



Wisconsin Gossellers

Aug/Sept. 2025

DATE CHANGE: Mark your calendars!

Our September rehearsal is **SEPT 6** in **GRAFTON**. We'll be in **Sheboygan Oct. 11-12**. If you'd like an overnight homestay that weekend,, tell David Wernecke by Sept. 11. As always, please review carefully all times & dates on the last page—and please speak up if you have questions!



2026 Germany Tour (ca. June 16- July 1)

- round-trip coach airfare & in-country travel
- concerts in Frankenberg, Essen, Hagen, Bad Aarolsen, Erfurt...
- cultural experiences
- lodging in homestays & simple hotels—usually doubles or triples
- breakfasts & some lunches/suppers included

Max Cost: \$3,790

need-based scholarships

& student rate TBD

\$1,000 deposit due Dec. 12

FAQ

Can my partner/SO come along? If they join us as singers, yes. It is not our practice to travel with “plus ones” or fans. They are welcome to join you at the end of the tour for personal travel.

How does the \$ work? You pay the WI Gossellers. The Leadership Team organizes things with our hosts & travel agents. Your fee also supports need-based scholarships & travel for our professional musicians.

When do I pay? Non-refundable down payment \$1000 due 12/12/2025. Balance due 3/1/2026.

What about allergies or other accommodations? Please disclose any such needs when making your down payment. We will do our best to accommodate your needs. That said, we are NOT Road Scholars or Viking Cruise Lines; our goal is choir fellowship & person-to-person cultural exchange,

Is language a problem? No. Hosts speak some English. Martin & Kimberly translate as needed.

What can I do to help?

Recruit singers. Flyer on p4

Pay your annual dues.

[Get your passport!](#)

Organize a local fundraiser.

Learn/memorize your music.

Pray. Sing. Repeat.





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Aug/Sept. 2025



ORDINARY TIME?!?

Per the church calendar, we're in "Ordinary Time." This time of year, my ordinary includes fresh, local corn. My Catholic & Anglican classmates tell me that "ordinary time" is actually a mid 20th century translation of the Latin *tempus per annum*. A more literal translation would be "time during the year."

The other seasons of the church year all anticipate, celebrate or remember *particular events* (Catholics would say "mysteries") in Jesus' life. They include specific rituals. Think Christmas, Easter, Pentecost, etc. In contrast, *tempus per annum* doesn't really include flashy symbols, miracles, or special foods. *Tempus per annum* draws attention to God's presence in our everyday—in our routines & ordinary lives.

But WHY? I can think of at least 3 reasons:

1. To *allow* God into our routines. Yes, God is already there. But do we welcome that? Or would we rather confine the miracles to Easter, Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, and (maybe) Lent?
2. To (re)acknowledge how we distract ourselves from the Spirit's everyday presence. Doom scrolling, busy-ness, catching up, "getting ahead," or "getting away from it all."
3. Our everyday selves are more honest than our spit-shined, feast day selves.
4. These everyday practices strengthen our faith. In *Oklahoma!*, Laurey is upset because getting married (celebration) didn't end her troubles, didn't free her from worry. Aunt Eller replies, "Oh, lots of things happen to folks. Sickness or being poor and hungry, being old and afeared to die. That's the way it is, cradle to grave, and you can stand it..."



When do we learn to reach for God when the things of life happen? Ordinary Time.

Beth Bordelon, blog post: "An Elephant's Eye" (March 19, 2015) <https://bbordelon25.blog>; Michael P. Foley, "The Mysterious Meaning of 'Ordinary Time': New Liturgical Movement newsletter (Feb. 5, 2020); Jennifer Gregory Miller, "Our Ordinary Walk of Life: Understanding 'Tempus per Annum' (Jan. 23, 2014), catholicculture.org



Mission Statement: To bridge cultural divides and touch souls through the transformative power of gospel music.

Vision Statement: A world where God's love triumphs over that which divides us.



2026

Late June-early July: choir trip to Germany

Aug 1: brat fry fundraiser @ Miesfeld's, Sheboygan - contact Catherine Wilson

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Notes</u>
Aug 9	10am-2:30pm	First Cong UCC Oshkosh 137 Algoma Blvd, Oshkosh	Sopranos provide lunch
Sept 6	10am-2:30pm	Grafton	Altos provide lunch
Oct 11-12	1-5pm Sat (w/ Sheboygan singers joining at 3pm) 9am Sun warm up; 10am worship	1st Congregational UCC Sheboygan	Sing in worship Oct 12 w/ lunch to follow provided by the congregation. *** If you'd like a homestay for Saturday night, please tell David Wernecke before Sept 11. kdwerbec@yahoo.com
Nov 8	10-2:30	Tentative: Columbus	Men provide lunch
Dec 13-14	TBD	Grafton	Sing in 10:30 worship Dec 14



Photos!

Troy got lots of wonderful candid shots during our April workshop. View the whole album and order prints via [THIS LINK](#).



Where to find us: wisconsin-gossellers@gmail.com
https://www.facebook.com/wisconsin-gossellers

www.wisconsin-gossellers.org
YouTube @wisconsin-gossellers8663

Join the WI Gossellers
for
concerts, fellowship, homestays
& cross-cultural adventures
in
GERMANY



approx. dates June 16 -July 1, 2026

INCLUDED:

- airfare to/from Chicago
- lodging (homestays & doubles/triples in modest hotels)
- professional musical leadership
- breakfasts & some dinners meals
- in country transportation (train & bus)
- joint rehearsals & concerts in Hessen, Thuringia, the Rhineland & more
- admissions to cultural/historic sites
- cultural prep & support
- experienced guides & translation
- spiritual nourishment& fellowship



Not included:

- U.S. passport
- Trip extensions
- Small gifts for hosts
- \$150 annual choir membership
- some meals

Maximum Cost: \$3,790

need-based scholarships & student rate TBD

\$1,000 deposit due Dec. 12



more info: wisconsingossellers@gmail.com