

Any of this sound familiar?

“Oh, they’re all really good singers.”

“I don’t read music.”

“What if I’m not good enough?”

“But I’m not a Lakewood member.”

“I’ve never sung in a choir before.”

“Don’t you have to audition?”

If you can carry a tune, love to sing, and are interested in being part of a large, loving Lakewood community -

The chancel choir is looking for YOU!

To answer your questions, there are no auditions (whew!), you don’t have to have the world’s best singing voice (most of us don’t), we can teach you what you need to know about reading music (simple, really), and yes, there is a place for you! No kidding. If you can attend rehearsals on Wednesday nights and either or both Sunday morning services at 9:30 or 10:50 service, you’re in.

Want more info? Keep reading.

What to expect on Wednesday evening

Rehearsals are held on Wednesday nights in the Sanctuary. People start showing up around 6:50 for the rehearsal that starts at

7:00. If this is your first time, you’ll be greeted by someone, be asked if you have a section preference, and be taken to someone in that section. If you don’t know what section you should be in – we’ll figure something out (You can always change later.) You’ll be provided with a guest folder. Be sure that you get a “Choir Connection” – a sheet of paper with the rehearsal schedule and announcements on it.

We usually work on 5-8 anthems on any given Wednesday night. If we’re doing a major work in the near future, we’ll spend some time on that, too, and after a prayer, we’re dismissed. We usually wrap things up around 8:30 or shortly thereafter.

After your first rehearsal you’ll be assigned a robe and folder, and be eligible to sing on Sunday morning. Your section leader will fill you in on the other details. And yes – childcare is available. Email Jill Guettler jill.guettler@lakewoodumc.org to let her know your young one is coming.

The Sunday morning routine

At 8:55 we make our way to the choir room, where we don robes, get folders and hymn sheets, chat with friends, pick up a bulletin, chat some more with friends, and find a spot to sit. We’ll run through the morning’s music, then after announcements, “Joys and Concerns,” and a prayer, we proceed to the Sanctuary for the processional hymn. We sing also at the 10:50 service, so meet in the choir room at 10:30 for the warmup.

What kind of music do we sing?

We sing a wide variety of music – most of it in the “traditional” sphere. Major works in the past have included the Faure Requiem, Handel’s Messiah, and more. We also do spirituals, patriotic music, and occasional praise-type song, and whatever else fits the need for Sunday morning. Bottom line: We never get bored with the music.

What else does the choir do as a group? Anything?

Yes! We have a retreat about once a year, we travel once every three years or so, occasionally plan get-togethers within the sections, sing as invited at other locations, share each others’ joys and sorrows, and build lifelong friendships.

If you have questions, or want some information that’s not found here, Greg Gathright would be more than happy to talk with you. Or, find someone in your Sunday School class, Bible study, or other small group who’s a choir member.

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