

St. Peter Lutheran School

Choir Information

2023 - 2024

Dear Parents,

Welcome to another school year at St. Peter! Children's choirs have been an important component of St. Peter Lutheran Church and School for well over a century. The children of our school regularly participate in worship, serving as worship leaders through their singing. As part of their religious education, all children in the school are instructed in the historic liturgy and hymns of the church. Music instruction is part of the school's curriculum and participation in choir is an integral part of their learning experience.

Listed below are a few of the most commonly asked questions about choir. Please contact Mr. Heinlein if you have any other questions not listed below and he will be glad to answer them.

Q: Do all children participate in choir?

A: All students in grades 2-8 have the opportunity to participate in our school choirs, as we believe music is an important part of our identity as a Lutheran school. All students in grades 2-4 sing in the Cherub Choir, and the Seraphim Choir is open to students in grades 5-8. Auditions for the Seraphim Choir will be held during the first week of school. Students in preschool through grade 1 will also have opportunities to sing at St. Peter Lutheran Church during the year.

Q: Can my child “opt out” of choir?

A: Students in grades 7-8 may choose not to sing in choir if their parents and music teacher are in agreement that it is in the child’s best interest not to participate in choir.

Q: What if my child is unable to sing on a Sunday?

A: All children are expected to be present when their choir is scheduled to sing. If an absence is absolutely unavoidable, a written note or email to brian.heinlein@stpeterhemlock.org needs to be sent at least 48 hours in advance explaining the absence. Please do not rely on classroom teachers to pass messages on to Mr. Heinlein. Each student is allowed three excused absences per year. After three excused absences, the student’s grade will be lowered for each subsequent absence. Students in grades 5-8 may be given a homework assignment to complete as the basis of their grade when they have an excused absence from singing. If a child is absent due to illness, please send a note when your child returns to school indicating the absence was due to illness and they will be marked excused. If your child is not present to sing and a note is not sent, the absence is considered unexcused and your child’s grade is lowered accordingly.

Q: What if we are not members of St. Peter Lutheran Church?

A: Children who attend churches other than St. Peter are expected to sing with their choir whenever possible. If participation at their home congregation does not permit them to be present at St. Peter, they will be excused with a note explaining their absence. They are, however, required to be present at events such as the December Advent Services, Ascension Hymn Festival, and any events when times do not conflict with regular Sunday morning services at their home church.

Q: When is my child scheduled to sing?

A: Children sing about one Sunday per month at St. Peter. The choir schedule for the entire school year is made available in August and can be found on our website at www.stpeterhemlock.org. Please add these dates to your family calendar and plan to attend.

Q: What time should my child arrive to sing?

A: Members of the Cherub Choir and Seraphim Choir should meet in the church music room at least 20 minutes prior to the start of the service. Singers who are late may have their grade lowered by one or two points, depending upon how late they arrive.

Q: How are choir grades determined?

A: Choir grades are based on participation during rehearsals, memorization quizzes, attendance at scheduled services, and make-up homework assignments. Sunday morning services are graded as a musical performance, with each service counting for approximately 10% of a student's overall grade.

Q: What if my child needs to leave early?

A: Choir members are expected to stay for the entire service. If your child needs to leave early, please inform the director in advance so he can plan accordingly.

Q: What if my child is scheduled to be an acolyte on the same day the choir sings?

A: Middle school students who serve as acolytes can join their choir in the balcony after lighting the candles at the beginning of the service. Near the end of the service, they will leave the balcony early in order to have time to extinguish the candles during the closing hymn. Students who volunteer to be acolytes may not use that as an excuse to miss their choir performance.

Q: What should my child wear?

A: Singers should plan to dress in their Sunday best, out of respect and reverence for our Lord. In the future, students in the Seraphim Choir may be asked to wear a white top and dark bottom when singing for a more uniform appearance, but this is not required at this time.

Q: What if I have other questions?

A: If you have any questions regarding choir policies or any other concerns throughout the year, please feel free to contact me via email (brian.heinlein@stpeterhemlock.org) or on my cell phone at (920) 226-9202.

Thank you for your continued support and prayers as together we encourage our children to rejoice, give thanks, and sing!

In Christ,

Brian Heinlein
Director of Music