

**HANDBELL BIO of
KARL BRUHN
Batavia, IL**

8th Grade-High School (Oak Park-River Forest H.S.)

I started ringing handbells in 8th grade at Euclid Avenue UMC, Oak Park, IL
(My dad was the Pastor of that church)

College Illinois Wesleyan – music major in organ
Handbell Director and music assistant at **Second Presbyterian Church**, Bloomington, IL.

More recent:

I started handbell choir(s) at **Gary Memorial United Methodist Church**, Wheaton, IL. – Music

Director. We started with three octaves, and expanded to five. Schulmerich handbells. I quit to become the organist and handbell director at the church in Batavia where my wife was the music director. (The music program at Gary UMC remains very strong-and they have their own designated handbell room)

Organist and Handbell Director at Bethany Lutheran Church, Batavia, IL.

I started the handbell program at Bethany, and it grew to three handbell choirs, (Adult, High School, and Middle School). I had about 17 ringers in each group. (That church had a very strong music program with ten choirs, including the three handbell choirs). We started – my first year there – with four octaves of Schulmerich handbells, and grew to seven octaves. The last two octaves were “duplicate” handbells of the middle two octaves. We had plenty of strong ringers who were interested in ringing, so we had duplicate G4-G7 bells and ringers. While at Bethany, one of my ringers died, and we commissioned Cynthia Dobrinsky to compose a piece in memory of her. It is an Easter piece that was published by Hope/Agape, and is still in print.

Present:

I am the **Organist/Music Director/Handbell Director** at **St. John’s Lutheran Church**, Lombard, IL. I am in charge of the “traditional” service music – which is the smaller service. (We Have about 100 people per week in attendance at that service) We have 14 singers in the “traditional” choir. I inherited the handbell program at St. John’s. We have six octaves of Schulmerich handbells (one octave is duplicated). We added a sixth octave since I have been there.

Second Music Degree: Masters in Church Music – Concordia University, River Forest, IL

