Free Organ! But...

Lord of Life Lutheran Church (Tabernacle, NJ)

In September 2024, twelve members of Lord of Life visited St. Paul's Lutheran Church (Collingswood, NJ). St. Paul's had closed in April and was in the process of being sold. The church had a digital Allen organ (MDS-40-S) that was in excellent condition and was being made available to anyone interested in it. After hearing the organ, we determined that it had the potential to fill our sanctuary with beautiful music and equip our musicians to lead the church's song for many years, so we expressed interest in acquiring it.

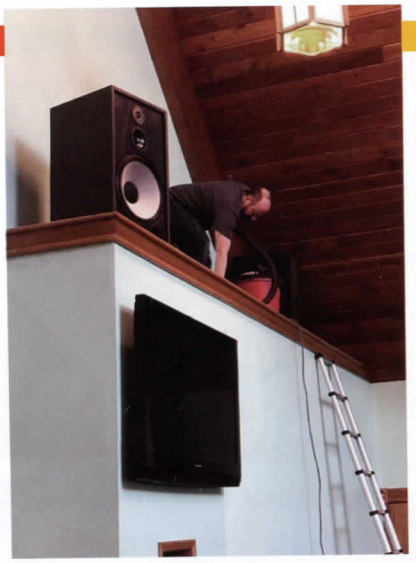
In speaking with the pastor who was overseeing the sale of the property for the NJ Synod, he said that we could have the organ for free. However, we would be responsible for removing the organ and speakers from St. Paul's and bringing them to our church. Because of the positioning of the speakers above the chancel, we needed to hire a professional organ-moving company to remove and transport everything. Since we were not expecting this opportunity to arise, we did not have any money budgeted for a project like this. We were also faced with the imminent sale of St. Paul's, so removal needed to occur quickly.

The ALCM grant funds helped our congregation defray the cost of moving, installing, and servicing the organ. The organ was successfully installed at Lord of Life and dedicated in a special service on March 2, 2025; members of St. Paul's were invited to attend. J. S. Bach's "Toccata and Fugue in D minor" (BWV 565) was played as a prelude, and Claude Debussy's "Clair de Lune" was played for the dedication piece. Going forward, we plan

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The Allen MDS-40-S organ is moved to its new home.





Speakers are installed in their new home.



Members of Lord of Life's Organ Relocation Committee and the choir gathered at the dedication of the new organ.

to use the organ to accompany hymns and songs, as well as our adult choir, youth choir, handbell ensemble, praise team, ukelele ensemble, vocalists, and instrumentalists. We are also planning to host concerts and other musical events and invite community members to attend.

We have been told the organ should be able to accommodate the needs of our church for many years. We would like to thank the grant selection committee and everyone involved with the ALCM for helping us with this project. We truly appreciate it! Blessings!!

—Rick Krause, Director of Worship and Music Ministry

Photos provided by the author.