

The **James V. Salzwedel Award for Excellence in Church Music** (established April 2004) focuses on Moravian music at the most immediate level: that of the music life of the congregation. Over the years, many musicians have given excellent and long-lasting service to music and worship in Moravian congregations. Recognition for these individuals affirms the vital importance of music in Moravian worship; the vital role played by accomplished musicians in leading the music programs in the congregations, in encouraging and supporting congregational song, in the development of musical skills for all members of a congregation, and in guiding young people in their musical and spiritual growth. While very few Moravian congregations have a staff member identified as “Minister of Music”, Moravian worship practice for many centuries has included music as an integral part of worship, and thus the musical leaders of a congregation have a vital ministry in partnership with the ordained clergy.

Recipients of the James V. Salzwedel Award will show significant contributions to the musical life of the congregation(s) they have served, over an extended period of time. While most will hold positions such as choir director, organist, or band director within a congregation (or be retired from such a position), it is possible that a volunteer member of a congregation’s music program may have made such a significant contribution to that congregation’s musical life that the award is clearly merited.

James V. Salzwedel (b. 1936) is a native of Leonard, North Dakota and grew up at Bethel Moravian Church. He earned the Bachelor of Music from Concordia College, the Master of Divinity from Moravian Theological Seminary, and a Master of Music from the University of Kentucky. He has served as pastor of Christ Moravian Church in Winston-Salem; Associate Minister of Music and Organist at Home Moravian Church; as founder and director of the Hussite Bell Ringers in Winston-Salem, NC. An accomplished organist, he has presented premiere performances of works by Austin Lovelace, Wilbur Held, and Margaret Sandresky. His service playing is marked by sensitivity, expressiveness, and a careful attention to congregational singing. He served on the board of the American Guild of English Handbell Ringers for 12 years and was its president for two years. He was a trustee of the Moravian Music Foundation from 1983 to 1987, and as President in 1986.

Recipients of the James V. Salzwedel Award:

2004	Jerry V. Jones, Clemmons Douglas G. Kimel, Home, Calvary, Fairview	2017	Jeanne Serfas, Nazareth, PA Donald Armitage, Winston-Salem, NC Nola Reed Knouse, Home
2005	G. Randall Gibbs, Dover First Johnnie Hauser, New Philadelphia (NC)	2018	Donna K. Rothrock, Trinity Gwyneth Michel
2007	Rachel Belter, Bethel Bill Hutchins, Home Robert A. Conrad, Olivet	2019	Nancy Sawtelle, Friedland James Basta, Unity William A. Hall, King, (Bethania, Mayodan, Fairview)
2008	Beulah Clewell Shook Richard P. Saunders		Richard Miller, Central Keith Weatherman, Hope (Winston- Salem)
2009	Hubert Fort, Raleigh		Martha Cox Popichak, Emmaus (College Hill)
2010	G. Van Krause, Advent (NC)		Gerald Jenkins II, Lake Mills (WI) Joyce Sainato, Sharon (OH)
2011	Donald Benedett Mary Hege		
2012	Richard Jones Jeannie Rothrock, Christ Allen S. Goslen, Home Joe Conrad, Bethania		
2013	Phyllis Ronald, Sharon Mary Fairbairn (at Christ Community Church (Maple Grove, MN) Jimmie Snyder, Friedberg		
2014	Ben Fishel, Advent (W-S) Sam & Lillian (posth.) Fort, Trinity Raymond Ebert, Friedland		
2015	Nancy Marie Manuel, Fairview Jeff Whitsett, Grace		
2016	Dale Balzer, Unionville, MI Robert Clark, Oak Grove (W-S) Charles Krites, Advent (W-S)		