

Church Architecture: An Expanded House of Worship A Larger Organ

By Jeffrey M. Seelow

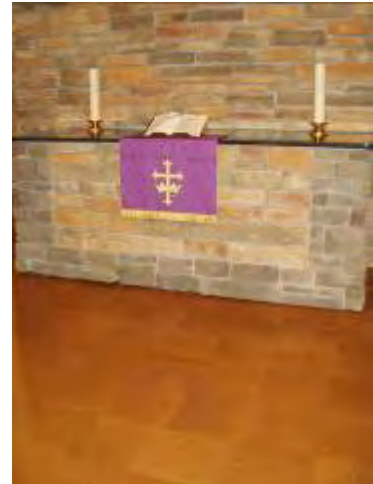
Below are some excerpts from the printed article along with photos (not included in the original) to illustrate the points under discussion.

This content supplements an article from Worship the Lord, #24, May 2007.

Jeff Seelow, pastor at Redeemer, Rice Lake, WI, describes a church expansion completed in 2006 and the high quality pipe organ installed in the expanded church. See pictures below and more under Worship the Lord at wels.net/worship. Pastor Seelow has served this church since 2000. Previous service includes Girard, OH and three Wisconsin communities: Cornell, Ladysmith, and Lake Mills.



With continuing attention to good acoustics, cork flooring was installed under the pews and in the chancel. While enhancing the visual beauty of the facility, this flooring is a natural amplifier for the pastor as he speaks from the chancel.



The altar, like the wall behind it, is constructed of stonework. The top of the altar, of polished Mesabi Black Granite, is inlaid with five crosses representing the wounds of our Savior on the cross. Above the altar, massive in its stonework, the empty cross reminds us of the work of our Savior who defeated sin, death, and the power of the devil, and rose triumphant from the grave.



The sweeping lines of the walls and ceiling naturally draw one's eyes upward, focusing on the power and symbolism of the cross. The worship space evokes awe with its beauty and symbolism, especially for the first-time guest.

With the talents of a gifted artist in the congregation, they incorporated seasonal banners over 12 feet high to add to the beauty, banners used to this day.



A small tracker-action pipe organ. Though it stood barely eight feet tall and was only three and a half ranks, this organ served beautifully for 15 years. It was then sold to help purchase the present organ. The selling price was more than the original purchase price (*not* even counting inflation!) – a testimony to the enduring value of a well-built instrument.

A similar instrument with different case design is Opus 18b.



Additional photos of the new organ



Other Jaeckel organs in WELS churches



Jaeckel opus 5 - St. Paul, Fort Atkinson, WI



Jaeckel opus 9 - Salem, Wausau, WI

Additional Information and Links

Jeff Seelow wrote: "We would be remiss if we did not express our gratitude and thanks to the Builders for Christ who enabled us to build this house of worship to the glory of our Savior God. Their commitment and dedication in their work of service to their fellow members truly is motivated by their love for Christ, our Savior."

More information on Builders for Christ is available at [WELS Kingdom Workers: Builders for Christ.](#)

Pipe organs

[Jaeckel Organs site](#)

[Associated Pipe Organ Builders of America](#). "Purchasing a Pipe Organ" is a useful brochure available for free at this site. It includes "The Value of a Pipe Organ for the Dollars Spent: Seven Benchmarks."

[Pipe Organ Sticker Shock and Economic Insights](#), by Bryan Gerlach. (Summer 1999 issue of *Cross Accent*, journal of the Association of Lutheran Church Musicians)

[The Re Discovery of the Small American Organ](#), and [A Small Pipe Organ for a Small Church](#), both by Bruce Case.

[Sermon at the Dedication of the Seminary Chapel Organ](#), by James Tiefel. Wisconsin Lutheran Quarterly, Fall 1991, v 88#4.

[The Organ: Proclamation and Praise](#), by Bryan Gerlach.

Acoustics

[A Lament for Resounding Praise](#), by Carl Schalk

Additional articles on acoustics for worship are under [Art and Architecture](#) at the WELS Worship website.

Specifications

Jaeckel Tracker Organ, Opus 49

Redeemer Ev. Lutheran Church, Rice Lake, WI

Mechanical action: trackers and drawknobs.

2 keyboards of 56 notes, 12 sets of pipes on 10 drawknobs.

Manual I

8' Principal (facade)

8' Rohrflöte

4' Octave

III-IV Mixtur

Pedal (30 notes)

16' Subbass

8' Principal (12 pipes from I Principal)

Couplers: II to I, II to pedal, I to pedal.

Manual II

8' Gedackt (12 pipes from Rohrflöte)

4' Spitzflöte

2' Principal

8' Trompete

Tremulant, Wind stabilizer

Cabinet - mahogany

Most interior structure, wind system, wind chests, and some wood pipes - yellow poplar

Pedal keyboard structure - white oak and mahogany

Pedal keyboard coverings - hard maple and rosewood

Manual keyboard sharps - grenadilla

Key action - padouk, hard maple, western red cedar

Stop action - white oak and rosewood

Some wood pipes - sugar pine

17 feet tall, 628 pipes, weight about 6000 pounds.