

2024 Candidates

Secretary/Treasurer: Michael Krentz and David Ritter

Michael Krentz



Michael Krentz, a Deacon in the ELCA, is Director of Music/Organist at Christ Lutheran Church in Allentown, Pennsylvania. He is currently Secretary/Treasurer of the Association of Lutheran Church Musicians; previously he served ALCM as chairperson of ALCM's 1997 biennial conference and on the Board of Directors. Krentz has presented at regional and biennial conferences, and at Hearts • Hands • Voices workshops.

Vision statement:

I was elected to the office of Secretary/Treasurer of ALCM in 2019. Since then, we have faced great challenges in the church, society, and our country. The Covid-19 pandemic caused unthinkable losses – losses of so many people, but also losses of programs, comfortable ways of doing things, and a sense of security. Other challenges came in our nation's political life, in our increasingly diverse population, in our financial and economic life, and (not the least for ALCM) in declining attendance in churches.

By the grace of God we (ALCM) have come through. Certainly, by the grace of God, but also by the diligent work of so many leaders. Those leaders include our Board of Directors, our executive director Jim Rindelaub, our dedicated staff around the country, and many, many, many volunteers. ALCM is stronger now than before 2019 because of those leaders and that grace.

What is my vision for ALCM? That we would continue to build on our strengths, strengths that were discovered, renewed, and enhanced in the last 5 years. That we would continue to find new ways to serve our members. That we would not lose the flexibility we discovered in the pandemic. That we would seek out, put in place, and support new leaders. That we would increase our financial capacity and stability.

I could not have imagined how ALCM would look in 2024 back in 2019, let alone back in 1985 at the meeting that led to the founding of our Association. My desire is to continue to help ALCM grow, change, serve, and thrive, so that we can continue to nurture and equip musicians to serve and lead the church's song.

Soli Deo Gloria!

David Ritter



David Ritter is the director of music at Bethlehem Evangelical Lutheran Church in the Beverly neighborhood of Chicago. Before coming to Bethlehem, he worked in churches of several denominations in Indiana and Georgia. Before retiring, he worked full time as a CPA and owned his own tax practice. Before moving to Chicago in 2011, he was a partner in a tax practice in Atlanta and has over 35 years of financial and accounting experience working in different fields, including governmental, corporate, not-for-profit, and tax.

David served on the planning committee for the 2013 and 2015 national ALCM conferences in Valparaiso and Atlanta and is a trustee on the endowment fund committee. He is treasurer of the Chicago AGO chapter and has been an executive board member for AGO chapters in Valparaiso & Bloomington, Indiana, and Atlanta, Georgia.

Vision statement:

There are many challenges facing church musicians today. My goal as secretary/treasurer would be to support the board and our membership as we work together to meet and respond to these challenges.

Directors:

Karla Devine, Matthew Frable, and Omaldo Perez

Karla Devine



Karla Devine is the director of music ministry at St. Timothy Lutheran Church in Hacienda Heights, CA, where she is organist and director of the adult choir and the children's choir. She teaches music at Circle of Love Preschool in Manhattan Beach and teaches piano in her home.

Karla received her Bachelor of Music Education degree from Eastern Michigan University where she studied with Erich Goldschmidt. She did graduate work with Eduard Müller in Basel, Switzerland, and with Heinrich Fleischer at the University of Minnesota.

Karla has worked on the planning committee for several national and regional conferences for ALCM and has served as regional vice-president of ALCM for two terms. She is currently the artistic director of the concert series *Classical Crossroads* in Torrance and serves as secretary of the Los Angeles Chapter of the American Guild of Organists. In 2014 Karla started a singing group in Manhattan Beach for seniors (with or without memory issues), which meets once a week. And she is on the board and volunteers for Ten Thousand Villages in Redondo Beach, a Fair Trade non-profit.

Vision statement:

My vision for ALCM is to continue to support church musicians through our network of new music, newsletters, journals, conferences and workshops, and collegiality. Our world and our churches are changing so rapidly. ALCM can provide essential guidance and creative worship leadership for all of us to move forward. And I feel that ALCM is still unfamiliar to many of our Lutheran church musicians. We can find new ways to share the good news about all the blessings membership in ALCM provides. We have so much to share!

Matthew Frable



Matthew has been serving Lutheran congregations of all sizes for over 35 years in both part-time and full-time positions. As a life-long Lutheran, he understands the importance of music in the life of a congregation.

He earned his Bachelor of Music Education and Bachelor of Music Therapy degrees at Southern Methodist University and his Master of Theological Studies in Church Music degree at Trinity Lutheran Seminary in Columbus, Ohio. Matthew has directed vocal ensembles of all ages and sizes, instrumental ensembles, handbell choirs, and musicals and provided organ and piano leadership in both traditional and contemporary settings at congregations in Texas, Ohio, Minnesota, Wisconsin, and currently Arizona. He also taught high school music and drama for 17 years. When not on the organ or piano bench or at the conductor's podium, he is probably out training for his next marathon.

Vision statement:

Serving a congregation as a musician can, at times, seem very lonely – as if you are out there on your own. There is often only one primary musician at a congregation, and it can feel as if you are the only person doing what you do.

ALCM is a wonderful organization that exists to support, nurture, and equip musicians – especially those who feel they are on an island by themselves. The resources and networking opportunities ALCM makes available to church musicians are great ways for individuals to feel supported, gain inspiration, and find creative motivation.

As a Director on the Board, I will use my years of experience in the church as a foundation to help ALCM better assist its members as they serve and lead music in their local congregation. It is important for ALCM to continually reach out to non-members promoting the benefits of becoming a member. My desire is to help ALCM become an even stronger organization with more members and more resources available.

Omaldo Perez



Omaldo Perez has served ALCM previously in an advisory capacity and as a board member. Omaldo is the Director of Music and Worship Arts at Christ Presbyterian Church (Madison, WI). Previously, Omaldo has served congregations in NY, NJ, AZ, WA, OH, and IL, has helped lead music at ELCA synod assemblies, and has been a guest musician for ELCA national gatherings. Publications like *Sundays and Seasons*, *In Tempo*, and *CrossAccent* have seen some of his written work. Omaldo has organized and co-led several Hearts•Hands•Voices workshops and has been a guest at regional and national ALCM conferences.

Vision statement:

ALCM is an extraordinary organization. Working with and as part of the Board during the last few years has been profoundly inspiring. As a result, my understanding and admiration for the vital and multi-faceted work ALCM does continues to deepen. As we plan and work collectively towards a brighter future, I will continue to identify and pursue areas of growth and opportunities that will best position our membership to live into our vision: to serve the Church's song by nurturing and equipping its musicians.

If elected, I would be honored to work toward reinforcing and building ALCM's connections across our network of relationships.