

The CHORISTERS

at ST. MARK'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

To the families in the Episcopal Diocese of Milwaukee:

Greetings!

I hope this letter finds you in good health and spirits. My name is Daniel Koplitz, and I am excited to tell you of the establishment of a children and youth choir based at St. Mark's Episcopal Church in Milwaukee. As the founding director, I am seeking interested young singers to grow what I hope to be one of the finest ecclesiastical choirs in the city.

The choir, known as The Choristers at St. Mark's, will serve two primary purposes. First and foremost, it will give children of the Christian faith an opportunity to serve the Church. Music ministry in this context will expose children to traditional worship, allow them to take on a leadership role within the Church, and will shed light and expound upon messages found in Scripture. Second, the choir will exist to provide a high-caliber musical education and performance opportunities. Although The Choristers does serve a role in worship at St. Mark's, the choir is not discriminatory, and it is open to any child regardless of creed, ethnicity, economic status, or previous musical experience. In this way, the choir functions as a tool for evangelism and outreach as well.

Choristers will be trained with the foremost Anglican curriculum for young singers, the Royal School of Church Music's VOICE for LIFE, where they will develop their vocal skills, their musical understanding, and their knowledge and appreciation of choral repertoire all within a comfortable and fun learning environment. In addition to providing musical education, the curriculum will also emphasize what it means to be a part of a choir. Discipline, commitment, punctuality, responsibility, and cooperation are all addressed in VOICE for LIFE, growing the choristers as people as well as musicians.

With their residency at St. Mark's, the choir will be expected to sing once a month during the Sunday service at 9:30 a.m. and participate in the Lessons and Carols service on December 2, at 4 p.m. In order to prepare for these services, the choir will meet to rehearse in the beautifully

reverberant sanctuary each Sunday, from 1 to 3 p.m., starting on September 23. The first stand-alone concert will occur during the spring term.

As a singer, conductor, and choral musician myself, I can't emphasize enough how beneficial it is for a child to be involved in music. It has been proven to improve both physical and mental health, while allowing for self-expression and the development of interpersonal skills. Speaking from personal experience, the memories and lessons learned through musical study and exploration are invaluable and will remain with a musician for their entire life.

The Choristers is open to any child entering 4th through 12th grade; however, membership requires a simple and informal audition to be completed by mid-September. The audition will consist of repeating melodic patterns from the piano and singing "Happy Birthday." No prepared piece is necessary. To schedule a short audition or ask any questions regarding the choir or about me, please contact me at daniel@stmarksmilwaukee.org or 715-432-3256. I look forward to hearing from you!

Yours in song,

Daniel Koplitz
Children's Choirmaster
The Choristers at St. Mark's Episcopal Church