

Organ Project History

It became apparent several years ago that Immanuel's old organ needed repair or replacement. The organ had many electrical problems which made several ranks unusable. Other ranks only worked sometimes and were not reliable. The children of Arthur and Maxine Vogt gave a generous donation to Immanuel Lutheran Church for the improvement of the organ in memory of their parents. After obtaining quotes to fix the organ, the Elders and the Trustees accepted the quote from Mr. Roland Rutz of Rutz Inc., Morristown, Minnesota. Mr. Rutz gave Immanuel two options. The first option was to repair our organ; the second option was to build a new, larger organ for Immanuel using pipes and the console from an organ previously used at Carlton College in Northfield, Minnesota for the same cost as his repair estimate. The elders and trustees decided to accept the new organ option. The old organ, dedicated on November 20, 1982, had 862 pipes in 15 ranks. The new organ has 1,500 pipes in 29 ranks and includes a new set of chimes given in memory of Marjorie Beyer. The removal of the old organ began in the spring of 2020 and the new organ was dedicated on Easter Sunday, 2021. A service of celebration was postponed until October 31, 2021, due to Covid 19.

Organ Celebration

Immanuel Lutheran Church
October 31, 2021



Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all ye lands Ps 100:1

“Next to the Word of God, the noble art of music is the greatest treasure in the world. It controls our thoughts, minds, hearts, and spirits.” – Martin Luther

Welcome and Organ Blessing by Pastor Augustine

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God (LSB 656) *Johann Pachelbel*

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God (LSB 656) *David Cherwein*

Variations on “The Ash Grove” (LSB 643) *Christine Schulz*

1. Chorale
2. Cantabile
3. Animato
4. Gigue

O Sing to the Lord (LSB 808) *Jeffrey Blersch*

Congregation Sings: Hymn 808

(LSB 954)

We All Believe in The One True God *Johann Sebastian Bach*

What a Friend We Have in Jesus (LSB 770) *Charles W. Ore*

Congregation Sings: Hymn 818

In Thee Is Gladness (LSB 818) *Michael Burkhardt*

Anyone interested in going up to the organ to see the console or ask questions, please feel free to do so at this time.

Reception to follow 1:30 service



Mr. Rodney Riese – Guest Organist

Immanuel’s guest organist for our Organ Celebration is Mr. Rodney Riese from Wausau, Wisconsin. Rodney Riese lived in Plainview from 1956 to 1968 during the years his father, Rev. Riese, was the pastor at Immanuel. Rod attended Immanuel Lutheran School for grades five to eight and graduated from Plainview High School in 1964. While in grade school he had his first organ lessons at Immanuel under the supervision of Ed Kaelberer, Immanuel’s principal and organist at the time. Rod attended Concordia Teacher’s College in Seward, Nebraska, as a Music Major and graduated in 1968. From 1968 to 1981 he served as Minister of Music and grade 4 teacher at two California congregations – Burbank and Costa Mesa. It was in California that he met and married his wife, Pam, who was also a Lutheran School teacher. During four of those summers Rod attended graduate school at Concordia, River Forest, Illinois, and received his Master of Church Music degree in 1975.

In 1981 Rod moved to Trinity Lutheran Church in Wausau, Wisconsin, where he served until his retirement in 2008. At Trinity, Rod taught grade 4 and was also the Minister of Music. He was the principal organist, directed and/or accompanied the many church and school choirs, and directed the various Handbell Choirs of the church and school. In retirement Rod enjoys being the guest organist at Trinity and at other Wausau area congregations. Rod and Pam enjoy visiting their three children and six grandchildren. They also enjoy spending time at their lakeside cottage and watching Cactus League baseball games in Phoenix during part of the winter.