

2023 Swedesburg Pipe Organ Specifications

Swell (3rd Keyboard)10

Located in the right chamber

16' Lieblich Gedeckt (1928) 97 pipes
8' Violin Diapason (2023) 68 pipes
8' Salicional (1928) 68 pipes
8' Voix Celeste (1928) 68 pipes
8' Gedeckt (1928)
4' Violin Octave (1963) 68 pipes
4' Flute d'amour (1928)
2' Piccolo (1928, last five 2023)
III Mixture (1963) 183 pipes
16' Contra Fagotto (1963) 80 pipes
8' Trumpet (1963) 61 pipes
8' Oboe (1963)
4' Clarion (2023) 12 pipes

Great (2nd Keyboard)9

Located in the left chamber

16' Violoncello (2023) 1–12 digital
8' Open Diapason (1963) 61 pipes
8' Viola Pomposa (2023)
8' Harmonic Flute (1963) 61 pipes
8' Stopped Diapason (2023) 73 pipes
4' Octave (1963) 61 pipes
4' Octave Flute (1963)
4' Bourdon (2023)
2 Fifteenth (1963) 61 pipes
III-IV Mixture (2023) 228 pipes
8 Tromba (2023)

Choir (1st Keyboard)

Located in the left chamber

8' Viola Pomposa (2023) 73 pipes
8' Dulciana (1928) 68 pipes
8' Unda Maris (1928) 56 pipes
8' Melodia (1928) 68 pipes
8' Chimney Flute (1963)
4' Octave Viol (2023)
4' Open Flute (1928)
4' Chimney Flute (1963) 73 pipes

Choir (continued)6

2 2/3' Nazard (1963)
2' Flautino (1963)
1 3/5' Tierce (Electronic systems are prepared for the future addition of pipes in this rank)
8' Clarinet (1963) 68 pipes

Solo (Floating)

Primarily extensions of pedal ranks

8' Major Diapason (2023) 29 pipes
8' Major Flute (2023) 41 pipes
8' Choeur des Viols (1928)
4' Major Octave (2023)
4' Major Flute (2023)
16' Trombone (2023)
8' Tromba (2023) 41 pipes
4' Clarion (2023)
Chimes (1946) 21 chimes

Pedal

Split between both chambers

32' Resultant (2023)
16' Open Wood (1928) 56 pipes
16' Violoncello (2023) 1–12 digital
16' Major Bass (1928) 44 pipes
16' Lieblich Gedeckt (1928)
8' Octave (1928/1963)
8' Viola Pomposa (2023)
8' Major Flute (1928/2023)
8' Gedeckt (1928)
4' Fifteenth (1963)
4' Octave Viol (2023)
4' Major Flute (2023)
16' Trombone (2023) 44 pipes
16' Contra Fagotto (1963)
8' Tromba (2023)
8' Trumpet (1963)
4' Tromba Clarion (2023)
4' Clarinet (1963)

Swedesburg Lutheran Pipe Organ History



Dedicated July 19, 1928

Rededicated March 31, 1963

Rededicated June 4, 2023

Swedesburg Lutheran has a long history with pipe organs, extending over a century. The current instrument is the second pipe organ to lead the congregation in song. The church was the first in Henry County outside of Mt. Pleasant to install a pipe organ in 1911. That instrument was a \$2500 two-manual (keyboards for the hands to play) and pedalboard instrument from the Burlington Pipe Organ Company. It was dedicated on December 15, 1911. Originally, the air pressure for pipes was supplied by an assistant who pumped air into the bellows (chest that hold pressurized air) manually. The congregation later installed a gas blower, which was installed and maintained by the Bennett Pipe Organ Company of Rock Island, Illinois.

The congregation lost its second church building in July of 1927 to fire, after having also lost its first building to fire in 1883. The pre-existing maintenance relationship with the Bennett Pipe Organ firm led to the firm being selected to build a new instrument for the current sanctuary in 1928. It was described in the *Winfield Beacon*: “This beautiful three manual and pedal electronic pipe organ contains all the modern improvements known in the art of organ building today.” (July 19, 1928). It was dedicated by Augustana Organ Professor Dr. Cyril Graham and soprano soloist Mrs. Katheryn Kansten Thul on July 19, 1928, to an overflowing crowd. The *Winfield Beacon* described how a portion of the audience listened to the concert from the lawn adjoining the church.

The Swedesburg Lutheran congregation has continued to invest in the improvement of this instrument from its first installation in 1928. When long time organist Mabel Larson passed away in 1946, the choir purchased and installed the chimes in the organ.

In 1962, an electrical and tonal update to the instrument was carried out by organist Clarence Helsing of Rockford, Illinois. At that time, he removed six ranks (sets



Swedesburg Lutheran and Burlington Pipe Organ between 1911–1927

of pipes that produce the same type of sound) from the instrument and added twelve ranks to the organ. Helsing installed a new console with the rebuild. The builder rededicated the instrument himself in concert with the Swedesburg choirs on March 31, 1963.

A second rebuild was begun in 2021 by Randall Karstens of Iowa City, Iowa. This renovation has completely replaced the electrical systems in the console and organ chambers. The chambers have also been reorganized for easier tuning and maintenance access. Karstens has removed two ranks from the organ, while adding seven ranks to the instrument. Some of the additions are new pipes, while two ranks (the Swell Violin Diapason and Great Stopped Diapason) are vintage to other instruments. Karstens has also extended the pedal ranks to be playable as stops for the hands also, providing further variety and musical choice. The organ was rededicated by the congregation in worship on June 4, 2023 with a recital by Jan Kraybill of Kansas City at 2:00 p.m.