

**St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church
Ridge Valley**

910 Allentown Road, Sellersville, PA 18960



The Reverend Shirley Guider, Pastor



**Traditional Service - 8:30 AM
Sunday School - 9:30 AM
Informal Service - 10:45 AM**

**Church Office (215) 257-9643
Monday, Wednesday, Friday - 9:00 AM - NOON
Darlene Repholz, Secretary**

**St. John's Lutheran
Church**

Ridge Valley



**On the Eve of All Saints' Sunday
A Celebration and Rededication
Of the Pipe Organ
Saturday, November 3rd, 2007
At 4:00 P.M.**

Program

Welcome

The Rededication of The Pipe Organ

P: O Sing to the Lord a new song, for he had done marvelous things!

C: Sing for joy to the Lord, all the earth!

P: Praise him with songs and shouts of joy!

C: Sing praises to the Lord! Play music on the organ!

P: We gather here today to rededicate our refurbished and enhanced organ to the glory of God, the uplifting of human spirits and to the service of the church. We dedicate this organ to God for the proclamation of the gospel; for the worship of God through music; for the expression of the beauty of God's world and for the celebration of God's presence in this sanctuary and in all of life.

C: Praise God in the sanctuary!

P: We dedicate this organ to the healing of life's discords and the expression of life's joys; to the revelation of the hidden soul of harmony; to comforting those who sorrow and exalting with those who are celebrating the blessedness of life's happy transitions.

C: Praise God with stringed instruments and organ!

P: In thankfulness for the love so graciously expressed by those who first purchased the organ, lovingly rebuilt it and provided for its care and renovation, in gratitude for the labors of all who love and serve Christ through his church here and everywhere we bless this organ and rededicate it use to glorify God.

C: We, surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses and thankful for our heritage and the foresight of those who left us provided with the means to care for and update this beautiful instrument dedicate ourselves anew to the worship and service of God, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Mark Gottesfeld

Sinfonia from Cantata No. 29 Johann Sebastian Bach
"Wir danken dir, Gott, wir danken dir" (1685-1750)
BWV 29

Organ Sonata No. 5 in D Major Felix Mendelssohn
Op. 65, No. 5 (1809-1847)
I. Andante
II. Andante con moto
III. Allegro maestoso

Stephen Wysocki

HYMN: "*When In Our Music God Is Glorified*" WOV #802

Tocatta in D Minor BVW 538 Johann Sebastian Bach
("The Dorian") (1685-1750)

Processional and Trumpet Tune Robert Lau
(1943-)

HYMN: "*Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee*" LBW #551

Free Will Offering

Lou Carol Fix

Fanfare John Cook
(1918-1984)

Andante in F for Musical Clock, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart
K. 616 (1756-1791)

Processional Grand March, Op. 25 Samuel B. Whitney
(1842-1914)

HYMN: "Now Thank We All Our God" LBW #533

Mark Gottesfeld

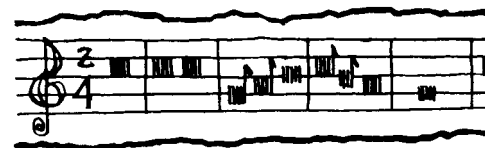
"Toccatà," Symphony No. 5 Charles-Marie Widor
in F Major, Op. 42 (1844-1937)

The Artists

Lou Carol Fix is currently the Organist and Director of Instrumental Music at Peace-Tohickon Lutheran Church in Perkasiè. She attended Salem College in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, where she grew up, and graduated with a degree in Organ Performance. She then went on to attend Indiana University in Bloomington, Indiana, where she received both the M.M degree in Organ Performance and the M.A. degree in Musicology. Lou Carol studied organ with John Mueller, Margaret Mueller, and Wilma Jensen. She also studied carillon with Jo Haazen in Mechelen, Belgium. She is the Artist/Lecturer in Organ at Moravian College in Bethlehem and also teaches recorder and music history there. Lou Carol enjoys reading, walking, and traveling with her husband Andy and son Adam to interesting places around the world.

Mark J. Gottesfeld has served as the Organist and Music Director at St. John's since 2003 and started substituting there beginning in 1997. He studied organ with Martha Fisher, Lou Carol Fix, Timothy Harrell and piano with Eugene Albulescu. Mark received his undergraduate degree from Lehigh University in 2006, with majors in Psychology and Music. Mark is a second-year law student at Drexel University College of Law, the recipient of a full merit-based scholarship, and will graduate in 2009. This year in addition to taking classes, as part of his education he is working for the General Counsel's office for St. Luke's Hospital & Health Network in Bethlehem. During the summer, he interned for the Honorable Jack Panella of the Superior Court of Pennsylvania.

Stephen L. Wysocki is the Organist and Choir Director at Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church of Pleasant Valley. From 1986 to 1997, he was the Organist and Choir Director at St. John's Lutheran Church Ridge Valley. He studied organ with Gerald Mummert, Timothy Albrecht, and Suzanne Caldwell-Rhiel. Steve received his Bachelor's degree from Lebanon Valley College, with a major in Elementary Education and a minor in Music. He later graduated from Wilkes University with a Master's in Education. Steve is a teacher in the Quakertown Community School District and his wife Deb teaches science at Lenape Middle School in Doylestown. Steve and Deb have three children: Eric, Elise, and Luke – all students in the Palisades School District.



The Dedication Plaques

To the Glory of God

The pipe Organ
Dedicated on October 9, 1904
C. S. Haskell Organ Co.

Rebuilt and Dedicated
May 1, 1949
Fritzche Organ Co.

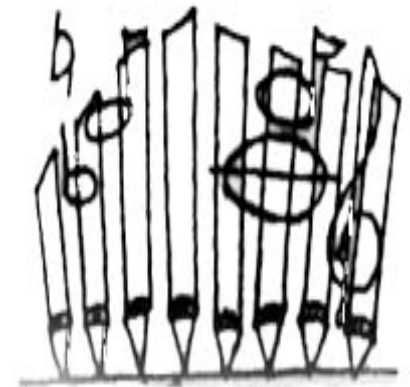
Rebuilt and Dedicated
All Saints' Sunday, November 1, 1987
Lehigh Organ Co.

**“When in our music God is glorified,
And adoration leaves no room for pride,
It is as though the whole creation cried:
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.”**
Lutheran Book of Worship – Hymn 555

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH RIDGE VALLEY 2007 ORGAN SPECIFICATIONS

GREAT

*16' Violon
8' Montre
8' Flûte à Cheminée
8' Dulciane
* 8' Dulciane Celeste
4' Prestant
* 4' Koppelflute
2' Doublette
2' Flûte
II Cornet (TC)
IV Fourniture
8' Trompette
Chimes
* Zimbelstern
16' Swell to Great
8' Swell to Great
4' Swell to Great
4' Great to Great
Unison Off



SWELL

8' Gemshorn
8' Holzgedackt
8' Salicional
8' Voix Celeste (*1 – 12 Digital)
* 4' Principal
4' Flûte Harmonique
4' Viola
2 2/3' Nazard
2' Spitz Principal

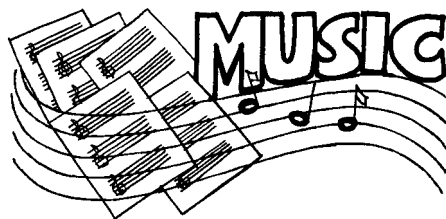
Restored with Digital Voice Additions and Dedicated
On the Eve of All Saints' Sunday, November 3, 2007.
Pipe Organ Work by Emery Brothers, Inc.
Digital Additions by Walker Technical Company.

* 8' Cromhorne
 8' Schalmey
 8' Vox Humana
 (continued)
 * Harp
 Tremulant
 16' Swell to Swell
 Unison Off
 4' Swell to Swell

PEDAL

*16' Principal
 16' Bourdon
 16' Quintaden (SW)
 * 8' Octave
 8' Bourdon
 4' Basse de Chorale
 4' Cor de Nuit
 * 16' Trumpet
 16' Basson (SW)
 8' Schalmey (SW)
 8' Great to Pedal
 4' Great to Pedal
 8' Swell to Pedal
 4' Swell to Pedal

Stops marked with an asterisk * indicate
 Walker Digital voices



The History of the Pipe Organ

On June 25, 1899, the cornerstone was laid for the present building and on June 10, 1900, the new church was consecrated. For the first few years a Mason and Hamlin parlor organ was used and this old organ can still be seen in the Coffee Fellowship area

The beginning - 1904

On January 1, 1904, the Congregation authorized the purchase of a pipe organ from the Philadelphia firm of C. S. Haskell. The proposed cost was sixteen hundred dollars. The Congregation requested that, John S. Richard, Secretary and Deacon solicit industrialist Andrew Carnegie, for a grant of six hundred dollars toward the purchase of the pipe organ. On November 1, a letter was received stating that Mr. Carnegie would contribute the last half of the organ cost.

Mr. Carnegie had a great interest in music and over a period of 45 years he gave over six million dollars toward the building of pipe organs, concert halls and libraries. St. John's is one of over 1300 pipe organs in Pennsylvania which received funding from Mr. Carnegie.

Mr. Carnegie's interest in church organs can best be described in an article written by him for the San Francisco Chronicle, August 17, 1919.

“I was traveling from Pittsburgh to New York many years ago and I was approached by a clergyman who asked me if I would give him a pulpit for his church. I replied that I would not give him a pulpit, but that I should be happy to give him an organ. And in answer to his expressions of surprise and curiosity I added that I chose that gift as I should not care to be held responsible for the utterances from a pulpit, but that I should be glad to take a chance on those from an organ.”

≡Andrew Carnegie

The early 1900's were not immune from hidden costs. The final cost for the 1904 pipe organ came to seventeen hundred dollars.

The Haskell pipe organ served the congregation and assisted in leading the liturgy of the church to the glory of God for forty-four years.

An opportunity to build on past blessings.

The year 1948 offered an opportunity to add and improve upon the blessings of the past. Following the communion service on May 16, 1948, a meeting of the congregation was held to consider rebuilding the 1904 Haskell pipe organ. The rebuilding project, which was approved included the removing of the old console from the chamber wall, remodeling the choir area, "using all old metal and wooden pipes, with new swell box, most modern electric combination controls, etc. (Congregational Meeting Minutes, May 16, 1949).

The work was completed by Paul Fritzsche, of Allentown for the amount of thirty-seven hundred dollars, "plus extras, not counting carpentry, 110V or 220V electric work, alterations (to choir area), or any work done to church to provide for organ." (Congregational Meeting Minutes, May 16, 1949).

The dedication of the Fritzsche pipe organ was held on Sunday, May 1, 1949 with the morning dedication service at 10:00 a.m., Organ Recital at 2:30 p.m., and Evening Vespers at 7:30 p.m.

The Fritzsche pipe organ was strongly influenced by the theater pipe organ that was popular in America during the 1940's. The Vox Humana, along with other voices, provided the pipe organ with the ability to produce a deep, mellow type sound.

A Venture in Faith.

Time, however, had taken its toll on the fine leather work, pipes and electrical connectors of the 1949 Fritzsche pipe organ. Cement blocks, vases from the early 1900's Red Service Book and Hymnals, and Blue Parish Hymnals were over the years retired to the organ chamber to provide additional weight to the aging "bellows". Our talented organists, over the years, have shown their skill by providing emergency attention to loose pipes and torn leather. "Johnson and Johnson band aids" have on one or more occasions been attached to the organ leather in the early hours of Sunday morning to aid the organ during the 10:15 a.m. worship hour.

The 1949 Fritzsche pipe organ, like the 1904 Haskell pipe organ, had faithfully served the congregation of St. John's. The glorious sounds from the pipes has enriched the worship life of the congregation not only on Sunday morning, but for many special festival services, weddings, and funerals.

In 1982 an organ renovation committee was formed to review the condition of the Fritzsche pipe organ. The committee met with several representatives from larger organ firms as well as local builders. The purpose of these meetings was to determine the condition of the pipe organ, and the cost for rebuilding or replacing the pipe organ. The project was tabled when it became apparent that there was no agreement from the congregation on which direction to take – replace with an electronic organ or rebuild the existing pipe organ.

The pastoral vacancy resulting from the resignation of the Reverend David Fritch also drew the congregation's attention to calling a new pastor. On May 15, 1983, a call was extended by the congregation to senior seminarian William A. Vanderslice. In 1984, Pastor Vanderslice with the approval of the Church Council appointed a new organ renovation committee consisting of two members from the 1983 committee as well as representatives from the Finance

Committee, Worship and Music Committee and Alter Guild. The newly formed committee reviewed the minutes and reports from the 1983 committee. The members of the organ renovation committee, after careful consideration, decided to investigate the rebuilding of the pipe organ. The committee contracted with three church organists as consultants to review the existing “stop list” on the 1949 Fritzsche pipe organ. Their reports were combined and contacts were made with four organ builders, including Henry L. Fabry, Inc., Fritzsche Organ Co, Inc., Lehigh Organ Company, and Wicks Organ Company.

Meetings were then scheduled with each of the organ builders to receive proposals on rebuilding the pipe organ. These proposals were then compared with the reports from the three organist consultants and a list of specifications was then compiled.

Mr. Roberts, Chairman of the Organ Renovation Committee, reported to the congregation at its annual meeting on October 20, 1985 with the recommendation of the committee to rebuild the existing pipe organ. The following was recommended in conjunction with the rebuilding project: using as much of the existing pipe work after cleaning and revoicing, the addition of four to six new voices to the instrument, the construction of all new windchests and reservoirs, a new blower and rebuilt expression box, new relays and couplers, and the rebuilding of the console.

The committee expressed its feeling in regards to replacing the pipe organ with an electronic organ by stating: “to replace the existing pipe organ with an electronic organ would only imitate at best the dignity and quality of sound that has been produced over the last eighty years by our pipe organ. To leave the organ in its present state would be a disservice to the rich musical blessing passed down from the saints of previous generations who held the worship of God supported by fine music as a primary activity in their lives.”

The congregation upon reviewing the recommendations from the organ renovation committee approved the rebuilding project with an initial cost guideline of sixty thousand dollars.

Mr. Edwin Roberts in October of 1985, resigned as the Organist Choir Director to assume his new responsibilities in Norristown, Pa. Pastor Vanderslice then consulted with the Church Council and appointed Mr. Fred Schirk as the new chairman of the committee.

The committee then held final meetings with the organ builders and decided to award the rebuilding contract to Organ Builder, Mr. John C. Gumpy, President and owner of Lehigh Organ Company, Macungie, Pa.

Specifications for the rebuilding project were finalized between the committee and Mr. Gumpy in March 1986. A special congregational meeting was then held on March 16, 1986 to consider the specification list and rebuilding contract with Lehigh Organ Company. The congregation after reviewing the specification list, as described by Mr. Fred Schirk, authorized the church council and organ renovation committee on behalf of the congregation to award the rebuilding contract in the amount of sixty-five thousand and two hundred dollars to Lehigh Organ Company. The rebuilding contract for the pipe organ between St. John’s and Lehigh Organ Company was then signed on March 25, 1986.

Mr. Gumpy began his project at St. John’s by analyzing the church’s musical program and conducting an acoustical study in order to satisfy physical, visual and musical requirements.

A new organist is appointed and several projects begin.

Mr. Roy Hafler, chairman of the Organist Search Committee at the August 1986 meeting of Church Council, recommended the name of Mr. Stephen L. Wysocki as the new Organist Choir Director. Mr. Wysocki joined the staff.

Dedicated All Saints' Sunday, November 1, 1987

While many persons are responsible for the excellent instrument that is being dedicated today at St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church in Ridge Valley, no effort can begin to equal the sacrifice manifested by those individuals who in 1904 and 1949 gave again and again out of what little means they had in order to provide this present generation with music to praise God.

Together on this "All Saints Sunday" we lift our hearts in grateful praise of God for those saints who provided us with the inspiration and self-giving love that has been an example to each of us. Today we build on their true devotion to insure the best of music for the worship of almighty God. With the saints of past generations, with cherubim and seraphim, we proclaim, to Him be all glory forever. Together we lift our voices high and sing:

"When in our music God is glorified. And adoration leaves no room for pride. It is as though the whole creation cried: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!"

-- Lutheran Book of Worship Hymn No. 555

2006 – Another Beginning

In January, 2006 a number of issues had been identified which suggested that repair work was required on the organ. In April, the Church received a letter from the pipe organ firm that had been doing the tuning and maintenance work on the organ. The letter stated that they would not quote on the requested repair work as they were not qualified to do the work.

In April, Council appointed the Pipe Organ Task Force, consisting of Mark Gottesfeld, Fred Schirk, Bob Snyder and Dick Warmkessel, to find a pipe organ firm qualified to do the repairs. Two organ authorities were consulted and they both recommended that we consider the local firm of Emery Brothers, Inc. A meeting was held with Stephen Emery, during which we investigated and discussed all of the known issues with the organ. We confirmed that the existing control wiring did constitute a possible safety hazard and to merely replace the wiring would be both difficult and costly. Most of the other problems centered around the existing console controller and the equipment manufacturer was no longer in existence. Repair parts would become increasingly difficult to locate. Mr. Emery recommended replacing the existing controller with a "solid state", controller along with a solid state relay system.

There had been discussion of adding digital, (electronic), voices to the organ in order to augment the existing pipes. It was not possible to add pipes to the organ due to the extreme cost and lack of space in the pipe chamber. Mr. Emery also said that the cost to add digital voices while the organ is being renovated would be less costly than if done as a separate project at a later date. Mr. Emery was asked to prepare budget and recommendations based on the following:

- Replace the main device, in the console with a new "solid state", (electronic), controller.
- Furnish a new compatible relay system in the pipe chamber.
- Replace all control wiring in the console and to the new relay system.
- Eliminate the problem of loose stop tabs by rebuilding the console to include a new expanded stop tab board.
- Include an estimate to furnish six digital voices for the organ. The selection of the specific voices would be made at the time the work is authorized.

The total cost for all of the above listed work was \$50,265.00.

The Pipe Organ Task Force agreed to recommend approval of this project at the Annual Congregational Meeting on October 15, 2006. Following the approval of the organ project, the Task Force reviewed the contract with the organ builders, Emery Brothers, and signed the contract in December 2006.

Orders were placed for all of the new control materials and we then worked on the selection of the digital voices that were to be added to the organ. Mr. Robert Walker, the manufacturer of the digital equipment, met with us and was a great help in recommending voices that would both enhance the present organ as well as balance out areas where supplemental voices were needed. (*See the Specifications for the final voices added to the organ.*)

During the week after Easter, Emery Brothers removed the console for the necessary rebuilding and installation of the new solid state control system. At the same time the church received settlement on the insurance claim for the soot damage to the sanctuary and adjacent areas. The settlement included most of the money required to remove and clean all of the organ pipes and clean the pipe chamber.

With the return of the console and the new relay system, installation was started and the new wiring between the console and the pipe chamber was started. During the month of June, the work had progressed to the point that the organ was able to be used for services. For the first time we were also able to hear the new digital voices.

During the installation, some problems were identified relating to work done prior to the current project. These items were addressed, including a rebuilding of the chimes which have not worked properly for several years.

Our goal has been for the organ to continue to contribute to the important music life of St. John's for many years to come.

This goal would never have been met without the commitment of a caring congregation and those friends of St. John's who have made today's Celebration possible. In 1904, Andrew Carnegie helped to make the original organ possible. Later, in the 1950's, a young man by the name of Richard Snyder became the organist at St. John's. Throughout the years, Richard has been a special friend of St. John's with his generous gifts to the Church and the Organ Fund.

With God's blessings and the many who have cared for the organ, we now celebrate and look forward to another one hundred years in the life of this beautiful instrument.

