

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH & MUSIC CONSERVATORY

2025-2026
MUSIC SERIES
PIPE ORGAN
DEDICATION
SUNDAY MAY 3RD
4:00PM



Featuring Kantor Paul Soulek,
St. John's Lutheran Church, Seward, NE
A Program of varied repertoire highlighting the
beauty of St. Paul's organ renovated by
The Bedient Pipe Organ Company
Reception following in the Church Undercroft

For more information:
www.splccb.org

239 Frank St., Council Bluffs, IA
+712-322-4729

Dear Friends, Family, Guests, and Members of St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church,

The congregation of St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church and St. Paul's Music Conservatory would like to personally thank you for coming to the final of three Pipe Organ Recital events to dedicate St. Paul's restored and updated Pipe Organ.

This afternoons recital is being live streamed on St. Paul's social media platforms. The links to the streaming services are listed below.

Thank you once again for your gracious donations to Preserving the Church's Song Project. Without you, we would not have been able to restore the grand voice of St. Paul's organ leading in the singing of God's Word.

In His Service,

Rev. Nathan Sherrill, Rev. Timothy Frank,
St. Paul's Lutheran Church Organ Project Committee, &
St. Paul's Lutheran Church Council

Links to St. Paul's Live Stream Services:

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/StPauls.LCMS.CB>

YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/@st.paulslutheranchurch7373/streams>

Sunday, May 3, 2026, A.D.
St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church - Pipe Organ
Dedication and Recital
Program

Introduction/Invocation

Rev. Nathan Sherrill

Organ: *Toccata and Fugue in F Major*, BuxWV 157

Dietrich Buxtehude
(1637-1707)

The Day of Resurrection, LSB 478

Christians, to the Paschal Victim, LSB 460 / *Christ Is Arisen*, LSB 459

The choir sings the chant (460), followed by the congregation singing the chorale (459).

An organ improvisation precedes each section of chant

Christ Has Arisen, Alleluia, LSB 466

Stanza 3 and refrain are sung by the choir

Who Are You Who Walk in Sorrow, LSB 476

Stanza 1: All

Stanza 2: Choir

Stanza 3: All

Stanza 4: All, in canon; women begin, men enter a measure later

Stanza 5: All

Jesus Lives! The Victory's Won, LSB 490

Stanza 3 is sung by the choir

Organ: *In Christ Alone*

setting by Benjamin
Culli

I Know That My Redeemer Lives, LSB 461

Stanza 4 is sung by the choir

Lord, Enthroned in Heavenly Splendor, LSB 534

Thy Strong Word, LSB 578

Stanza 3: Women (all join at *Alleluia*...)

Stanza 4: Men (all join at *Alleluia*...)

Postlude: *Thy Strong Word*, setting by Paul Soulek

Following the recital, everyone is invited to a reception in the Church Undercroft.

Program Notes

Today's program begins with a free work, composed by Dietrich Buxtehude (1637-1707), a prominent Lutheran church musician who served as a deep musical influence to J.S. Bach. His vibrant Toccata and Fugue serves as a grand musical 'Exultet'; its improvisatory freedom and brilliant F-major flourishes mirror the uncontained joy of the Easter season, breaking the silence of Lent to prepare our hearts for the communal song of the Church.

The program that follows includes extended chorale preludes, organ works based on hymns, which prepare us to sing the hymn by introducing the key and character. The congregation is treated as a choir, occasionally singing *to* each other in high/low voices or in canon. The choir (made up of our instrumentalists) occasionally sings a stanza to give the congregation a new perspective on a familiar text. Many of the settings were composed or arranged for this particular event, including improvisations, which carry forth the Lutheran tradition of *pro tempore*—music specifically designed for a particular time and place.

The music of the church is certainly an art form and worthy of study, practice, and preparation—but it finds its fullness in proclaiming the crucified and risen Christ in an *actual* assembly of sinners-made-saints. This beautiful pipe organ assists and empowers us to boldly sing of God's mercy, and to do so with fellow pilgrims on this earthly journey. God grant us lips to sing His glory and tongues to proclaim His mercy! Soli Deo Gloria.

Published settings used in today's program:

The Day of Resurrection, LSB 478

Introduction by Paul Manz, adapted from Henry Purcell's Trumpet Tune

Jesus Lives! The Victory's Won, LSB 490

Introduction by Jan Bender

Lord, Enthroned in Heavenly Splendor, LSB 534

Introduction by Michael Burkhardt

Thy Strong Word, LSB 578

Introduction by Paul Manz, adapt.; originally written for *Savior, When In Dust to Thee*.

Organist: Paul Soulek
Narrator: Jacob Huber
Trumpet: Mitchell Stephens and Matthew Hoops
Euphonium: Walter Seipold
Tuba: Joshua Schultz

Kantor Paul Soulek Biography



Paul Soulek serves as Cantor of St. John Lutheran Church and School in Seward, Nebraska, where he leads the people's song by planning for worship services, playing the organ, and directing vocal and instrumental ensembles. Paul also serves as an adjunct professor of music at Concordia University, Nebraska, where he teaches Arranging, Church Music Administration, Applied Organ, as well as conducting the Male Chorus. Paul serves as cantor for the Lutheran youth organization Higher Things and its summer conferences and regularly travels to present hymn festivals throughout the country. He received his Bachelor of Music degree from Concordia University, Nebraska in 2007, where he studied with Jeffrey Blersch and Charles Ore. He received his Master's of Church Music

degree from Concordia University Chicago in 2015, where he studied with Steven Wentz. When not making music, Paul enjoys spending time with family and friends, undertaking home renovations, and enjoying the natural wonders of Nebraska.



History of St. Paul's Pipe Organ

St. Paul's entered into an agreement and purchase of the Reuter Pipe Organ opus 398, with the Reuter Organ Company of Lawrence, KS on the 10th of June 1931. The purchase price of the organ was \$5,925.00. Installation of the organ began after the dedication of St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church on June 14, 1931. Installation was completed sometime in 1932.

The organ performed flawlessly with service limited to annual inspections and service at that time. In 1965, the Reuter Organ Company performed extensive work and thorough cleaning at a cost of \$1,923.00. At the time Reuter's indicated that in the future major repairs would be required. In 1970, after 38 years of continuous service, the St. Paul's Reuter Organ was completely reconditioned at a cost of \$3,750.00. In 1970 new keyboards along with a new switching system in the console were installed. A tonal change was completed on the Swell Principal 8 by moving this up one octave. This created a Principal 4. Regular maintenance was again performed annually on the pipe organ. Around this time frame the organ console was moved from its original position at the left front of the Organ Choir Loft. The console at that time faced the choir pews and the organist was not able to see the Chancel or Altar without turning around. The organ console was moved to the right front of the Organ Choir Loft and turned so the organist had a view of the Chancel, Altar, and was able to look out into the Sanctuary (with limited line of sight). As the pipe organ entered into the 21st century, it was starting to show signs of aging, annual maintenance continued with various organ companies. In early 2000's, St. Paul's entered into agreement with the Bedient Pipe Organ Company of Lincoln, NE to perform annual maintenance on the organ. In 2008, parts of the pipe organ began failing with different combinations. Leather components began showing their age as well and started cracking and failing. This started causing "dead notes", or pipes to stick into an open state. Even to the point where the organist was unable to use the top keyboard (limited to 20% usage).

A St. Paul's Organ Committee was formed around 2010. The committee stressed the important fact that the organ must serve the musical needs of the liturgy and lead the congregation in hymn singing first and foremost. Additionally, the organ should be able to accompany the choirs and kantors that assist in Worship Services each week. Finally, St. Paul's Music Conservatory uses the organ for teaching lessons and for students' rehearsals every day. The organ must serve as reliable teaching instrument, one that inspires future generations of musicians and organists. A high-quality instrument will attract talented musicians to participate and grow in worship.

The committee met over several years, sending proposals to numerous Pipe Organ Companies. The Bedient Pipe Organ Company, of Lincoln, NE was selected and approved by the voters in the January 2023 Annual Meeting. The Organ Project was named – "Preserving the Church's Song" with a goal of raising \$500,000.00. The goal of \$500,000.00 was raised in less than ten months. On Sunday, March 17, 2024, the last hymn and postlude was played on St. Paul's Pipe Organ before dismantling of the entire pipe organ system was completed. On Wednesday, March 20, 2024, the last pieces of the pipe organ were loaded and shipped back to the Bedient Shop in Lincoln, NE. In September 2024, Bedient began installing the updated original pipes, and the new console was installed in December 2024. In April 2025, the Bedient Pipe Organ

Company, gave St. Paul's permission to use the organ. On Easter Sunday, April 20, 2025, a partial dedication was held prior to the start of the Easter Sunday Services. Over the course of the three months Bedient completed installation of the organ and began fine tuning the entire organ. On Friday, July 25, 2025, installation and fine tuning of the Pipe Organ was completed. Over the course of the past two months, Pastor Frank, along with St. Paul's Music Conservatory students have been playing the organ and working out any small issues discovered and Bedient correcting.

Today, as you enter for this afternoons recital, you will notice a definite change in St. Paul's Organ voice. The organ will have a much fuller sound. When you hear the Zimbelstern, you will hear the sounds of Angels singing of the glory of heaven.

A special thank you to the Bedient Pipe Organ Company of Lincoln, NE, for their remarkable work rebuilding and installing St. Paul's Pipe Organ.

Thank you to all the members and friends of St. Paul's who helped with the removal and return of all the nice "light" pipes, air reservoirs, wind chests, and organ console that make up St. Paul's Organ.

Finally, thank you to St. Paul's Organ Committee, who without their many hours of dedication to research, and reviewing all the potential organ proposals, and selecting Bedient Pipe Organ Company to complete St. Paul's Organ. Without our Organ Committee, none of this would have been possible.





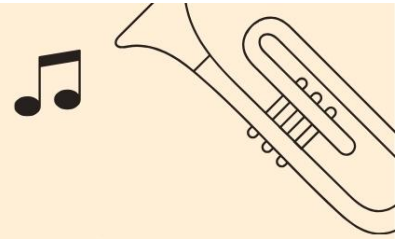
St. Paul's Music Conservatory

Where Music Serves

Welcome to St. Paul's Music Conservatory:
Where Music Serves!

We are here to serve our community both by teaching music and by making music as a service to others. If you are interested in private lessons or in First Steps classes, or if you are in need of student or faculty performers for a community event, we want to be of service to you! Please learn more about us and our offerings and contact us to let us know how we can serve you!





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Our Summer Services:

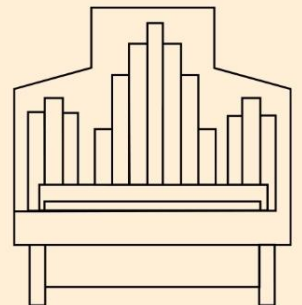
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 712-322-8832

 www.stpaulsmusicconservatory.org

 239 Frank St., Council Bluffs, IA 51503



St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church Organist 1932 - Present

Dr. Carl Albert Jesse, organist from 1932-1937



Mrs. John Schroeder, organist and choir director 1937-1949



Mr. William Nieber, part time organist 1949 - unknown date



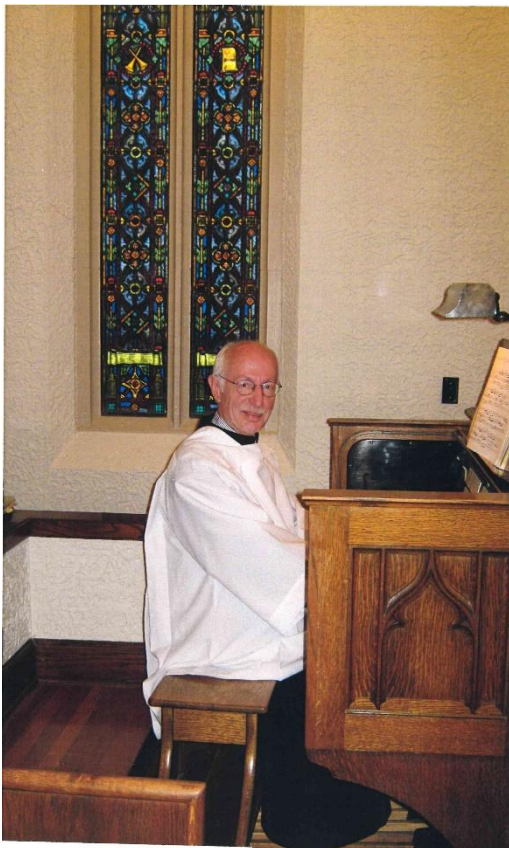
Mrs. Oscar (Irene) Neujahr, organist 1949 – 1970



Mr. Fred Schroeder, organist 1970 – 2009



Dr. J. Gordon Christensen, Director of Music 2009 – 2024



**Rev. Kantor Timothy Frank, St. Paul's Associate Pastor & Director of Music,
and St. Paul's Music Conservatory Administrator
2016 – present**



1931 St. Paul's Reuter Pipe Organ Opus 398 Configuration

Great	Keyboard	Swell	Keyboard
8'	First Diapason	16'	Bourdon
8'	Second Diapason	8'	Diapason
8'	Viole d ' Gamba	8'	Gedeckt
8'	Melodia	8'	Salicional
8'	Dulciana	8'	Voix Celeste
4'	Octave	8'	Orchestral Horn
4'	Flute	4'	Flauto Dolce
8'	Trumpet	4'	Salicet
		2 2/3'	Nasard
Choir	Keyboard	2'	Flautino
16'	Contra Gamba (TC)	8'	Oboe
8'	Violin Diapason	8'	Vox Humana
8'	Melodia		Tremolo
8'	Viole d 'Gamba		
8'	Dulciana	Echo	(Preparation in Console Only)
4ft	Violina	8'	<i>Concert Flute</i>
4'	Wald Flute	8'	<i>Muted Flute</i>
8'	Clarinet	8'	<i>Muted Celeste</i>
	Tremolo	8	<i>Vox Humana</i>
			<i>Chimes</i>
Pedal	Foot Pedals		<i>Tremolo</i>
16'	Sub Bass		
16'	Bourdon		
16'	Lieblich Gedeckt		
8'	Cello		
8'	Octave		
8'	Dolce Flute		
8'	Major Flute		

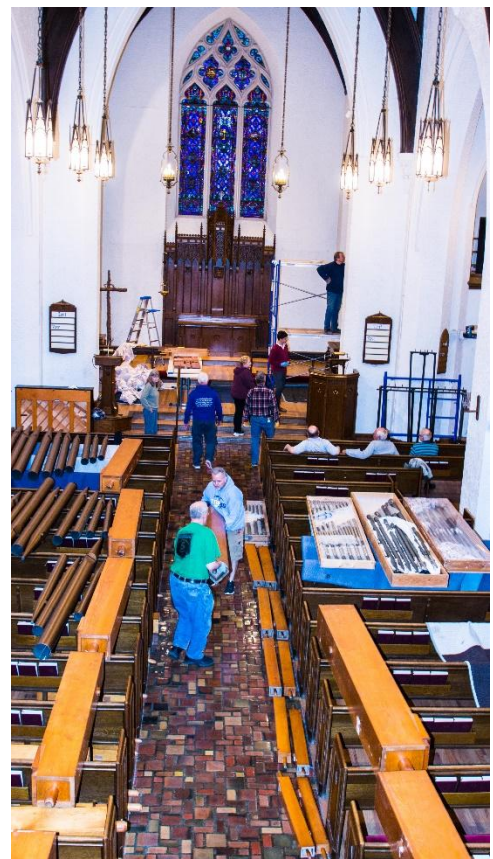
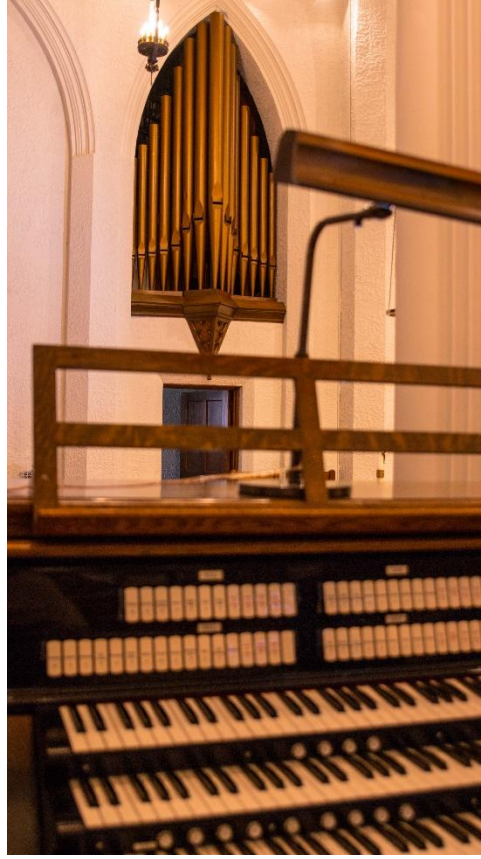
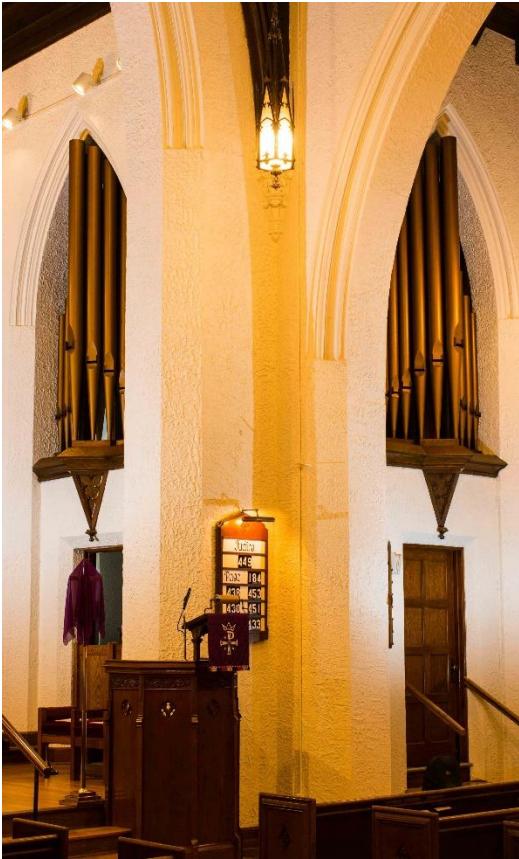
2025 St. Paul's Reuter Pipe Organ Opus 398 with Bedient Pipe Organ refurbishment and additions

22 Ranks (9 new, 13 existing)

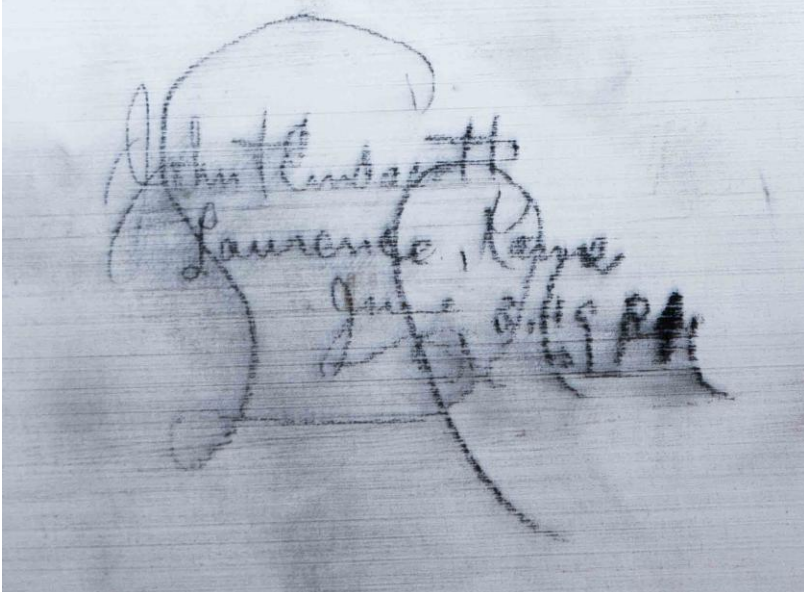
Great	Keyboard	Swell	Keyboard
8'	Prestant I-II	16'	Bourdon* (ext)
8'	Rohrflote	8'	Geigen Principal*
8'	Viole de Gambe* (Ch)	8'	Gedeckt*
8'	Dulciana* (Ch)	8'	Salcional*
4'	Octave	8'	Voic Celeste*
4'	Melodia* (Ch)	4'	Geigen Octave* (ext)
2'	Octave	2 2/3'	Nasard* (ext)
IV	Mixture	2'	Flautino* (ext)
8'	Trumpet (Ch)	16'	Bassoon (new ext)
		8'	Oboe*
Pedal	Foot Pedals		
16'	Bourdon	Choir	Keyboard
16'	Lieblich Gedeckt* (Sw)	16'	Contra Dulciana* (ext, TC)
8'	Octave*	8'	Violin Diapason*
8'	Major Flute* (ext)	8'	Melodia*
8'	Dolce Flute* (Sw)	8'	Viole de Gambe*
8'	Cello* (Ch)	8'	Dulciana*
5 1/3'	Quint (Sw)	4'	Octave
4'	Choral Bass* (ext)	4'	Waldflute* (ext)
4'	Flute (Ch)	4'	Dulcet* (ext)
16'	Bassoon (Sw)	2'	Super Octave (ext)
8'	Trumpet (Gt)	8'	Clarinet*
		8'	Trumpet*
Key			
(Ch)	Taken from Choir		Future Addition
(Sw)	Taken from Swell	Echo	
(ext)	Extension	8'	Harmonic Flute
(Gt)	Great	8'	Viola Etheria
(TC)		8'	Viola Celeste (TC)
*	Existing Reuter rank	4'	Fugara
(new ext)		8'	Vox Humana*

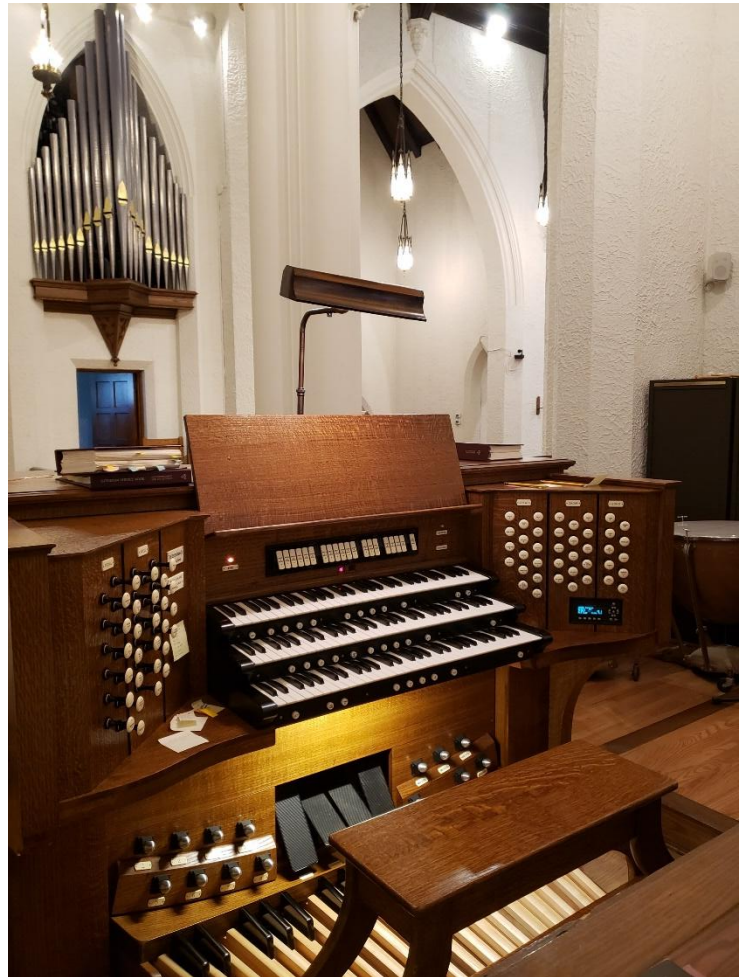
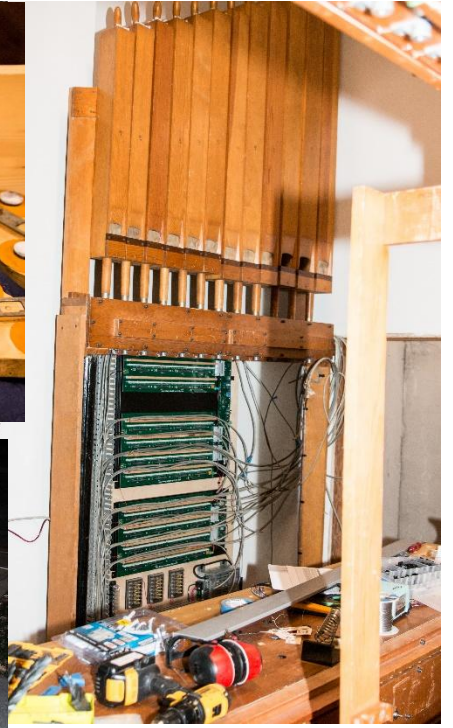
Pictures from the past 18 months of St. Paul's Pipe Organ Removal and Return.

For more pictures of the Organ Project, please visit St. Paul's Facebook page.



Signature of Reuter Organ Company employee who install St. Paul's Organ in 1931.







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Council Bluffs, IA 51501
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OR VISIT stpaulscouncilbluffs.org**

**1500 NORTH 16TH ST.
COUNCIL BLUFFS, IA 51503**



Iowa District West Council Bluffs Circuit
*A*scension Day Divine Worship Service
Thursday, May 14th, 7:00pm
St. Paul's Lutheran Church
239 Frank Street
Council Bluffs, IA 51503



Rev. Mitchel Schuessler preacher, St. John Lutheran, Clarinda

The Ascension Day Worship Service will be live streamed at the following link: <https://www.youtube.com/@st.paulslutheranchurch7373/streams>

Acts 1:9 - And when he had said these things, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight.