Soli Deo Gloria

Musical Ensembles for the Glory of God Alone - Paul Wildes, Director
Heidi Wildes and Denise Wood, Artistic Directors

Fall 2026

"But let all who take refuge in Thee be glad, let them ever sing for joy" Ps. 5:11

Welcome Back to Choir! Thank you so much for your participation and support, it is truly our pleasure to work with your children. Our choirs are designed to give children an opportunity to explore and experience the joy, beauty, and goodness of God and His gift of music. To know the fulfillment that comes from singing well, to experience emotional release in music, to grow in the understanding of worship, to develop poise in appearing before others, to develop a sense of responsibility and commitment; these are all goals toward which we will lead your child. Choir sessions will include vocal development, time devoted to learning general music skills such as note reading and sight-singing, music theory and music history, as well as learning a variety of music (sacred, patriotic, folk) to share at an evening concert.

Currently our program offers 8 established choirs, **Te Deum** for 1-3 graders, **Jubilate Deo** for 4-7/8 graders, **Sanctus** for 8/9th graders and older and young men whose voices are changing, and **Handchime and Handbell Choirs** for students participating in a vocal choir and are in grades 4 and up.

Denise Wood and Heidi Wildes will be leading the choirs and rehearsals. Mrs. Wood is an experienced director of children's musicals and a proficient singer and bell ringer, and brings dedication and excellence to our program as the primary director of our ringing program. Mrs. Wildes has a degree in piano performance and is a past member of the Chorister's Guild, a member of American Guild of English Handbell Ringers, a certified teacher of Kindermusik and directs the SDG vocal program and teaches handbells. She and her husband Paul are developing the SDG Choir Program in the Chippewa Valley.

In addition to the full vocal choir and chimes/handbell programs, we are so happy to again offer art classes with Kasey Vlasak, a certified K-12 Art teacher who has been teaching the homeschool art classes for the past 11 years. This semester's classes will be offered several different times throughout the morning, and your child will be placed in a class so as to not conflict with choir and ringing.

We are accepting registration until September 3; however, choirs do often reach capacity and we fill spots on a first come basis.

You must be a member of CVHS forum to participate in choir. This is how we communicate throughout the semester. P***lease include an additional $10 to pay this fee and if you are not already a member, go to homeschool-life.com/wi/CVHS and request membership***

SCHEDULE - All choirs rehearse Thursdays at Bethesda Lutheran, 123 W. Hamilton Av, Eau Claire. Enter through the south door by the gym.

SEPTEMBER 3:

Ringing Checks Grades 7-12 in room 305: exact times to be determined. Watch the forum for the announcement.
10am: Male Voice checks: changing voices grades 7 & 8 through grade 12
10-12: Sanctus Men Tuxedo Assignments

SEPTEMBER 17: Grades 4-12 vocal choir and ringing schedule (No Te Deum Grades 1-3)

SEPTEMBER 24: Grades 1-12 FULL vocal choir, ringing, and Art.

PERFORMANCE : Our concert is scheduled for November 19 at 7pm at Bethesda.

VOCAL CHOIRS:

Te Deum: 1-3 graders meet at 9:00am until 9:50am - we anticipate a limit of 40 choristers for this choir. If space allows, we consider accepting kindergarten students. If you feel your kindergartener is particularly well-behaved, able to focus well, and has a desire to sing with us, he or she is welcome to join us if space is available. Concert attire for Te Deum is a white top and black bottom.

Jubilate Deo: 4-8 graders meet at 10:00am until 10:55am - we anticipate a limit of 70 choristers for this choir. Concert attire for Jubilate Deo is a white top and black bottom. 8th graders may be given the option to move up into Sanctus depending on our attendance.

Sanctus: 8/9-12 graders meet at 11am until noon. *Students in this choir are expected to know how to read music and sing on pitch*.

Sanctus young men will need to purchase a standard, white, tuxedo shirt, cummerbund and 2.5 inch bowtie, please include $35 to cover this cost if you are a new Sanctus male member. SDG Choirs will be providing a tuxedo jacket and pants for each male chorister which you will return at the end of the year. SANCTUS performance attire is tuxedo for men, and **black, covered shoulder, semi-formal for women including black dress/tights or leggings and black shoes**. Black dresses are available to purchase for $70.

HANDCHIME & HANDBELL CHOIRS:

If you are participating in a vocal choir, you have the opportunity to participate in a chime or bell group and spots are filled on a first-come basis. *Adoramus* and *Benedicimus* handbell choirs are a combination of permanent members and students invited to 'ring up' a semester. Those students may or may not also have another bell group assignment.

Our official policy for handbells is that you are allowed one excused absence, but we would prefer none at all. Ringing is a 'team sport' and the group really suffers when a member is absent. If you know you will miss two or more rehearsals, we would ask that you give up your ringing spot for this semester. We will try but cannot guaratee there will be an available spot in the spring.

Choristers in **grades 4-7/8** will meet for chimes at 9am or noon.
Handbell choirs, **grades 6-12** by audition, meet at 9 or 10am, 11am, 12 or 1:00pm

Ladies' concert attire for the ADORAMUS handbell choir is a long black dress which is purchased by the individual family for $70. The cost for replacement bell gloves is $5.

Participating in a chime or bell group is like being on a sports team. Individual ability is necessary as is the ability to play well with others. Each group consists of 11-13 players and musicians are placed in a particular group based on what the teacher observes in class, at a previous concert, and at a previous ringing check. We try to match musicians of similar ability and this doesn't always match with the age or grade of the students involved.

Other factors can help a student to move through the ranks and get into the advanced groups more quickly: playing other instruments outside of choir, developing good rhythmic skills, and a particularly cheerful andhelpful attitude. Being flexible and able to defer one's preferences for the good of the group is especially noticed. Consistent participation rather than taking a semester off will help to ensure steady progress.

PERFORMANCE: Our semester will end when the choirs sing on Thursday, November 19 at Bethesda Lutheran Brethren Church at 7pm. A reception follows and friends and family are invited to attend. Chorister performance attire is white top/black bottom. SANCTUS performance attire is tuxedo for men, and black semi-formal for women. Young men may wear ties in the younger choirs.

COST - Each semester there is a $25 *per family* facility fee in addition to the cost for choir tuition or art class. The choir cost for the semester is $35 per child. There is an additional fee of $35 per student to participate in chimes or bells.

FALL ART CLASSES: Kasey Vlasak will be offering art classes in the gym for 8 weeks, September 24 - November 12. All supplies are included with the art fee. Families involved with choir are given priority for art classes. Students who are not involved in choir will be put on a wait list until choir registrations are complete. If you have any questions about the art classes, please contact Kasey directly: kvlasak44@gmail.com

High School Printmaking: $50 per student, supplies included. Students will learn about the art of printmaking and explore several printmaking techniques including linoleum cuts. These methods are easily reproduced for creativity outside of the classroom. This class requires a parent/guardian to attend our first class for a 5 minute safety overview and to sign a safety waiver.

Elementary Art for Students in K-4th Grade: $40 per student, all supplies included. A semester of exploring Multicultural Art using many different techniques, including yarn painting, salt watercolor, scratch resist, mosaic and dragon kites!

Middle Level Art (grades 5-8) will be offered in the spring semester along with an additional Elementary Art session.

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: Registrations and payments are due no later than September 3; however, all positions are filled on a first come basis.

What a privilege to work with your children! We are looking forward to an exciting semester which will glorify God and create a lifelong love of music in each chorister.

Paul & Heidi Wildes (715-210-3591)
HEIDI@SDGchoirs.org

REHEARSAL DAY POLICIES: Please read these carefully and discuss them with your children so there is no confusion as to how choristers are expected to behave when not in a class. If you are not going to supervise your child directly, please arrange with another mom to be in charge; this is completely acceptable and encouraged.

Bad Weather: We will plan that all choir rehearsals will go ahead as scheduled, even if the EC schools call a bad weather day, unless we post on the forum canceling choir that morning. Without a cancellation, please come for regular rehearsals if you feel it is safe for you to travel.

Handbells: Our official policy for bells is that you are allowed one excused absence, but we would prefer none at all! The group really suffers when a member is absent. If you know you will miss two or more rehearsals, we would ask that you give up your ringing spot for this semester.

We Miss You When You're Gone! Prompt and regular attendance at rehearsals is appreciated, but we know that real life has many unexpected happenings! If your child will miss a rehearsal and you are able to, an email would be appreciated.

No One is allowed in the Hallways during class time. ***This includes parents and high schoolers***. We expect to see no one outside of the designated rooms, and all hallways must remain empty during class times. Also, being in the hallways during class time is not an option. And finally, hallways are only for occupying when classes are not in session.

Kitchen/Lunch Rules If you take it out, put it away; if you use it, wash it; if your child uses it, be sure he cleans up; please do not allow others to take responsibility for the kitchen area and any trash or leftovers for which your family is responsible.

No Child Left Behind: Except when in a scheduled class, every student grades 1-8 needs supervision while at Bethesda. This includes art students. There will be no childcare provided or nursery available, but the fellowship hall is a **"waiting room"** available for you to stay with any additional children while your chorister is in class. This is SUPERVISED: if the mom is not there, she MUST arrange for another mom to supervise her children. NO SCREAMING, NO WILD PLAY. Please practice consideration of others while in the fellowship hall.

Parents may supervise their children in the playground area as well.

Older siblings of high school age are allowed to supervise younger siblings, but are not permitted to leave them unattended in the waiting room. ***No* children *or high school students* are allowed in the hallways or in the parking lot while classes are in session**.

If you see a situation that needs addressing, or if you feel a family needs to be contacted regarding any behavior, please send us an email to INFO@SDGchoirs.org Safety is our biggest concern but also living together in peace and consideration.

Study Areas:
There is a **quiet study area** in room 311 for parent/child and a **silent study area** available in room 313 at the far west end of the building. An overflow area in 309 is available to parents and older children for working together - *no toddlers*. High school students may occupy half of 305.

Soli Deo Gloria - FALL 2026 Registration

Info@SDGchoirs.org

Parents_____

Address including zip code_____

_____

Text:_____Email:_____

I have read and understand the Rehearsal Day Policies: _____(please initial)

Chorister's Name Grade Chimes/Bells Art

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

Facility Usage Fee ($25 per family): _____

Choir Fee ($35/child, max $175/family) :_____

Chimes/Bells ($35 per child):_____

SANCTUS **tux shirt/tie** ($35): _____

SANCTUS Black Dress ($70) _____

High School Art ($50) to "Kasey Vlasak" _____

K-4th Art ($40) to "Kasey Vlasak" _____

Total Amount to "Heidi Wildes" _____

checks to "Heidi Wildes"

Wildes venmo: @Heidi-Wildes

Wildes paypal: comeon22@equallyskilled.com

Total to "Kasey Vlasak" _____

checks to "Kasey Vlasak"

Vlasak venmo: @kvlasak44

CVHS Member Fee (required) checks to "Denise Wood" $10 _____

Denise venmo: @DeniseA-Wood-1

Denise Paypal: wwdawood@gmail.com

Please turn off "purchases" when using venmo or paypal to avoid fees.

Please Mail Completed Form and any check payments to:

Denise Wood
3995 Mayer Rd
Fall Creek WI 54742