

Praise the LORD

RESTORE. RENEW. REJOICE!

Restore the St. Marcus organ for future generations.

Considered the “King of Instruments,” the pipe organ is the most complex musical instrument in the world. Literally made of thousands of parts from various materials, the pipe organ combines the technology of mechanical, electrical and acoustical engineering with the artistry of woodworking, metalworking and architecture to create a musical instrument that lasts for generations.

Did you know that our organ replicates sounds from an orchestra?

Flutes, trumpets, violins and chimes are some of the instruments that create the music we love. The St. Marcus organ includes tonal qualities of a symphonic organ; a style of organ that flourished during the first three decades of the 20th century. It has no electronic amplification. All parts of the organ work together to serve the congregation and breathe musical life into all parts of the Gospel.

The St. Marcus pipe organ has a rich history, dating back to our first church building in 1881. With the building of our current church in 1913, the congregation also decided that the organ needed to grow into a larger two-manual organ. The original pipework was maintained, but a new console and chests were added. Over the next century, additional upgrades and repairs were made as our great organ aged.

As our organ became more consistently unreliable with parts dating back to 1913, many of those beautiful sounds of the orchestra became unusable. Cloth-covered wiring was outdated and the console design lacked the ability for the organist to vary sound easily.

**Praise the LORD. Praise God in his sanctuary...
Praise him with the sounding of the trumpet,
praise him with the harp and lyre,
praise him with timbrel and dancing,
praise him with the strings and pipe,
praise him with the clash of cymbals...**

PSALM 150: 1-5

IN 2014, AN ORGAN COMMITTEE WAS FORMED, WHOSE MEMBERS INCLUDE: Chara Fedke, Pastor Mark Jeske, Jeff Krumbein (Minister of Music/Organist), Joel Schwartz (Associate Organist) and Jerry Siegmann.

Their vision was to replace the console, whose combination action had long ago ceased being reliable, rebuild the “Great” chests, extend the scale of the manual and pedal pipe ranks and add additional new pipe ranks. They ultimately built a master restoration plan to restore the best elements of the current instrument, replace what couldn’t be fixed, and expand the capabilities of sound and operation.

Thanks to generous funding from the Richard and Lydia Gamm Estate, a substantial portion of the full restoration and expansion project was gifted to jump start the organ restoration plan in November, 2015.

\$150,000 remains to restore our beloved symphonic organ. Funding will allow it to continue producing music for generations to come.

You can be part of preserving our past and ensuring music for future generations.

The restoration has been entrusted to Nolte Organ Building of West Allis, WI. Founded in 1987, they are recognized internationally as the leader in wood pipe making. The family owned business works with over 150 pipe organs in southeastern Wisconsin.

For more information about the organ restoration campaign and donation opportunities, visit www.organrestoration.org.

