

Worship Committee - Organ Expansion Project 2017 proposal

As a foundation of First Lutheran Church's strong music ministry program, the church's organ is fundamental to our worship experience. The Organ Committee has met throughout the summer/fall to discuss and research the next steps in the organ expansion project, which will serve the church's worship needs and sustain our musical heritage far into the future.

Organ history

The first organ was a Hamlin instrument installed by Votteler-Holtkamp-Sparling in 1924. It was rebuilt in 1951 by church members Mr. and Mrs. Gottfred Nelson and was maintained by Mrs. Nelson and Bruce Jacobs until 1972. In 1972 the organ was completely rebuilt by the Mutchler Organ Company of Hudsonville, WI. The organ had 27 ranks, 1,870 pipes, and 2 octaves of chimes.

Current organ

When the organ was rebuilt in 1972, room for expansion was provided on the console for the possible addition of 8 or more ranks. In 2012, Johnson Organ Company, which has maintained the organ for the last 32 years, proposed an expansion program detailed in five steps. Enough money was received to complete the first step—replacing one rank of pipes on the swell organ and replacing the combination system, which was electrical, with a solid state system, making it much more versatile and easy to use.

Project proposal and cost estimate

We still have \$40,000 remaining from the money donated in 2012 to use toward the project. The committee's recommendation is that we use the remaining money to continue the expansion project.

The expansion would add more variety to the sounds we now get. It would add 8 new sounds, some solo and some that give it more body, roughly 8 new ranks or voices.

The committee contacted two organ companies for a proposal and received the following cost estimates:

- Moe Pipe Organ Company (Wadena) = \$135,000
- Johnson Organ Company (Moorhead) = \$186,000

It is the committee's recommendation that we choose Moe Pipe Organ Company for the project.

Additional funding is needed to complete this stage of the project. The Organ Committee suggests the following plan to pay for the project:

- Dedicated organ funds \$40,000
- First Lutheran Foundation \$15,000 (\$3,000 over 5 years)
- Fundraising \$20,000 (such as concerts and individual gift donations)
- Church funds \$60,000 (or \$12,000/5 years or \$15,000/4 years)

The Organ Committee seeks the church council's approval of the organ expansion project and proposed funding plan.