



HOUSTON LUTHERAN CHORALE

HLC Newsletter

May 2017

From the President's Desk

Many governments have existed throughout history. Paul (in Romans 13) and even Jesus (in Matthew 22:21) say that God instituted governments and that we are subject to them. Remember, at that time, the government in power was from Rome - one that was not too kind towards Christians. We are privileged to live in America where, while not forced to follow Christianity, we are given the freedom to do so.

This freedom has been defended by patriots willing to give the ultimate sacrifice since America's inception. As Christians, this freedom is important to us in the context of the freedom that Christ won for us through His death and resurrection. Jesus said, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life." He also said, "If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." Faith in Jesus Christ is the only saving faith.

The Houston Lutheran Chorale has presented patriotic concerts since its beginning. We celebrate the freedom that Christ won for us and the freedom that America provides that allows us to believe as we do. This year's concert is entitled "Our Faith and Freedom." We will present hymns, spirituals and patriotic music focusing on the faith we have in our God which sustains us in this life and the freedom we have to live out our faith while in this great country.

We invite you to come celebrate with us. Our patriotic concert will be at Trinity Lutheran Church (Downtown) on Tuesday, July 4 at 6:00 pm. The concert will be followed by a free hot dog dinner. Being located near downtown Houston, Trinity is an excellent place to watch the firework display once it turns dark. We thank all those who have supported us over the years with their prayers and their generous donations. Please come and enjoy the 4th of July with us.

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Bob Heth, President

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OUR FAITH AND FREEDOM

Just over a year ago the Houston Lutheran Chorale stood at a crossroad. The Chorale had to decide whether to disband or to search for a new director and to continue. Because the members of the HLC strongly believed that this organization has not outlived its purpose, the members decided to ask me to be the interim director while they searched for a permanent director. July will mark one year since I accepted your request to be the permanent director and, as I examine the past year, I begin by thanking the members for the opportunity to be your director. Over the past year, I have seen the dedication and devotion that you have for the Houston Lutheran Chorale, for music, and for God. We know that God has plans for this organization and for each member. I see that we have grown in numbers, we have grown musically, and I pray that we have all grown spiritually as we work together under God's leadership. Your commitment humbles me and I am grateful to you and to God for allowing me to be your leader. "There is one Body and one Spirit; there is one hope in God's call to us; one Lord, one Faith, one Baptism; one God and Father of all."

As we have been preparing for our Fourth of July concert, the title of one of our collections of pieces kept ringing in my ears: "Our Faith and Freedom". As I was planning the repertoire for the concert, I noticed that the pieces fell neatly into the categories of songs of faith and of songs about our country. So, the theme, or title, for this year's Fourth of July concert is "Our Faith and Freedom". We are celebrating music, religious freedom, civil freedom, and the freedom that we have found in Christ. We celebrate that we live in a country where we are free to worship whomever and however we choose. We are free to come together as Christian musicians to sing of our love of God and country without fear of persecution.

The first half of the concert features mostly arrangements of some of our great hymns of faith: "God of our Fathers", "Faith of our Fathers",

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*Kerry Talley, HLC
Director*

Rehearsals

The Houston Lutheran Chorale has been sharing the story and love of our Lord for more than 30 years. The Chorale is open to all Lutherans who like to sing and are willing to rehearse approximately two Sunday afternoons from late January thru July for the 4th of July concert and mid-August through December for the Christmas concerts. For 2017 the Chorale is planning to sing three concerts at Christmas, all on the first weekend of December.

There are no auditions, all you need is a willingness to learn, love to sing and an abundance of joy because we truly have a wonderful time together. Contact:

sfpetersen@sbcglobal.net

OF FAITH AND FREEDOM - continued

“O God, Our Help in Ages Past”; and, spirituals such as “Jacob’s Ladder” and “Down to the River to Pray”. and “Shenandoah”.

The second half opens with a celebration of music in “Omnia Sol” and “The Awakening”. We then conclude the concert with a series of patriotic pieces that include “Battle Cry of Freedom”, “This Land is Your Land”, “America—the new Colossus”, and of course, our “Tribute to the Armed Forces”. The concert promises to be fast-paced and varied. Please make sure the you share the concert information so that we will fill the church on July 4. The weather greatly affected our Christmas Concerts, which in turn greatly affected our donations. We need to have a large crowd at the Fourth of July Concert.

I feel excitement in our rehearsals as we prepare for this concert. The Chorale seems to like and to enjoy the repertoire, and I feel the confidence growing with every rehearsal. The Fourth of July Concert is a great tradition of the Houston Lutheran Chorale. Let us commit ourselves to making this the best one yet. Let us continue to praise God through good music.



IT'S TIME TO CELEBRATE!

Each spring, the Chorale holds a special event to recognize those members who have reached significant milestones in their service. We have some fellowship, a meal and we acknowledge their dedication. This year is no different and in June, we are pleased to recognize the following members:

5 Years – Aaron Hervey, Jonathon Nelson and September Nelson

20 years – Linda Elmore, Buzz Loeschman and Quinta Loeschman

Each of these members is awarded a service pin representing their anniversary. Each pin is different to denote the specific anniversary it represents. When you see the Chorale at the July 4th concert, you may notice many of our members proudly wearing their pins. God has truly Blessed the Houston Lutheran Chorale with a wonderful and dedicated group of individuals!

DONATION OPPORTUNITIES

If you are looking for opportunities to donate in support of the Houston Lutheran Chorale, here are two that you may not have thought of:

Thrivent—Choice Dollars: Just sign in to Thrivent, go to Choice Dollars. To choose the charity, type in Houston Lutheran Chorale. Then either select the entire amount of your choice dollars or enter a different amount.

Amazon Smile—Sign into Amazon in this way:
<http://smile.amazon.com> After signing in, towards the top left of center you should see SUPPORTING ORGANIZATION in orange. At that point enter Houston Lutheran Chorale. After that every time you sign in to <http://smile.amazon.com>, Houston Lutheran Chorale should show up as the supporting organization. A small percentage of your purchase will then be donated to the Houston Lutheran Chorale.

OUR FAITH AND FREEDOM

July 4, 2017

6:00 PM

800 Houston Ave

Trinity Lutheran -
Downtown

Bring your folding
chairs to stay for
hot dogs and the
fireworks.

*Happy Birthday to
the USA.*

Houston Lutheran Chorale
800 Houston Avenue
Houston, TX 77007

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