

Organ Expansion Project at Prince of Peace

In 2014 Prince of Peace Lutheran Church acquired a pipe organ that was originally built in 1972 for Bryn Athyn Cathedral in Philadelphia by the Schlicker Organ Company. With its move to Dublin the organ was modified to work with a new keyboard console at Prince of Peace. While the Schlicker Organ company was a very prominent builder of its day, its tonal concept (the choice of "voices" in the instrument) significantly favored a particular style of music. If one were to visualize the tonal style, you might say it would look like an upside-down triangle with the higher sounds dominating.

If you were to compare this to an orchestra, it would be like having an ABUNDANCE of piccolos and flutes which become more prominent than the instruments in the middle (violins, violas, oboes, clarinets, etc…) or the low end (cellos, basses, bassoons, etc.) While this upside-down triangle concept works well for some types of music such as Bach, Buxtehude, Mozart, Pachelbel and many composers of the German Baroque era (1600-1750) and early classical era (1750-1820), it struggles to play music of other styles and eras well or easily.

Our organ expansion project is an attempt to balance the middle and low sounds with the higher ones, or visually to make the triangle right side up. Again, if you consider the example of an orchestra, you usually only find 1-2 flutes and possibly 1 piccolo compared to numerous violins, violas, cellos and basses. This is because the higher pitches are more easily heard.

The organ expansion seeks to add voices in this middle and lower range as well as a few solo colors that help impact the voices in the middle and low range. While the organ currently leads congregational singing well (because everyone can hear the higher pitches) it struggles to work well to accompany soloists and choirs or play music of the romantic and modern eras.

In addition to balancing the high sounds with the middle and low, the renovation will include new windchests, the boxes of air that the pipes sit on. When using a larger amount of sounds, the organ currently sags (lacks enough wind to supply the amount of air needed) in pitch. New windchests will GREATLY improve the stability of tuning. New windchests will also expand the number of stops (voices) that are available to use.

And the final critical component of this project will be a new blower which supplies the wind to the windchests. Last summer the blower had a rather major failure. And while it was repaired to remain workable, it needs replacement. Keep in mind, that component of the instrument is now 50 years old! Thankfully the current console can be modified to continue to serve as the "brain" or control center for the instrument. And the majority of the original pipe work will remain in the instrument.

Q: How does this affect the music ministry at Prince of Peace?
A: Our pipe organ is easily the most used instrument at Prince of Peace. It is used to lead worship at all our services every weekend as well as providing musical leadership for countless other services such as funerals, weddings, morning and evening prayer, and many of our concerts. The organ has a historic leadership role in the Lutheran tradition and remains the single best instrument (Meaning that it would take a collection of instruments to replicate the wide range and dynamics of music that the organ is able to offer) to lead congregational worship, accompany ensembles and provide a huge range of supporting music.

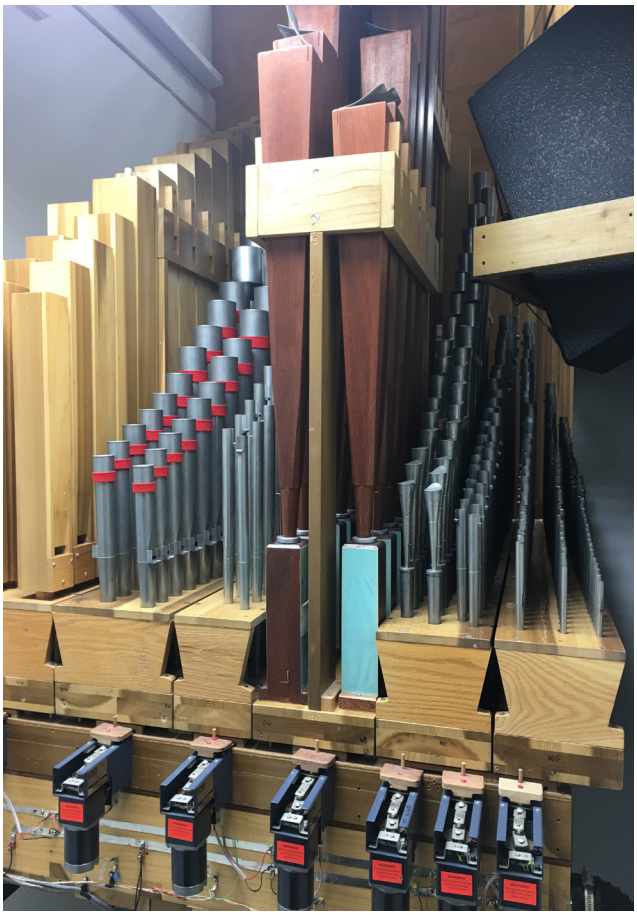


Q: Will this make the instrument louder?
A: All the proposed additions are meant to expand the low and middle sounds of the instrument as well as offer more color choices in those ranges. The existing high sounds will be modified to work more harmoniously with the additions. Rather than being louder, the proposed additions will offer a wider variety to the sounds that are at a medium volume. The one exception is a Festival Trumpet that is intended to be a solo sound that will work well with a wide range of the other organ sounds.

Q: Will there be a need to do further work down the road?
A: All instruments require regular care, maintenance and tuning. And although a pipe organ is designed to last for generations, there are still some components that wear out. Most of the current pipework is and should remain in good condition. In addition to a new blower the current plan is to also replace the windchests. These are the boxes that the pipes sit on. The replacement of windchests will have a significant effect on steady wind pressure and allow for the pipes to speak in more registers than currently possible.



Q: Will it be more expensive to maintain the organ with these new additions?
A: Our organ is tuned twice a year and because our sanctuary has both heat and AC, the tuning remains in pretty good shape. It's when we make the change from heat to AC and vice versa that we have the most issues, which is why the tuning happens twice a year. While the additions mean more pipes, the actual number of added pipes is not overly significant in the grand scheme and therefore won't have a big effect on the time it takes to tune.



Q: Who will do the proposed expansion?
A: After reviewing two different proposals, the committee decided to award the contract to Muller Organ Company based in Hartford, Ohio.

Q: Will construction be required?
A: Construction will be expected within the organ chambers where most of the pipes and mechanics are located. No modifications are expected to the facade which is the front of the organ that you see when you enter the sanctuary.

Q: How long will the process take?
A: Once the process begins, there will be about 3-4 months of work. Some of it will be preparatory, but the organ will likely be unusable for several months.

Q: Ho much will this cost?
A: The total cost of the expansion and renovation will be $682,000, and we are well on our way to meeting our goal. As of June 15, 2026. We have raised or have commitments for $590,000 leaving our remaining goal to raise an additional $92,000.

LEVELS OF SPONSORSHIP

$250 will purchase one small pipe
$500 will purchase one medium 1 pipe
$1,000 will purchase one large pipe
$3,500 will purchase half of the organ chimes or zimbelstern
$6,000 will purchase one octave (12) of pipes
$15,000 will purchase one pedal rank/stop (32 pipes, played with the feet)
$25,000 will purchase the celeste stop/rank (49 pipes which create a warm string sound)
$30,000 will purchase one complete rank/stop (61 pipes)
$38,000 will purchase the festival trumpet rank/stop (61 pipes)
$40,000 will purchase one windchest (box of air that the pipes sit on)

Use this QR code to donate now.

Organ Committee
Jeremy Bankson
Suzy Biehl
Lucille Gill
Barb Hoyt
Jim Hoyt
Barb Hunt
Ron Kenreich
Pastor John Morris

New Stop Specification

GREAT

1.	16'	Violone
2.	8'	Principal
3.	8'	Bourdon
4.	8'	Violone
5.	4'	Octave
6.	4'	Harmonic Flute
7.	2'	Super Octave
8.	IV	Mixture
9.	8'	Trumpet
10.	8'	Festival Trumpet
11.	Tremolo	
12.	Chimes	

SWELL

13.	16’	Chimney Flute
14.	8’	Principal
15.	8’	Chimney Flute
16.	8’	Gamba
17.	8’	Gamba Celeste
18.	4’	Principal
19.	4’	Spire Flute
20.	2-2/3’	Nazard
21.	2’	Flute
22.	1-3/5’	Tierce
23.	IV	Mixture
24.	16’	Bassoon
25.	8’	Trompette
26.	8’	Hautbois
27.	4’	Clairon
28.	Tremolo	

CHOIR

29.	8’	Gedeckt
30.	8’	Salicional
31.	8’	Voix Celeste
32.	4’	Principal
33.	4’	Rohrflote
34.	2’	Octave
35.	2’	Nachthorn
36.	1-1/3’	Larigot
37.	III	Mixture
38.	8’	Krummhorn
39.	8’	Festival Trumpet
40.		Tremolo
41.		Chimes

PEDAL

42.	32’	Bourdon
43.	16’	Open Wood
44.	16’	Principal
45.	16’	Violone
46.	16’	Subbass
47.	16’	Gedeckt
48.	8’	Principal
46.	8’	Subbass
50.	4’	Choral Bass
51.	4’	Subbass
52.	2’	Flute
53.	32’	Trombone
54.	16’	Double Trumpet
55.	16’	Bassoon
56.	8’	Festival Trumpet
57.	4’	Hautbois

