

# ORGAN PROJECT 2019

## To Repair and Renew This Great Instrument for the Next Generation

The 30-rank organ we enjoy at Our Savior's was built by Howard Nolte of Ulm Orgelwerke in the mid-1960's specifically for our then-new sanctuary. For more than 50 years it has served us reliably and well for worship on holidays, for weddings and funerals, and for every Sunday between.

Today, this organ would cost more than \$750,000 to replace. Clearly, it is an investment worth preserving and cherishing, left to us by the previous generation and entrusted to us to pass it on.



Maintenance on a pipe organ is difficult and time consuming due to the sensitivity of the pipes and controls. To service the instrument in place means crawling in cramped spaces and risking more damage. Some things cannot reasonably be done in

place: like cleaning dirt and debris that has fallen into pipes. Not only are some pipes large and so require the removal of other pipes to get at them, but the equipment needed to take out just one pipe makes it very expensive.

So cleaning pipes is normally done all at once and not very often. Specks of dirt or buildups of dust can block the flow of air or prevent a valve from closing, causing a "cipher" or constant whistle from the pipe. When that happens, the pipe can't be used causing missed notes or strange combinations of sound.

Wooden parts like keys played by the organists or doors that open and close to control volume can warp or become non-functional. The 'blowers' (our organ has 3) which move the air to make the sound have motors that whir or whine with age. For the first 30+ years, our sanctuary was not air







conditioned so changes in humidity have taken a toll on wood shape and finish. It's time to make those corrections and fixes.

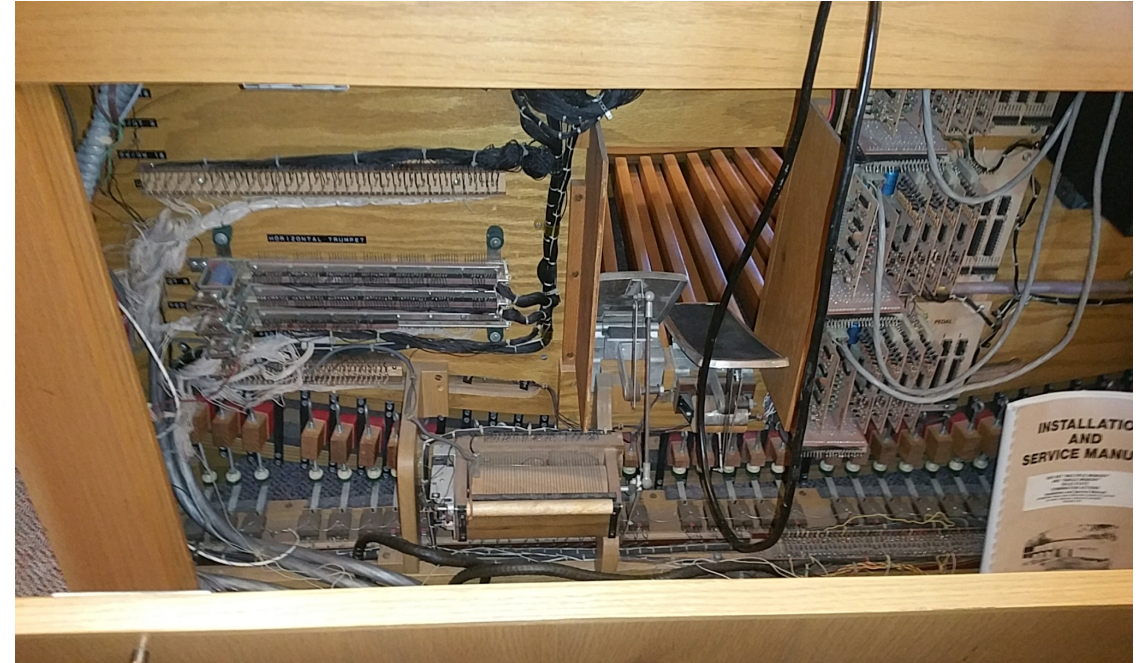
While the organ was “voiced” in a style common in the 1960's, times and preferences change. Consider the early electric keyboards of 1960's bands and compare them to the digital sounds of musicians today. A lot has changed. As a result, our organ plays some sounds that are not included in today's music while it cannot play some sounds that are. This project will “revoice” those parts so they can all be used.

Technology changes. Organs built hundreds of years ago had pumps to push air and used mechanisms to open and close pipes. In the 1960's, electric motors,

radio tubes, and mechanical electronics were new and great! It was the “modern era.” Do you remember car radios that had dials to turn in order to change channels? Today everything is solid state, digital, with no moving parts and with precise electronic components. Just as your old car radio may have stopped changing the station with turning the dial, so our organ is at risk for moving, mechanical, and electric parts that are out of date and prone to failure. The electric wires



within our organ are wrapped in cotton, not coated with plastic or printed on a circuit board. As electricity flows through these wires, there's a risk of fire or short circuit.



The organ console, where the organist sits to play, not only has keys like a piano, but also things called stops, pistons, switches, and more which allow the organist to rapidly change settings and sounds and things the rest of us don't understand. Used together, the instrument provides great variety and flexibility for worship. However, over time these things get loose or misaligned, frozen, or just broken. Changing out these parts will not only renew their function, but also provide features that organists in the 1960's could only dream of, like prerecording or transposing with no more than a push of a button or two.

Much of the detail in the agreement with the organ builder uses terms that only organists would understand such as great, swell, principal, Rohrflöte or





Rohrschalmei, Spitzfloate and more. You're welcome to see the detail on our website or posted in the back of the sanctuary (the narthex). But for most of us, spending the ink here would be unhelpful. Finally, the organ builder has recommended some reasonable changes to our balcony which would give the instrument more agility and clarity. This includes covering

the wood paneling in the balcony with sheet rock and removing the carpeting in the balcony to give the organ and also the choir a "band shell" effect of reflecting the sound forward to where we sit.



If replacing this instrument would cost \$750,000 or more, then spending \$144,200 (the contract price) represents 20% of that cost. If we were talking cars, it seems wise to spend \$4,000 to fix and update a \$20,000 rather than buy a new one. Even spending \$5,000 (25%) to make it better-than-new would be a great deal!

Those numbers are about the same as this project. The repair and renewing of the organ will cost us about 20% of it's total value. Adding \$10,000 for unforeseen expenses and \$26,000 for changes to the balcony brings that cost to \$180,200 or about 25% of the total value of three-quarter million dollars.

Those who went before us have passed to us a building worth more than six million dollars and an organ which alone is worth another 3/4 million dollars. Our price to pass these blessings on to the next generation are just a fraction of what was given to us.

It is our hope, prayer, and intention to raise all the funds needed by the completion of the work, that is, by Easter Sunday, April 21, 2019. To do this, our fund drive will be held in two phases:

Phase One is to raise \$50,000 in gifts received by Easter Sunday, April 1st of next year, 2018. With the \$50,000 in dollar-for-dollar match from the Our Savior's Endowment fund, that will become \$100,000 or more than half to over all goal.

Phase Two will run from Easter Sunday 2018 through Easter Sunday, April 21<sup>st</sup> of 2019 – about the same time that the work is completed. That will give us a full twelve months to raise the remaining \$86,200.

How you can help:

1. Please consider a significant contribution to the organ fund at the outset of this campaign – now, before or at the end of this year – to start us off strong and show our commitment to this cause. For some people, this may mean an extra offering envelop each week or month. For others, it may mean a gift from savings, investments, or other lifetime events. Either way, the more we raise up-front, the more others will be willing to contribute also.
2. Please continue your regular, weekly or monthly giving. We still will have to keep the heat on, pay the staff, and buy materials for the Sunday School. Shifting your offering would only mean we would incur debt for the General Fund.
3. Please consider pledging an extra weekly or month gift between you, your family, and Our Savior (Jesus, not the congregation) to pass on this great blessing for generations to come.

For those who would like, extra envelopes marked “Organ Fund” are available in the church office or we can mail you a set of 12 envelopes as often as you request them. You can also mark your regular, weekly envelope with “Organ” in the space marked “Other” (but do include an amount for the General Fund also, please.

Transfers of funds, stock, or IRA distributions can be easily arranged by calling the church office or speaking with your investment advisor.

All contributions to this fund will be confidential and put together into the overall project so that each may contribute for the good of all according to their blessings.

Thank you for reading this brochure, supporting this effort, and remember all of the Lord's people and work at Our Savior's in your prayers.