

The organ was built in 1905 by the Vogelpohl & Späth company of New Ulm, Minnesota and was originally installed at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Minneapolis. That congregation built a new sanctuary in 1920 and traded this organ in for a new and larger instrument from the same firm. When St. Paul completed their church building in 1921, this organ was available and ready to deliver. It was installed in July of that year.

In the 1960s, it was decided that the elaborately stenciled pipes were a distraction from worship so they were painted black. Plywood paneling, also painted black, was installed to cover the oak case. In the 1980s, they realized this was a mistake and the facade pipes were repainted as you see them today. The oak casework was also revealed and refinished.

In celebration of their 100th anniversary, the congregation decided to have the organ restored. New stained glass windows were also commissioned to replace the old, colored plexiglass panels. The organ restoration work was comprehensive. The Swell was nearly unplayable due to numerous cracks in the wind chest table. The Great was not much better. Notes would "bleed through" between one another. Wind loss was so great that all stops sounded muted and colorless. It was nearly impossible to tune. A new wind chest table of marine-grade mahogany plywood will give many decades of trouble free service. The leaking wind reservoir was releathered and gaskets were replaced throughout the organ. The entire key action was cleaned, re-bushed, and regulated. Stopped wooden pipes were releathered and all the pipe work was cleaned and dents were removed. Other components were repaired or replicated as necessary.

The action is now light and responsive. There is no longer the constant hiss of wind leaks. Most importantly, the pipes all speak with clarity and richness that hasn't been heard in decades. Everyone on the Bedient crew is delighted to know that this organ will be faithfully serving this congregation for generations to come!

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St. Paul's Lutheran Church

1922-2022

Organ Recital



Picture by Ryan Luckey - 9/17/2021

History of the St. Paul's Organ

Ryan Luckey, Bedient Pipe Organ Co.

Organ Recital

James Williams

Prelude in F major..... J. S. Bach. 1685-1750
Élévation Lefébure-Wely. 1817-1869
Thanks be to Thee.....G. F. Handel 1685-1759
Prelude in G minorJ. S. Bach. 1685-1750
Canon in D..... J. Pachelbel. 1653-1706
BourréeG. F. Handel. 1685-1759
Minuet FinaleG. F. Handel. 1685-1759
The Rejoicing.....G. F. Handel. 1685-1759
Prelude in F major..... J. S. Bach 1685-1750

Mark Miller, Bedient Pipe Organ Co.

Elms from *Views from the Oldest House* .Ned Rorem (b. 1923)
Flute Piece Thomas Thorley (18th century)
Voluntary In GHenry Heron (18th century)

Jenny Horne

Nun danket alle Gott.....S. Karg-Elert 1877-1933
Toccatà in E minor..... J. Pachelbel 1653-1706

Kathy Porath

Lord of Glory, Who Hast Bought Us..... P. Manz 1919-2009
God of Grace P. Manz 1919-2009

A special thanks to Bedient Pipe Organ Co. for the beautiful restoration and for sharing the history of the organ. We also thank our talented organists for sharing their beautiful music with us in this celebration.