



# HOUSTON LUTHERAN CHORALE

HLC Newsletter

Spring 2023

## *From the President's Desk*

My first article as president of the Houston Lutheran Chorale – that's intimidating! We've had some amazing leaders in the past who created quite the standard to live up to! How did they do it? Did they feel the same way when they took the position?

Then, this being the 4<sup>th</sup> of July, it made me think of those incredible individuals who founded, fought and led this wonderful country of ours. They were attempting something that had never been done before. Were they angst-ridden or boldly confident? Did they suffer through sleepless nights or sleep like babies? If I were to guess, I would have to say – all of the above!

The idea of starting and leading a fledgling union had to be daunting. How did they do it? The answer – their faith in and reliance on our good and gracious God; an unwavering belief that He would light their path and guide their way. No matter the challenges, He was in control.

So, I will follow their examples and lean on Him as the Houston Lutheran Chorale continues to spread His word through music. I pray He continues to Bless our country and use the Chorale to bring others to know Him. We wish you a Blessed, safe and happy July 4<sup>th</sup>!

*Sheri Fryer, President*

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★ONE★  
NATION  
— UNDER —  
GOD★



**“The God who gave us life gave us liberty at the same time...”**

These words written by Thomas Jefferson, almost 250 years ago before the writing of the Declaration of Independence, still ring true for us today. So many people forget that all things are of God and all things come from God. God gave us all life and gave us all liberty, at the same time. The freedoms that we enjoy, those that have been hard-won by those that have come before us, cannot be taken for granted. Our nation's quest for independence was born of our desire to self-govern and the freedom to make the choices and mistakes that we felt were right for ourselves, regardless of what the king says. We sought the freedom to worship the God of our choosing, the one true God, and not have to worship as a part of the Church of England, thereby the King.

In this season, when we celebrate the birth of our nation, we celebrate those freedoms. We celebrate our freedom to speak out against the government without fear of retribution, we celebrate the right to worship the one true God and thank Him for those freedoms that He gave us when He gave us life.

Forever we will be grateful, first to God for the gifts of grace and life and then to those who have fought for our rights live a life of freedom, in this great country.

*Sincerely,  
Mr. Steve Bayless  
Interim Director, Houston Lutheran Chorale*





Christmas Concert December 2022—Memorial Katy  
—photo by Deb Buck

## Who We Are...

The Houston Lutheran Chorale is comprised of singers from multiple congregations throughout the greater Houston area.

Formal musical training is NOT required, and we would welcome anyone interested in singing to join us next fall! Our first rehearsal will be Sunday, August 20th, 2:00-5:00 PM, at Trinity Lutheran Church-Downtown.

Keep up with us on our website  
<http://www.hlc-tx.org>

The 2023 HLC Board  
(photo, left, R-L)

President Sheri Fryer  
Vice President Babs Scott  
Secretary  
September Nelson  
Treasurer  
Barbara Szalkowski

## Grateful to Return - Christmas Concerts 2022

A small but dedicated group of singers and our director, Steven Bayless, persevered through months of rehearsals last fall which culminated in “A Festival of Carols,” our 2022 Christmas concerts at Memorial Lutheran Church-Katy on Saturday, December 3 and at Trinity Lutheran Church-Downtown on Sunday, December 4.

It was such a blessing and joy to be able to sing together again for our family, friends, and supporters, and were so very grateful for all who were able to share this experience with us.

Despite the smaller Chorale and the fewer accompanying instruments — just piano and flute — the music was uplifting and brought out the joy and the Gospel message of the Christmas season.

We are grateful for the support we continue to receive and invite you to join us for our Independence Day concert at 4:00PM at Trinity Lutheran Church-Downtown.

## DONATION OPPORTUNITIES

Until recently, patrons had the option of donating to the Chorale through AmazonSmile. Although Amazon has discontinued this program, we thank all of you who donated through this program.

You can still donate to the Chorale through Thrivent Choice Dollars. Thrivent lets eligible clients with membership choose where Thrivent distributes a portion of its funding each year. Eligibility is based on a client's insurance premiums and contract values. Learn more about Thrivent Choice and direct your Choice Dollars by logging into your account on the Thrivent website <https://www.thrivent.com/about-us/membership/thrivent-choice>.

**Houston Lutheran Chorale**  
800 Houston Avenue  
Houston, TX 77007

**Independence  
Day Concert  
"One Nation  
Under God"**

**Tuesday, July 4  
4:00PM**

**Trinity Lutheran  
Church-  
Downtown  
800 Houston Ave.**

*Bring your own  
picnic and watch  
the downtown  
fireworks after  
the concert!*

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