

## A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE ORGAN

The first pipe organ installed in Emmanuel Lutheran Church was built in 1885 by the A. B. Felgemaker Company of Erie, Pennsylvania. The three manual tracker organ was modified to electro-pneumatic action in 1912 by the C. S. Haskell Organ Company of Philadelphia.

In 1949 the M. P. Moller Organ Company of Hagerstown, Maryland installed a new three manual thirty rank organ retaining five ranks of the original Felgemaker organ. Marie Schumacher, a former member of Emmanuel Lutheran Church and organist of the Church of St. Mary the Virgin, New York City, New York played the dedicatory recital on February 24, 1949 to an enthusiastic audience.

In 1971 the 16' Gemshorn stop was added to the Great and Pedal divisions by the Moller Company.

In 1987 William Nash, the present organist/director of music, and Gordon Bauerle, organist emeritus, began discussions with members of the music committee, the council and the staff regarding replacement of worn out leathers, repair of certain mechanical functions and tonal unification of the organ. Also discussed was the possibility of enlarging the instrument with the inclusion of pipes from the Moller and Felgemaker organs.

It was decided that an organ committee would be formed to receive bids from different organ builders and hear suggestions as to what options we might pursue. A number of firms made proposals and the committee heard instruments built by them.

Finally, a decision was reached by the organ committee and the council. The Schantz Organ Company of Orville, Ohio was awarded the contract for a complete rebuilding and the expansion of the present instrument. The objectives were:

- 1—to retain over  $\frac{1}{3}$  of the pipe work from the Moller organ and five stops from the Felgemaker organ including the chimes and harp stops.
- 2—to replace the wind chest, and the console and to replace all the mechanical parts of the organ.
- 3—to unify the organ tonally.
- 4—to provide an instrument capable of meeting the needs of the present ministry of music in worship services accompanying choirs of all ages, recitals and concerts.

After further discussion with John Schantz, President of Schantz Organ Company, Robert Romey, engineer, Burton Tidwell, associate tonal director and Robert Betty, area representative — all of the Schantz Company, the present specification and design for the organ was agreed upon by Mr. Nash and Mr. Bauerle.

The new organ has 52 stops and 3,146 pipes controlled by a 4-memory computerized combination action three manual and pedal keyboard console.

Our gratitude is expressed to Mr. Robert Betty and the Mangan Organ Company maintenance staff who have maintained the organ the last two years.

Finally, a word of gratitude to the members, staff and friends of Emmanuel Lutheran Church who have supported this project with their gifts, prayers, labors and kind words of encouragement and enthusiasm. SOLI DEO GLORIA (To The Glory Of God).