10:30–11:30 am (Pop-up Bonus Rehearsal – optional)
- **Wednesday, October 8:** 7:15–8:15 pm
- **Sunday, October 19:** 10:30–11:30 am (Pop-up Bonus Rehearsal – optional)
- **Wednesday, October 22:** 7:15–8:15 pm
- **Saturday, November 1:** 9:00 am–12:00 pm
- **Sunday, November 2:** 10:30–11:30 am (Pop-up Bonus Rehearsal – optional)
- **Wednesday, November 5:** 7:15–8:15 pm
- **Wednesday, November 12:** 7:15–8:15 pm
- **Wednesday, November 19:** 7:15–8:00 pm
- **Sunday, November 23:** 10:30–11:30 am (Pop-up Bonus Rehearsal – optional)
- **Wednesday, December 3:** 7:15–8:15 pm
- **Saturday, December 6:** 9:00 am–12:00 pm (with orchestra)
- **Wednesday, December 10:** 7:15–8:15 pm

Performance Dates:

- **Friday, December 12 at 7:30 pm**
- **Saturday, December 13 at 4:00 pm**

Musical Selections:

- **Overture** – Commissioned work by Jeff Cranfill
- **"Rejoice! Your Light Has Come"** – M. McDonald
- **"Soft Winds Over Bethlehem"** – Wetzler (Choir and Orchestra)
- **"The Virgin Mary Had a Baby Boy"** – André Thomas version (with percussion)
- **"Ave Maria"** – Beibl (Choir and St. Andrew Sisters Vocal Ensemble; soloists needed for chants)
- **"Tomorrow Shall Be My Dancing Day"** – Gardner (Organ and Percussion)
- **"Long Ago"** – Jacob Narverud (Choir and Strings)
- **"Festival of Christmas"** – Wise (Choir and Orchestra)
- **"Joy to the World"** – Dan Forrest (Orchestra and Choir)

We hope that you will consider joining us for this incredible journey as we prepare to present *Fishing for Joy: A Christmas Journey*. Your voice, whether experienced or new to choral singing, will add to the beauty and depth of this performance.

To sign up or for more information, please contact us at music@gostandrew.com or simply join us at our first rehearsal on Wednesday, September 24.

We look forward to lifting our voices together.

Blessings,
Mark Zwilling
Director of Music and the Arts
St. Andrew United Methodist Church