

Immanuel Lutheran Church Pipe Organ History

As construction on the new Immanuel Lutheran Church building neared completion in 1969, a new pipe organ was being considered. An organ committee was formed and an organ was funded by Herman and Inger Nielsen. A contract with N. Frederick Cool, owner of Temple Organ Company of Lamoni, Iowa, was signed on February 7, 1972, for a new pipe organ totaling \$25,568.00. The new organ was to consist of 22 ranks (sets) of windblown organ pipes, totaling 1349 pipes.

Like other small organ builders, Temple Organ Company completed the contract by manufacturing many of the parts themselves. Other parts were sourced from other builders.

The organ console was built by Klann, Inc., of Waynesboro, Virginia, using red oak in a modified Lindon style that reflected the new building's architecture.

Some of the new pipes were made by R.V. Anderson Sons of Brattleboro, Vermont. A late addition was a rank of 44 stopped wood subbass pipes from a pre-existing Moller organ.

It is of some interest to note that many of the new pipes came from the Gebruder Kas Organ Works in Germany. A letter from the company dated August 5, 1972, states a total of eight boxes of pipes for the Immanuel Lutheran Church project had been shipped with five more ranks to follow in three weeks. The organ blower for the project was also imported from Meidinger Blower of Kaiseraugst, Switzerland. The organ blowers from this builder are recognized for their quiet reliable performance. This blower continues to serve its function today.

In 1975, Temple Organ Company installed a set of solid tubular chimes playable from the organ.

The organ served the congregation well for many years. As time passed, the organ was used less because of both the lack of an organist and an increased interest in other forms of worship music.

In 2013, church member Seth Johannsen, who was interested in pipe organs, researched organ technology to fill the need of an organist. The answer was found in the SOS "Substitute Organist Service" by Church Music Solutions of Marine, Illinois. To make use of this tool, the organ needed to be retrofitted to use MIDI "Music Instrument Digital Interface" technology, and Immanuel member JoAnn Christensen made this possible by her support in memory of her husband, Robert Christensen. The ability to play the organ with MIDI technology kept the organ useful and in the minds of church members. Later, as the organ began to fail due to age, the worship committee researched options for organ music.

In January 2023, the congregation voted to rebuild the existing pipe organ, and on May 11, 2023, signed a contract totaling \$72,000.00 with Temple Organ Company, now located in St. Joseph, Missouri. The company is currently headed by David Cool, son of N. Fredrick Cool; as a 23-year-old apprentice, David had worked with his father on the original build of the organ. Now, 50 years later, assisted by his grandson and granddaughter, David would rebuild the organ, making improvements to his father's design. The organ was removed over three days beginning August 31, 2023. At this time, some pews were removed and a platform for the organ console and piano was built to make the balcony a more musician-useful space. The organ rebuild included all pipes serviced as needed, new control systems, and new main wind chests. The organ was expanded by three ranks, and is now 25 ranks, totaling 1515 pipes. Of the three functional pipe organs in Shelby County, the organ at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Harlan is the largest.

Temple Organ Company began reinstalling the organ on October 30, 2023, and completed the reinstallation on November 30, 2023.

Former Immanuel organist Marjorie Ahrenholtz was given the honor of being the first to play the completed organ on December 10, 2023. Her selection was a prelude on the hymn "Sweet Hour Of Prayer".

The SOS system programming and testing was completed December 21, 2023, and on Christmas Eve 2023, the organ was heard in all its glory as it was used for three services.

The original dedication plaque remains in place and reads as follows:

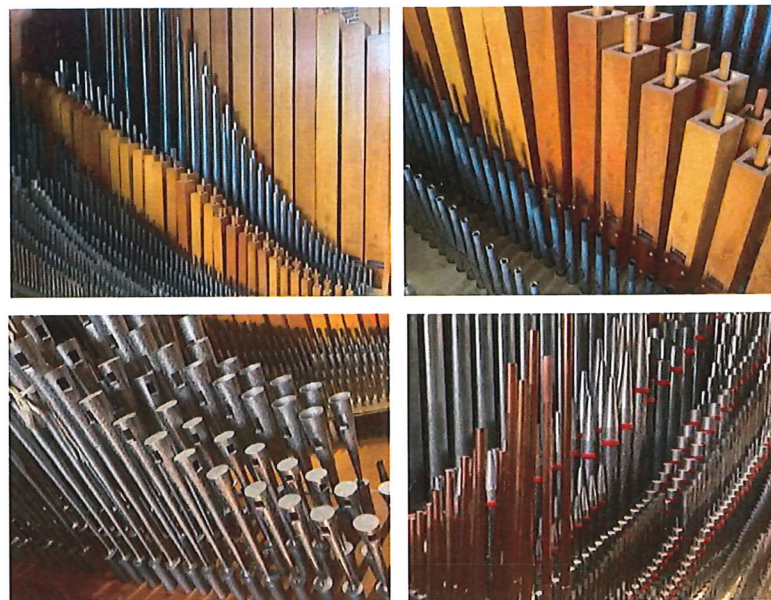
THIS ORGAN PRESENTED TO
THE GLORY OF GOD AND
IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH
By: HERMAN AND INGER NIELSEN
MAY 6, 1973

(History compiled by Seth Johannsen using Temple Organ records, church files, and personal notes.)

Printing Courtesy of the
Heartland Funeral and Cremation Services, Harlan, Iowa



Dedicatory Recital



1:00 pm, February 11, 2024

Immanuel Lutheran Church

Harlan, Iowa

Stephen R. Bartelt, Recitalist

Dedicatory Recital
Immanuel Lutheran Church, Harlan, Iowa
Stephen R. Bartelt, Recitalist
February 11, 2024, 1:00 p.m.

Invocation and Welcome Pastor Phil Nielsen

THREE ORGAN CLASSICS

Tocatta in E Minor Johann Pachelbel

Largo from "Xerxes" George Frederick Handel

Chaconne Louis Couperin

TWO SETTINGS OF "SEELENBRÄUTIGAM" (LBW 341)

Jesus, Still Lead On A. W. Leupold

Jesus, Lead Thou On Paul Manz

THE LUTHERAN REFORMATION HERITAGE

Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word (LBW 230) A. W. Leupold

A Mighty Fortress is Our God (LMW 229) Samuel Scheidt

Please stand as you are able and sing "A Mighty Fortress" (LBW 229)

A QUICK TRIP THROUGH THE SEASONS WITH J. S. BACH

Christmas: Good Christian Friends, Rejoice (LBW 55) J.S. Bach

Lent: O Man, Bewail Thy Grievous Fall (tone painting of Jesus on the cross) J.S. Bach

Easter: Christ Jesus Lay in Death Strong's Bands (LBW 134) J.S. Bach

TWO EARLY ORGAN COMPOSITIONS

Trumpet in Dialogue Louis Nicolas Clerambault (1676-1749)

Agincourt Hymn John Dunstable (1390-1453)

A DANISH HYMN: "DEN SIGNEDE DAG"

O Day Full of Grace (LBW 161) Wilbur Held

Please stand as you are able and sing "O Day Full of Grace" (LBW 161)

A FINAL FAVORITE

Tocatta in D Minor J. S. Bach

Benediction Pastor Phil Nielsen

NOTES ON THE RECITALIST

Stephen Bartelt started piano lessons in grade school and progressed to organ lessons in high school. He continued studying organ at Concordia College in Milwaukee and Concordia Senior College in Fort Wayne, where at both he played for chapel services, congregations, and presented several recitals. While attending Concordia Seminary in St. Louis, he was organist in several churches there. While serving a parish in central Kansas, he earned a Master of Music in organ performance from Emporia Kansas State College.

His organ interests went on the back burner as he served ministry assignments in Kansas, Illinois, and Wisconsin, along with 31 years as an U.S. Army Reserve Chaplain. After retirement, organ and choral directing came off the back burner. He has served as a substitute organist in many Omaha area churches, served 12 years as choral director and substitute organist at Zion Lutheran in Omaha, and became active in the Omaha Chapter of the American Guild of Organists. He was elected to a two-year term as Sub-Dean of the chapter and this Spring is finishing an additional two-year term as Dean of the chapter. He helped guide the chapter through Covid, planned 2 years of chapter programs, and is serving as the leader of the chapter.