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4,000-pound 1906 model—

Local church gets new organ

Fairfield's First Lutheran Church is preserving a bit of history, getting a bargain that would make most shoppers pant, and improving the caliber of their organ music in one fell swoop.

"We're very excited about our new organ," says Rev. Keith Lingwall of the immense addition to the church balcony, a 19-6-vintage pipe organ manufactured by the J.G. Peffer Co. "It's not only going to improve our worship experience but also it's giving us a chance to help preserve something that should be preserved."

Michael Quinby of Warrensburg, Mo., has the job of installing the 4,000-pound instrument, and he swears by the fact that it is in excellent condition.

That's important to members of the congregation at First Lutheran, because he says that the church "got stung" when they purchased their last organ, the components of which were recently distributed among whoever would take them.

Quinby installs organs for the Organ Clearing House, a department of the Organ Historical Society of Wilmington, Ohio. The clearing house matches churches which need an organ with available instruments — often those from inner-city or country churches which for one reason or another are forced to close.

First Lutheran's new organ comes from the First Presbyterian Church of Peabody, Kan., a now-defunct rural church.

One of the good things about the clearing house is that it can provide organs for an amazingly small percentage of the cost from another source. Lingwall estimates that his congregation has about \$11,500 invested in the organ, and Quinby says that a brand new one of the same quality would cost the church in the neighborhood of \$52,000.

Quinby calls First Lutheran's new instrument "uptown" because it is a mechanical-action model, which he says is currently the most popular. Every function of the 13-rank, two keyboard instrument is mechanical-action except an electric blower, which is a nice feature because it replaces a

hand-pumped blower.

The organ has 731 speaking pipes — pipes which actually play — and is just an inch shy of fourteen feet tall. Members of the First Lutheran congregation donated their time and labor in lowering the balcony floor so the instrument would fit.

Quinby says that once installed the organ should be nearly maintenance-free because, unlike many instruments, it has no leather diaphragms beneath

each pipe which have to be overhauled every 30 years or so.

If you know of a church in need of an organ, don't feel that Lutherans here have gotten a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. Quinby says the clearing house has some 50 more instruments waiting for new owners and that many of the larger ones are free for the asking. For information, write: The Organ Clearing House, Box 209, Wilmington, Ohio.



NEW ORGAN — Fairfield's First Lutheran Church is currently installing a 1906 pipe organ. In charge of installation is Michael Quinby, Warrensburg, Mo., an employee of the Organ Clearing House which matches available instruments with organizations that need organs. At right is Rev. Keith Lingwall, pastor at the church.—LEDGER PHOTO