

1980 ZIMMER ORGAN UPGRADE

Below is a diary of work in progress - most recent updates are at the top!

Project Description

At its fall meeting in 2013, Zion's congregation voted to embark on a two-year \$200,000 project to enhance, improve, and upgrade Zion's 1980 Zimmer tracker organ. We now are asking you for a financial commitment to support this project. Zion is a musical church with a strong tradition of congregational singing and a thriving music program ranging from pre-school music to chancel choir to our Joyful Noiz and ZyJam youth groups. The Lutheran musical heritage is vast and inclusive. Within this project, we will be able to increase diversity and variety in the sound of the organ, equipping it to serve a broader range of musical style.

The plan includes nine phases to improve our organ while preserving its sound and architecture. The work done in each of these phases will make the instrument easier to play, add more depth of tone, and will provide tones and stops not currently present. For example, the original design omitted string stops, analogous to now giving an artist yellow paint, where previously only red and blue were present.

This is a timely project because we have the fortune to have David Chamberlin as our organist. We likely will never again have an organist who is also a nationally recognized organ builder, who specializes in mechanical and tonal design, who knows our organ inside and out, and who is so well acquainted with our church.

No other musical instrument can lead and support voices in hymns, songs and chants as effectively as the pipe organ. Organ use in worship is part of a musical tradition dating back five centuries. Our organ, nearing 40 years old, is a treasure that belongs to all of us and these improvements will ensure its long life.

Along with its central role in worship, our organ also serves as a community resource. We can make the organ more attractive to the larger music community, to visiting organists, organ students, and Zion's future organists. Its use for organ concerts and recitals by community members will bring visitors to Zion and increase awareness of our church, our programs, and our ministry.

When Zion congregation committed to raise \$1.6 million in 1997 to expand the building, the goal was not to change the facility unrecognizably but rather to allow us to expand our ministry, to be able to provide space for the preschool, to support Family Promise, to provide additional gathering space. In much the same way, additions and improvements to the organ will not change it into something unrecognizable but rather position it to provide better support for the congregation.

We hope you will prayerfully consider [supporting the Organ Donation Fund](#).

The LORD is my strength and my song; he has become my salvation. He is my God, and I will praise him, my father's God, and I will exalt him. -Exodus 15:2

Sing to him a new song, play skillfully, and shout for joy. - Psalm 33:3 NIV