

ST. JAMES LUTHERAN CHURCH
GETTYSBURG, PENNSYLVANIA

Number 1.30.12
Subject Braband Organ Scholarship Program
Effective Date 2026-08-19
Revision Dates
Committee Braband Organ Scholarship Program

Organization/Standing Committee/Braband Organ Scholarship Program

The Braband Organ Scholarship Program fund exists to enhance the rich Lutheran tradition of a vibrant musical life in congregational worship, primarily by the development of church organists.

The fund shall be administered by the Braband Organ Scholarship Program Committee. The committee shall be composed of the:

- Minister of Music
- Two to four committee members without term limits

Members shall be responsible for all efforts to carry out the vision of the fund. The committee shall be aware that the Braband Scholarship Fund is a separate donor designated fund which is not comingled with the St. James Endowment Fund. It shall be the policy of this Fund to invest the available assets in the ELCA Endowment Fund Pooled Trust using the Ministry Growth Fund asset in accordance with the published policies of said fund. The Endowment Committee of St. James Lutheran church shall manage the funds invested in the Ministry Growth Fund and disburse them to the congregation treasurer as instructed by the Braband Organ Scholarship Committee.

Appropriate uses of the monies include

- the cost of organ lessons
- promotion of the scholarship through advertising
- promotion of organ events aimed at generating interest in lessons
- mileage reimbursement for the organ instructor (if travel to another church is appropriate).

The committee should be aware that the hourly teaching rate will be variable over time.

An interested student shall

- complete the application form (posted on St. James website)
- including a brief paragraph describing interest in church music
- ways the student would use the newly learned skills in a church setting.

To qualify, a student would demonstrate basic piano skills through an audition that would include preparing and playing

- 1) a brief piano solo of their choosing
- 2) two stanzas of a hymn from a hymnal of their choice
- 3) sightreading a brief passage of music

The student would also participate in a conversation with the committee members present at the audition.

Beginning organ or enhanced training would be covered for one year with student and teacher determining start date and the number of lessons feasible and appropriate.

The St. James Minister of Music would have first preference for teaching. Other organists could be eligible to teach depending upon pedagogy skills, level of expertise and recommendations from people who know the organist's abilities and qualifications. Other teachers would need to arrange access to an organ at their locations for lessons and student practice time. Final approval for an organ instructor would be at the discretion of the St. James Minister of Music.

The student shall be responsible for materials including music and organ shoes as well as a commitment of time to practice. St. James (as well as any other church being used) would need to make the organ available for weekly practice. An expectation is that the student would play for or during a worship service (preferably at St. James) at a suitable time.

The scholarship grant shall be renewable, depending on reevaluation by the committee, after one year. With approval, students could continue lessons, participate in appropriate conferences or advanced training at appropriate institutions. The focus would continue to be church music.

In the future, if the nature of church music changes or people interested in playing the organ are not identified, the fund could be used in other ways that enhance music in worship.

2026-05-04: Reviewed & Finalized by the Braband Organ Scholarship Program Committee

2026-08-19: Approved by Church Council