

**The First English Evangelical Lutheran Church
of
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania**

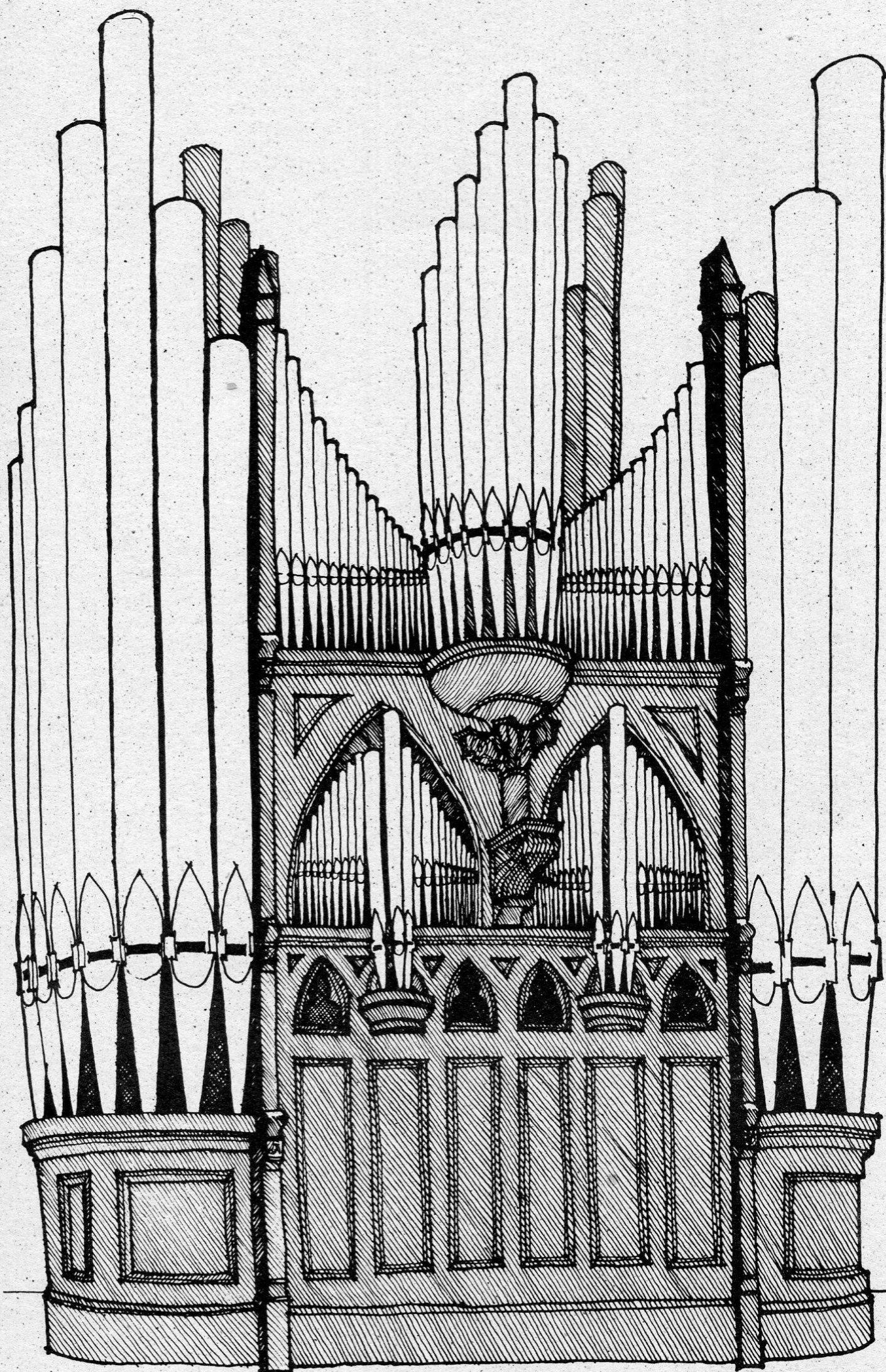
*A Congregation of the Southwestern Pennsylvania Synod
of the
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*

**Dedication
of
Casavant Frères Limitée
Opus 3709**

The Reverend David P. Gleason
senior pastor

The Reverend Lisa A. Ubbelohde
assistant pastor

Paul J. Campbell, Jr.
director of music





WELCOME

The first English Evangelical Lutheran Church has emphasized the Lutheran musical tradition throughout its ministry in downtown Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Our new organ, Casavant Opus 3709, was heard publicly for the first time on Reformation Sunday, October 25, 1992 and is being Blessed and Dedicated today, November 8. It is a magnificent instrument. We Lutherans have valued the gift of music, perhaps more than any other community of believers. Our tradition includes a vast treasury of music to enhance our proclamation and celebration of the Gospel.

God has truly blessed our 155 years of ministry in Pittsburgh and 104 years on Grant Street. His gifts to us are endlessly gracious. We need only come together to celebrate them and, especially, to celebrate the gift of his Son, whose praises will be sung with new life and new joy.

David P. Gleason, Senior Pastor

ORGANISTS AND CHOIR DIRECTORS

Music at First Lutheran has been led by a succession of skilled organists and choir directors. They include:

B. Frank Weyman

(with Charles Baer and Peter Young): 1870 - 1875

Mr. McCompney and Mr. Diehl: 1875 - ?

Prof. McCollum (Vocal Teacher): 1885 - ?

B. Frank Weyman, Director: 1889 - 1909

Harry G. Archer, Organist: 1892 - 1909

Frank Benbow, Director: 1909 - 1923

Frederick W. Lotz, Organist: 1909 - 1923

G. Logan McElvaney, Organist/Director:

1917 - 1919, 1921 - 1972

Charles Robert McCoy: 1972 - 1976

James Hunter: 1977 - 1981

Miles J. Wallace: 1981 - 1987

Paul J. Campbell, Jr.: 1988 - present

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH ORGANS

The congregation has worshiped with several instruments since its founding in 1837. The first small organ was installed in 1867 in the Seventh Street building. Its purchase was supported by B. Frank Weyman whose father, George Weyman, a tobacco merchant, had been a leader in establishing the congregation and had supported the purchase of land for the first church building.

The congregation purchased land for the present Grant Street building in 1885 and, in 1886, decided to purchase a larger organ for the new building at a cost not to exceed \$5000. A contract was signed with William A. Johnson & Son, Westfield, Massachusetts. The organ was Johnson's Opus 697, a 3 manual tracker action instrument of 32 stops with wind chest driven by a water motor. (The drive wheel for that motor can still be seen in the church.) It was installed in 1888 and played at the dedication of the building on November 4. The organ casework, newly refurbished, dates from this organ.

For reasons which are not clear, in 1889 the congregation began planning to rebuild and enlarge the organ. In 1900, Austin Organs, Hartford, Connecticut was chosen to perform the work. The changes included 12 new stops (2 in the Great, 3 in the Swell, 3 in the Choir, 4 in the Pedal) bringing the total to 44 stops. The new pipes were made by Philip Wirsching and all pipes, new and old, were voiced by Austin. A new Austin air chest was installed and the organ was converted to pneumatic operation. The rebuilt organ was completed in the Fall of 1900 and was said to be "one of the finest in the city". With several updates, it remained in operation until it was removed earlier this year and sold to The Congregational Church, East Hampton, Connecticut.

The organ blower was converted from water to DC electric power in 1915 at a cost of about \$500, half of which would be saved in unnecessary "water rent". The 1900 organ was first updated in about 1925 with the installation of a new Tellers Kent console and new stops which included chimes and a vox humana. The work was done by Dahlstead Brothers, the church's organ maintenance firm. In 1948, a second update was done by H.P. Moeller, Hagerstown, Maryland. A new console was installed and all reeds were revoiced at the Moeller factory. A third update done in 1978 by Austin included a new console which was played until earlier this year.

When repairs and replacements to the existing pipe organ grew in cost and failed to correct serious problems with pipes, valve operation and the wind chest, the congregation decided to install a new instrument. In 1991, it signed a contract with Casavant Frères Limitée, Ste. Hyacinthe, Quebec, for installation of the 44 rank electropneumatic organ which we bless and dedicate.

THE ORGAN COMMITTEES

The installation of the new First Lutheran Church organ by Casavant Frères Limitée completes a process begun more than ten years ago and extending through the work of an Organ Task Force, an Organ Investigation Committee, an Organ Selection Committee, a Long-range Planning Committee, A Major Needs Committee and A Major Project Oversight Committee. They were supported by a succession of Church Councils and the standing committees on Worship and Music, Finance, and Property. Seldom has a project received the attention of so many members of the congregation for so many years. The congregation recognizes and thanks all of them for their devotion and diligence. Some of them are listed below.

The 1983 Organ Task Force

Peter Van Sickel - Chairperson
Erika Carlson Van Sickel
Sherry Wilson
Margaret Reckard Santorilla
Carl D. Cassler
John K. Backus
Pastor John T. Braugher
Miles J. Wallace - Director of Music

The Organ Investigation Committee

Thomas Kessinger - Chairperson
Howard R. Kutcher
Kathryn Pfister
Robert B. Wolf
John C. Harmon
Myer D. Headrick
LaVonne Johnson
Christine Torie
Carl D. Cassler
Elizabeth Cassler
Karl E. Voigt

The Organ Investigation Committee (continued)

Robin Smith
William E. Brocious
G. Wesley Lacock
Pastor David P. Gleason
Paul J. Campbell, Jr. - Director of Music

The 1989 - 1991 Organ Selection Committee

Nancy H. Headrick - Chairperson
Carl D. Cassler
Elizabeth Cassler
LaVonne Johnson
John C. Harmon
G. Wesley Lacock
Bonnie Pederson
Christine Torie
William E. Brocious
John K. Backus
Marjorie N. Backus - Council President
Carl C. Rueter - Council President
Pastor David P. Gleason
Paul J. Campbell - Director of Music
Peter J. Luley - Organ Consultant

The Major Needs Committee

Robin Smith - Chairperson
Myer D. Headrick - Subsequent Chairperson
William E. Brocious
Sharon L. Clark
Sue E. Roselle
Thomas Kessinger
Glen R. Johnson
Carl C. Rueter
Karl E. Voigt
John K. Backus
Pastor David P. Gleason

The Project Administration Committee

Robin Smith - Chairperson
William E. Brocious
Nancy H. Headrick
Karl E. Voigt
Daniel Folmar
Pastor David P. Gleason
Walter E. Fafata - Job Coordinator

Mr. Fafata, John Lanyon, Building Operations Manager, and Chester Pollock of the Church Maintenance Staff provided invaluable help during removal of the old organ and reconstruction of the organ chamber.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION

The congregation of First Lutheran Church recognizes the contributions of many members and friends to the successful completion of the organ project. Peter J. Luley, our consultant on the project, provided invaluable direction and advice to the Organ Selection Committee. Daniel Wessels, a member of the congregation, provided legal help in reviewing the organ contract.

We also recognize the continuing guidance of Paul J. Campbell, Jr., Director of Music of First Lutheran Church. He provided constant support, maintained the music program despite the many problems of the old organ, and made the piano a stimulating part of our worship during the construction period.

In preparing this bulletin, I am deeply indebted to Mrs. Beatrice B. Weimer, Administrative Secretary of the congregation, and to Mrs. Sharon L. Clark, Parish Secretary. Both were very helpful in searching the parish records. In addition, I could not have found much of the information about the early 1900's without the help of Miss Mary E. Hamilton, life-long member and retired Secretary of the parish.

Casavant Frères Limitée, the builder of our organ, has been a professional and congenial organization with which to work. We particularly thank:

Pierre Dionne, President
Stanley R. Scheer,
Vice-President, Sales and Marketing,
Jean-Louis Coignet, Tonal Director
Jacquelin Rochette, Assistant Tonal Director
J. C. Gauthier, Artistic Designer
Roland Bonneau, Installer
Guy LeClerc, Installer
Yves Champagne, Voicer
Richard Marchand, Voicer

We also thank these Pittsburgh firms for their part in the organ installation:

Wilson and McCracken for refinishing and modifying the organ facade;

Thompson Electric for installation of the electric system;

Patent Scaffolding Company for the loan of scaffolding used during the organ installation.

Finally, we are deeply indebted to John Eberhard for the line drawing shown on the front of this program.