

A Pipe Organ for Lamb of God Lutheran Church

06/30/18

Lamb of God Lutheran Church is in the Lake City area of northern Seattle, and it is the product of the combining of three different Lutheran Churches (Our Savior Lutheran, Mt. Olive Lutheran, Zion Lutheran). They selected the site of Our Savior Lutheran for the combined congregation, and the name Lamb of God Lutheran was adopted.

Early in 2015, the Pipe Organ Foundation was contacted by Lamb of God Lutheran about the possibility of an installation of a pipe organ in what was to be a completely renovated sanctuary. Of particular focus at that time was a 1949 four rank Moller pipe organ which was playing at Zion Lutheran in the Green Lake area of Seattle. The Foundation agreed to help Lamb of God Lutheran remove and store that organ with the plan of making it part of the new instrument to be installed at Lamb of God. To help achieve that objective, the Foundation provided materials, manpower, and expertise, and the organ was removed and placed in storage on October 17, 2015.

After the storage of the organ from Zion, the church then had to deal with a series of property consolidation and planning issues. After that were visits to the Foundation by the church, seeing the Foundation's shop, and hearing its instruments. Pastor Brad Malone, Director of Music Janelle Beal, organist Roselyn Newton, and Chair of the Church Council Rick Ridgeway were all involved in discussions, and Carl Dodrill, President of the Foundation, also came to services at the church to be sure that the church's needs were thoroughly understood. A Letter of Agreement between the church and the Foundation was signed on October 7, 2017.

Early in 2018, work on the organ for Lamb of God Lutheran began, and at the start, the focus has been on the instrument placed at the front of the church. As part of the renovation of the sanctuary, the church built out a wall at the front of the church to hold the Great, Swell, and Pedal divisions of the organ. As the pictures show, there are two holes or windows for the sound to egress from the pipe chambers to the sanctuary. The Great/Pedal chamber is on the left as you face the front and the Swell chamber on the right. Further, façade pipes were planned which represent the bottom octaves of the Great 8' Open Diapason rank and the Pedal 8' Octave rank. The pictures show many of the necessary tasks being undertaken by the volunteers who were closely supervised during the project.

The Great division has four ranks (8' Open Diapason, 8' Rohrflute, 4' Octave, 2' Fifteenth), the Swell division has seven ranks (8' Gedeckt, 8' Salicional, 8' Voix Celeste, 4' Principal, 4' Harmonic Flute, 8' Trumpet, 8' Clarinet), and the Pedal division has two independent ranks (16' Bourdon, 8' Octave). An Antiphonal division will be at the back and is expected to have four ranks.

The organ is operated by an Artisan system, and a console with an Artisan system in it was donated to the Foundation by Mark Andersen. This donation was of great value not only for value of the Artisan system, but also because it moved the project along and saved several hundred hours of volunteer effort. Tom Blackwell also donated a number of Artisan electronic components to the project, and his donation along with Mark's did a great deal to make this project affordable to the church.

Beginning on January 11, 2018, a series of 21 work days for the Foundation were undertaken on Thursdays, and these workdays were attended by 14 volunteers who contributed approximately 1,350 hours of time by the end of May to bring the organ to the point that it could be installed. On May 29, the installation began and it plus the resolution of problems, tonal finishing, etc. has continued until the present time when it is nearly done. Once completed, the Antiphonal organ will be built and installed.