

# Fairfield Citizen

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## Historic church organ to be dedicated in Oct. 26 concert



Photo: Westport News/Contributed Photo

This circa 1875 pipe organ has been installed in Our Saviour's Lutheran Church and will be dedicated during a concert on Sunday, Oct. 26.

Our Saviour's Lutheran Church, Fairfield, CT will dedicate its newly installed, 19th-century pipe organ with a concert and reception on Sunday afternoon, Oct. 26, 2014

The event is at 4 p.m. and is free and open to the public at the 160 Hill Farm Road church.

Our Saviour's said it received the Hutchings-Cooper organ in June as a gift from a church in Queens, N.Y., that closed its doors in 2011. Our Saviour's volunteers, under the direction of a New Hampshire organ builder, moved the disassembled instrument from Queens to Fairfield on May 31, and the organ builder reassembled it over the next two weeks.

The one-manual, eight-stop organ was built in Boston in 1875 by Hutchings, Plaisted & Co., using parts from an unidentified organ dating to the 1840s, Our Saviour's said in a news release.

It was used for a number of years at a Congregational church in Maine before being put into storage. The organ builder who worked with Our Saviour's -- Jeremy Cooper of Concord, N.H. -- found it and began restoring it in 1978.

The Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Ascension in Queens acquired the organ from Cooper in 1979 and used it for 32 years until the church closed.

The instrument found its way to Fairfield through Ascension's former pastor, the Rev. George Detweiler, who served at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Bridgeport after the Queens church closed.

The organ has a black walnut case, 600 pipes and a mechanical or "tracker" action. It has been used for services at Our Saviour's every Sunday since June 15, the church said.

During the Oct. 26 concert, the organ will be used for solo pieces, in pieces with other instruments and with vocal performances. The featured organist will be Thomas Schmidt, cantor of St. Peter's Lutheran Church in New York City.