

St. John Lutheran Church, Sherman Center Kilgen Organ

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St. John Improves on Old Organ Sound

The 1908 pipe organ at St. John Lutheran Church, Sherman Center, got a breath of new life with a recent overhaul job by Peters, Weiland and Co. of Milwaukee.

All pipes were removed, cleaned, repaired and reinstalled. The tracker action mechanism, which operates the pipes from the organ keys, was also restored to its original working condition.

The instrument was first installed and dedicated in September of 1908, after being shipped to Sherman Center by train from St. Louis, MO. It was built by the George Kilgen and Son Organ Co. and purchased by the congregation for \$1,600. A conservative estimate of its 1976 value is \$20,000.

Originally pumped by hand, the organ is powered now by an electric motor and blower. Several men of the congregation can recall bending backs and arms to supply the vast amount of air necessary to produce the music.

Henry Weiland, of the Milwaukee company said, "This instrument is an exceptionally good example of this type of organ building. New organs aren't made this well any more. St. John's is fortunate to have an instrument this rare in such good condition. They can be quite proud of this organ."

Stop List

Great

Fifteenth 2'
Octave 4'
Melodia 8'
Dulciana 8'
Gamba 8'
Open Diapason 8'

Swell

Flute Harmonique 4'
Violina 4'
Tremelo
Stop Diapason 8'
Salicional 8'
Violin Diapason 8'

Pedal

Bourdon 16'

Couplers

Swell to Great
Swell to Pedal
Great to Pedal