

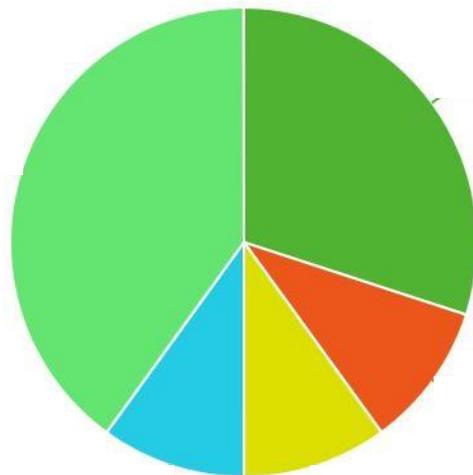
A Pipe Organ Isn't Just a Pipe Dream

John Miller & Ryan Mueller

WELS National Conference on Worship, Music, and the Arts, 2017

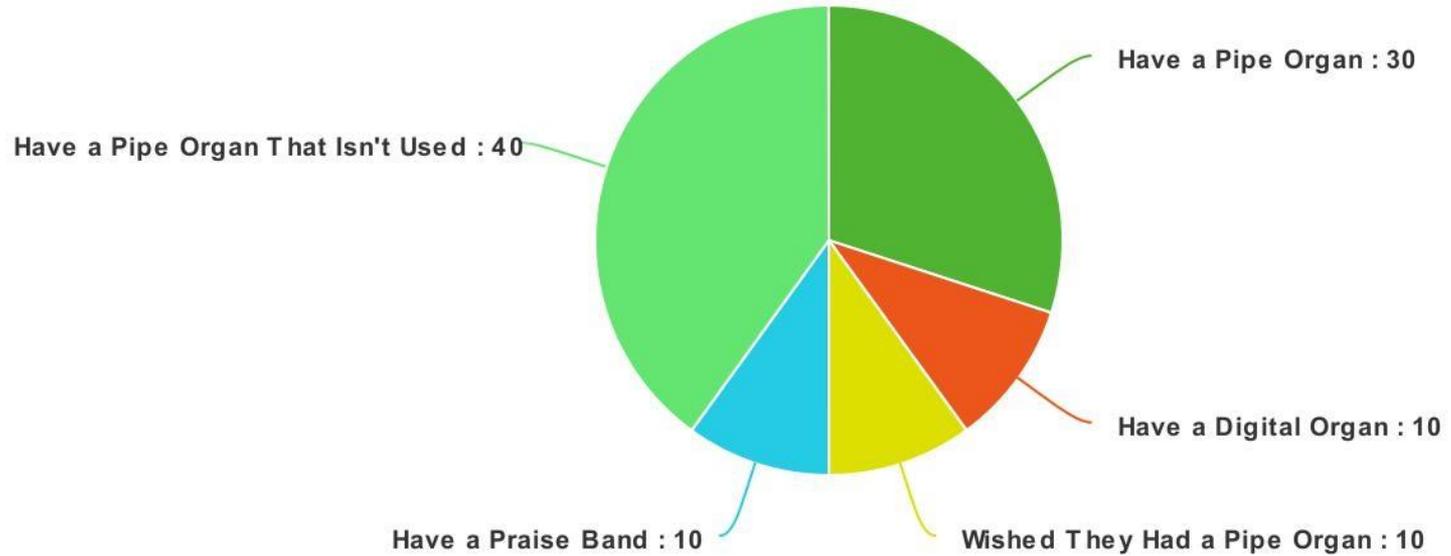
COMPARISON OF PIPE ORGAN USE

Association of Lutheran Church Musicians © 2017



COMPARISON OF PIPE ORGAN USE

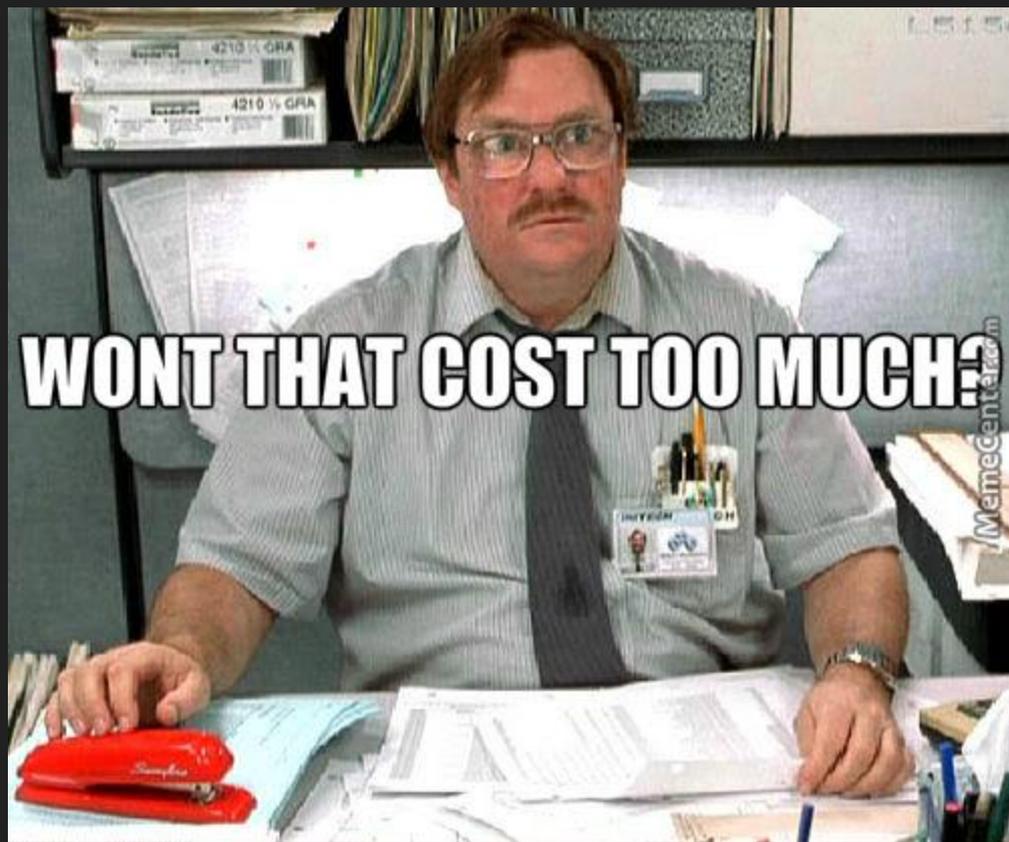
Association of Lutheran Church Musicians © 2017



Just a pipe dream, right?

It seems that pipe organ projects are often overlooked and immediately dismissed by church committees because they assume they are poor stewardship of the congregation's resources.

It is our goal to leave you with solid facts that show that not only are pipe organ projects possible for all congregations, but they are also the ultimate demonstration of good stewardship—such that they will be used to glorify God generations into the future.



WONT THAT COST TOO MUCH?

Why a pipe organ?

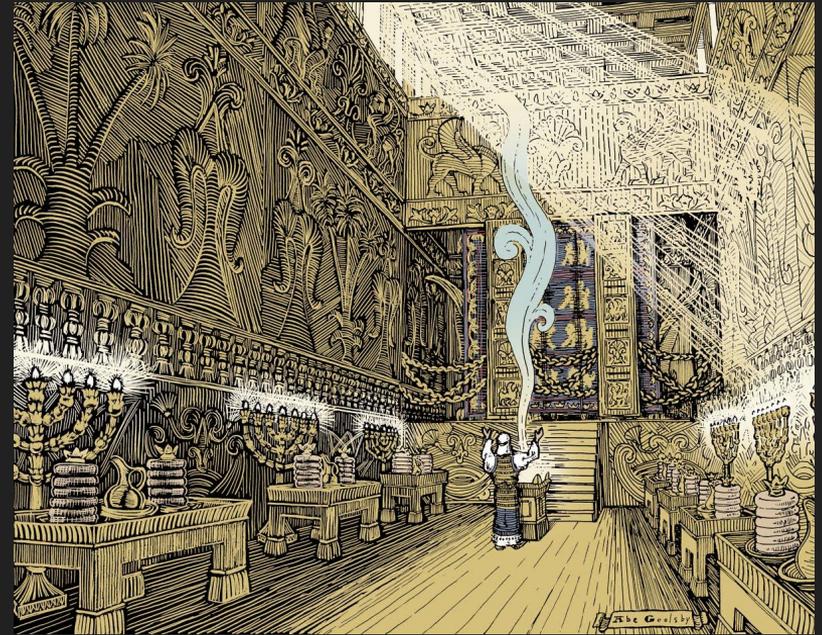
God deserves the best!

So why is a pipe organ the best?

The best—in material stewardship

Solomon's Temple dedication (1 Ki 6, 2 Ch 2-7)

- Monetary cost
- Quality/longevity of building materials



The best—in intellectual stewardship

A pipe organ builder must have a deep and wide understanding of God's creation

Supporting true craftsmanship

A work of art and a mechanical wonder

Know how to use the organ you have

- Mathematics

- Metallurgy

- Woodworking

- Metalworking

- Leatherwork

- Acoustics

- Physics

- History

- Structural Engineering

- Mechanical Engineering

- Hydrodynamics

- Mechanical Drafting

- Forestry

- Business Management

- Music Theory

- Artistic Restoration

The best—to lead His people in worship of Him

Physics: the organ leads the human voice the best

Versatility: the organ is able to fill all expectations/aspects of church music
(and even community outreach through concerts!)

Visually adds to aesthetics of church building

Reverence and majesty: the king of instruments for the King of
kings

"Even when the pipe organ is silent, its beauty expresses our ability to praise God in everything we do."

Voxman Music Building,
Iowa City, IA, (Klais 2017)



Merton College Chapel,
Oxford, England (Dobson 2014)



THE FAMILY CIRCUS



4-21

1972, The Register
and Tribune Syndicate

"What I like best about church is when the organ
makes the whole place shake!"

The best—as an heirloom for future generations of Christians



Ev. Kirche Unteröwisheim, Germany—1826 Wilhelm Overmann organ (John's ancestors' sang with this organ)



Grote Kerk Haarlem, Netherlands
1738 Müller organ (possibly built by Ryan's ancestors)

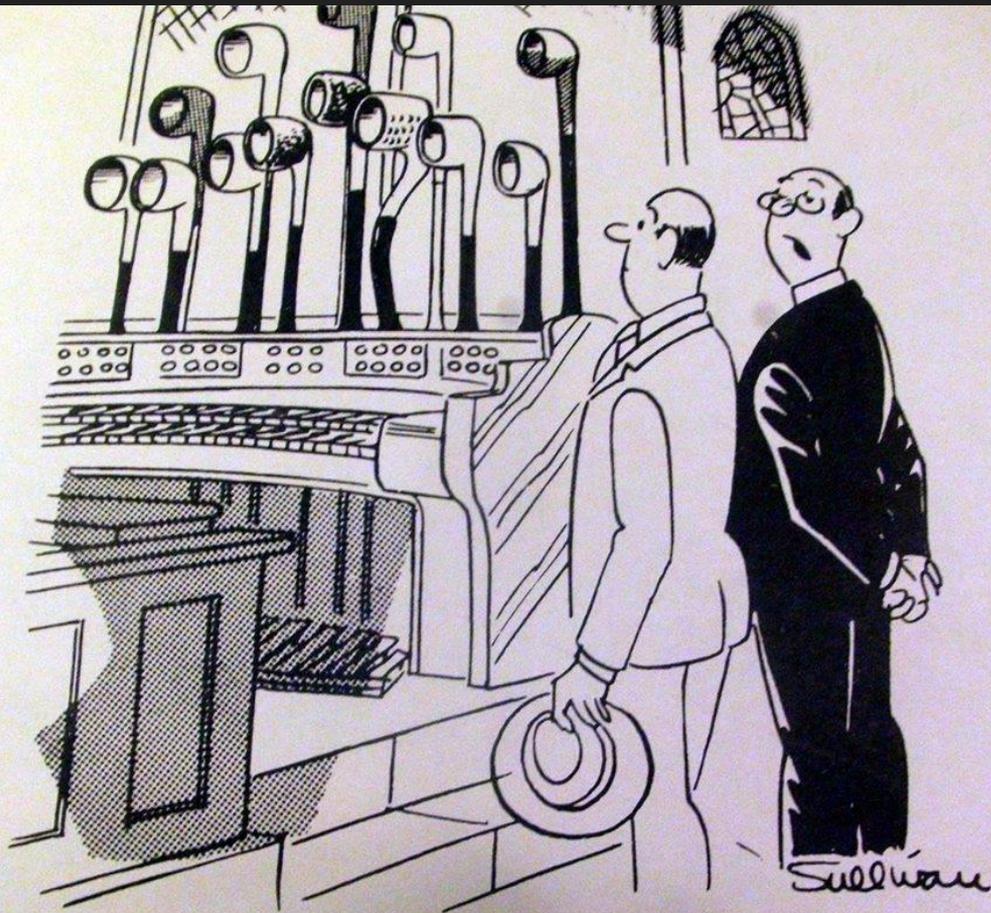
The Best = Quality

The largest investment besides the building itself

Designed to outlive buildings

~~“The most pipes for the least money”~~ = not necessarily quality

Where to go for quality?



"I GUESS I SHOULD'VE ASKED THAT COMPANY HOW LONG THEY'VE BEEN MAKING PIPE ORGANS!"

“You will be remembered for the music you beautified not for the money you saved. The quality of the organ will be judged long after its price is forgotten.”

“Failing to plan is planning to fail”

Planning for an organ project

Pray!

Have a plan

Organ committee

Consultant?

=an individual who is knowledgeable about the organ's music and its construction and is hired to give advice on an organ project

Assessment of:

- Space & Location
- Finances/fundraising
- Human resources (project volunteers, organists)
- Options for organ projects
- Budgeting for future organ repairs
- Get the congregation involved!

Organ Projects

Maintenance and Prevention

- Tuning & Inspection
- Major repairs
- Protection
- Funding future expenses

“We have an organ that doesn’t work”

- Rebuilding
- Renovation
- Restoration

“We’d like a pipe organ”

- “New to you” used organ
- Brand new

Tuning & Inspection

Inspection finds minor problems before they become major

Sanctuary must be at worship (occupancy) temperature for at least 8-10 hours before tuners arrive and stay constant during their visit

How often?

Member involvement? NO!



Major repairs (eg. releathering), Voicing regulation, and Cleaning

When done well, extends life of the organ to the next generation

How often? Only when necessary (usually once every two generations; ca. 40-60 years).

Member involvement? Yes!!



Protecting an organ during church restoration/remodeling

Prevents extensive damage requiring major repairs by uninformed contractors

Relevancy?

Project must be overseen by qualified organ builder, but some tasks may be completed by members



Rebuilding

=When 50% or more of the builder's original concept is changed (in any or all of the following ways)

Mechanically (playing action, winding system etc.)

Tonally (voicing, raising pitch etc.)

Visually



Luther Preparatory School, Watertown, WI (1960/2016 Schlicker/Berghaus)



St. Crucis Allendorf, Germany (1852/2018 J.W. Walcker/Schulte)

Renovation

=Making improvements with original builder's concept in mind

Adding ranks/divisions (using appropriate scaling/voicing)

Mechanical improvements (blower, playing action, memory system)



St. Alphonsus Chicago, IL (1959/2014 Casavant/Berghaus)



Cathedral Church of St. Mark, Minneapolis, MN, (1928/2012 Welte/Foley-Baker)



Chapel of the Resurrection, Valparaiso, Indiana, (1959/1996 Schlicker/Dobson)

Restoration

=Returning an instrument to its condition at some point in the past

Replacement materials kept the same as original

No changes to builder's original concept

For churches with organs of historical significance or that are adequately fulfilling worship needs; churches with organs that are more than 80 years old



St. Maria Himmelfahrt Ginderich, Germany (1888/2016 Conacher/Schulte)



Our Lady of Good Counsel, Mankato, MN (1877/1996 Johnson & Son/Dobson)



First Presbyterian Church, Waunakee, WI (ca 1890/2010 Schuelke/Wahl)

Registration—A Tangent

The Baroque/Neo-Baroque/Organ Reform school of voicing uses pitch (8' 4' 2' etc.) and stop families to achieve dynamic and tonal diversity

The Romantic school of voicing uses harmonics (ie “pitches within a tone”) within each 8' “stop family” to achieve dynamic and tonal diversity

The more 8' s drawn, the more harmonic (ie tonal and thus dynamic) diversity

Play as if you were alive when the instrument was built (or the period it's mimicking)

One manual instruments are sufficient for fulfilling most worship needs

Organ Reform Movement

New Ulm, Minnesota
Martin Luther College
Charles Hendrickson (1974)

HAUPTWERK

8 Holzgedackt
4 Principal
2 Nachthorn
II Mixture

BRUSTWERK

8 Quintade
4 Rohrflöte
2 Principal
1-1/3 Quintflöte
8 Regal

PEDAL

16 Gedackt Bass
8 Gemshorn
4 Choral Bass

Tremulant
BW to HW
HW to PD
BW to PD



**IF YOU WANNA PLAY VIERNE I FEEL
BAD FOR YOU SON**



**I'VE GOT 99 STOPS BUT A
CELESTE AIN'T ONE**

Romantic Specification

Mazeppa, South Dakota
St. John Lutheran Church (WELS)
Vogelpohl & Spaeth (1908)

GREAT ORGAN

8' Open Diapason
8' Melodia
8' Dulciana
4' Octave

SWELL ORGAN

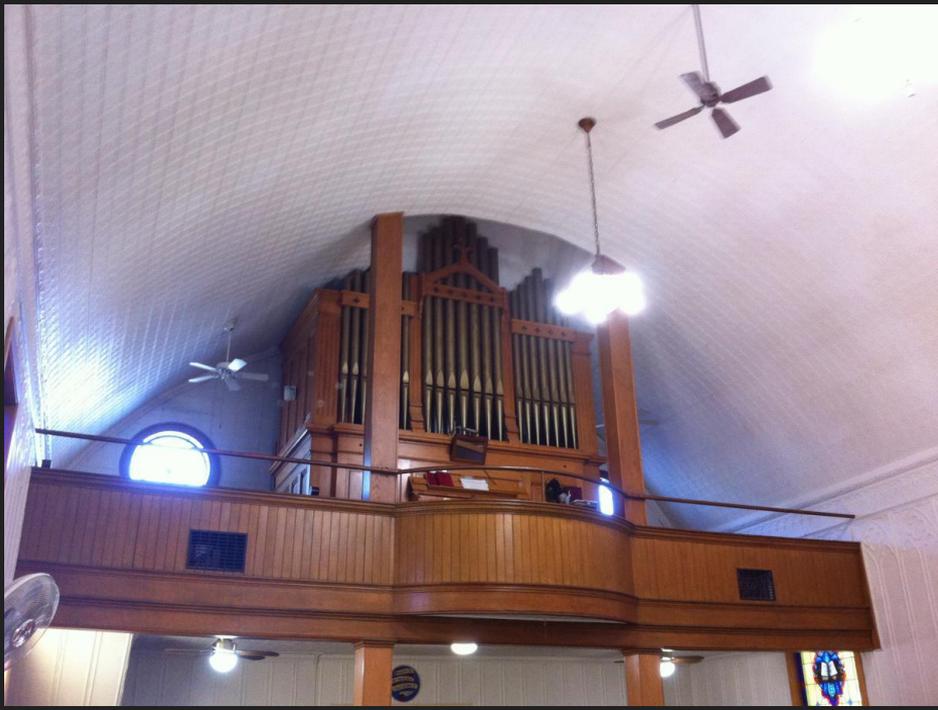
8' Stopped Diapason
8' Salicional
4' Flute Harmonique

PEDAL ORGAN

16' Bourdon

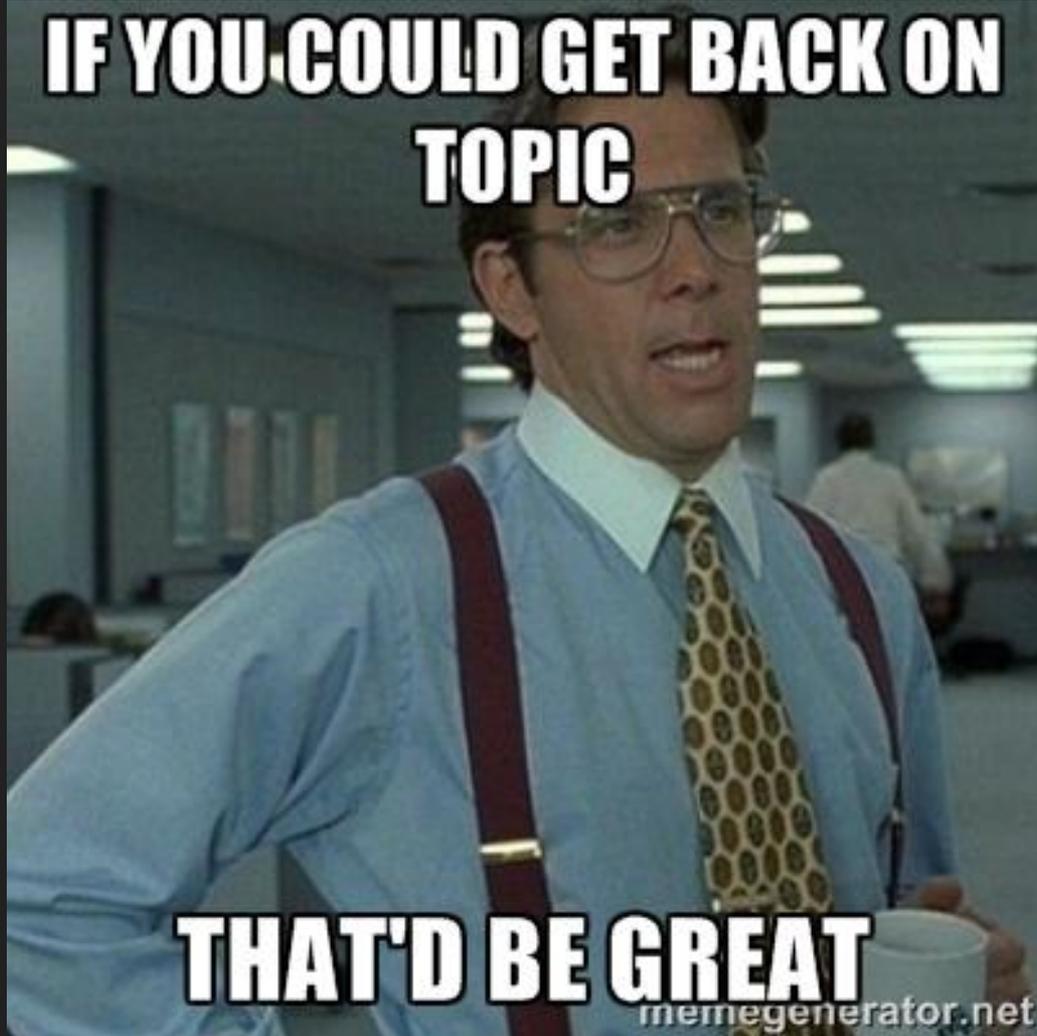
Tremolo
SW to GT
GT to PD
SW to PD





Immanuel Lutheran Fairfax, MN (1885 Barckhoff)

**IF YOU COULD GET BACK ON
TOPIC**



THAT'D BE GREAT

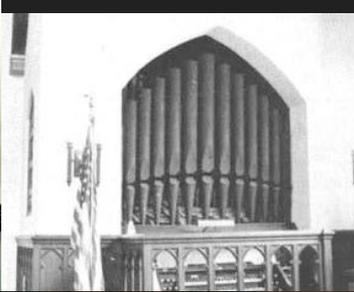
Relocation of Used Organ

Radicalization in organ styles and an abundance of church closures has provided a surplus of available used organs

Churches without a pipe organ; churches where the cost of rebuilding current organ outweighs worth

Cost

Qualified organbuilder to oversee moving and voice

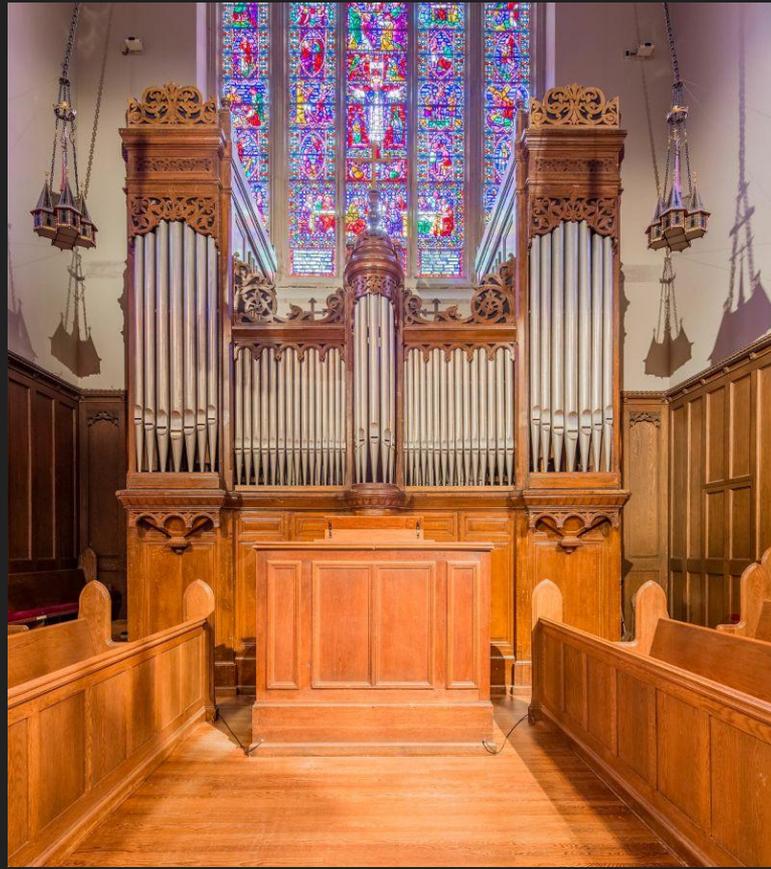




St. Andrew Lutheran Milwaukee, WI (1971/2010 Klaus Becker/Volunteers & Nolte)



St. Andrew Lutheran Milwaukee, WI (1971/2010 Klaus Becker/Volunteers & Nolte)



House of Hope Presbyterian, St. Paul, MN, (ca. 1860's Merklin/Volunteers)

Brand New Organ

Who? Anyone!!

New church building project

Project Timeline

Member involvement?

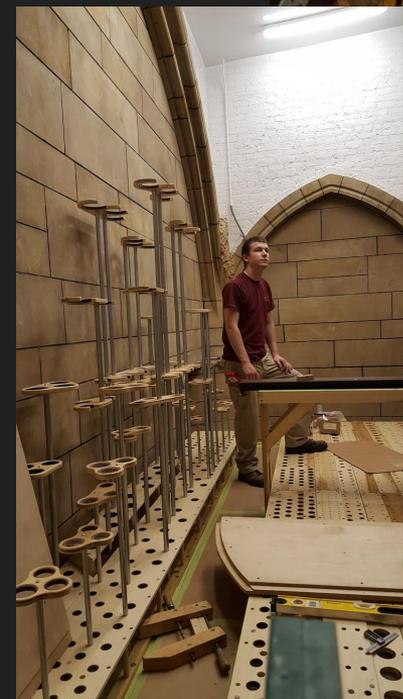
Church Preparations



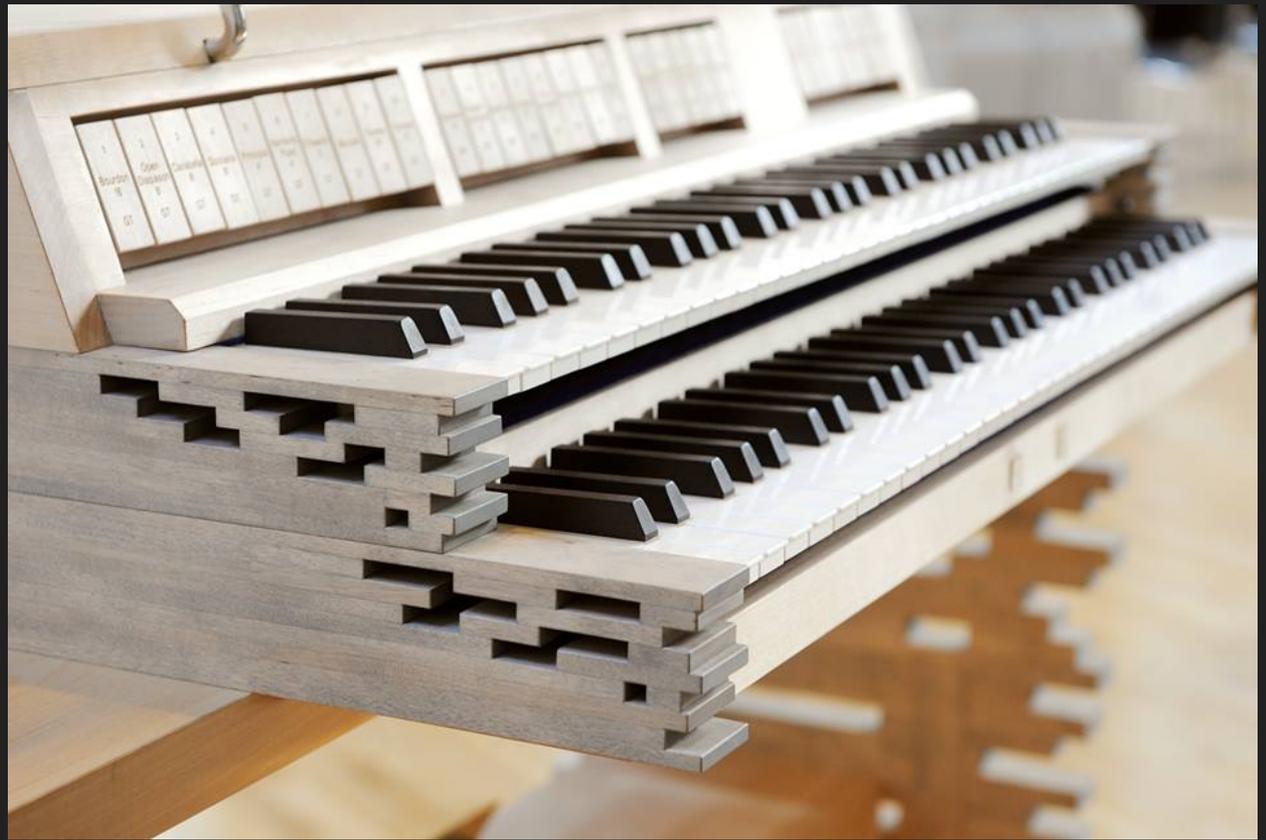
Mount Olive Lutheran (WELS), Appleton, WI (1990 Dobson)



Martin Luther College Chapel of the Christ (2010 Schantz)



St. Thomas Episcopal Church, New York, NY (2018 Dobson)



St. Petri Dortmund, Germany (2015 Schulte using old English pipework)

Fundraising

Sourcing Donations

Pipe Sponsoring

Selling a historic organ, parting-out an old organ

Endowment/Naming organ in honor of a loved one

I WANT YOU



**TO DONATE TO
THE ORGAN FUND**

Final Take-Away

Pray!

Pursue the best — best = quality

Adopt an orphaned organ

Romantic and 1 Manual Instruments are suitable for worship

