October 18th, 2017

Dear Principals, Teachers, and Music Directors,

Grace Lutheran St. Pete is very excited to be the host school of the upcoming **Thirty-Seventh Annual Lutheran School Music Festival** and would like to invite your music ensembles to participate. The Festival has become a wonderful opportunity for students in our schools to listen to other school ensembles, enjoy performing for others, and to be evaluated by a panel of competent professional musicians. Many schools make the Festival a special field trip holiday for their musicians and enjoy local attractions as well as our beautiful beaches.

The Festival is for all age groups in Lutheran Schools throughout the Florida-Georgia District. As in the past, the Festival will be for choir, band, orchestra, praise team, and bell ensembles. If you want to send more than one ensemble in each of the five categories, please send in your request and we will try to honor your request if there is room in the schedule. We understand that each school may have a different variety of ensembles to choose from.

The Music Festival will be held on **Friday**, **February 23**<sup>rd</sup>, **2018** from **8:30 AM – 4:00 PM** on our church and school campus. Grace is located in north St. Petersburg with easy access to I-275. Detailed directions are listed in this packet.

A final registration form is enclosed. Please complete the information as requested. The cost for the festival is as follows: \$100.00 per group, plus \$2 per participant. (Students in more than one group pay \$2 only once.) If registration fees are an issue, please contact us. We want as many deserving groups as possible to attend the festival. \*If needed, we will also be able to provide a professional accompanist for your group for an additional cost of \$25.

This registration will cover the expenses of the Festival which include honorariums for judges, certificates and medallions, and mailings. Please remit your registration form to Grace by December 15th in the enclosed stamped envelope, fax it to us (727-522-4535), or e-mail it to <a href="mailto:itippett@grace-lutheran.com">itippett@grace-lutheran.com</a>. This will help us develop the practice and performance schedule.

You may remit your payment anytime up to the day of the Festival. If for any reason your group cannot attend, your registration fee will be returned in full.

If hotel accommodations are needed, please make arrangements directly with a hotel. Two hotels that are close to our school are the Holiday Inn Express & Suites (727) 520-7800 and the Comfort Inn North (727) 362-0075.

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More information is included in the packet pertaining to the basic guidelines of the day. Our music staff hopes that you will find this helpful in your preparations. For additional questions or information, please feel free to call Jennifer Tippett at 727-527-6213, Ext. 102.

We look forward to hearing from you. If you have never attended the Festival you may wish to consider bringing up a group just to observe and note Festival expectations. If you annually attend the Festival we want to assure you that we will do our best to make it a terrific experience for both you as the director and your groups.

God's continued blessings to you as you serve Him in your music ministry.

In Christ,

The Music Festival Team

Jennifer Tippett, Pastor Kevin Loughran, Pastor Jared Hartman, Principal Nicole Clifton, Dr. Diedre Allen, Debbie Riber, & Karen Faircloth

Enc: Registration Form
Festival Guidelines
Scoring
Sample Judges Sheets
Information Sheets (3)
Stamped Return Envelope

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