

RE: Chapel Organ

It seems to be wise to begin thinking about replacing the pipe organ in the chapel SOON. I offer the following reasons:

1. The keyboard is even more difficult to play than it was ten years ago. It has a "mushy" touch that makes hymn playing difficult, so say nothing of incidental service music.
2. The pipe work needs serious work. We can expect to have a continuing problem with sticking pipes, etc.
3. The fine heritage of Lutheran church music and the excellent current publications are not written for this style of instrument. The instrument has only one small 2' flute stop and no mixtures or mutation stops. It is not able to be used as a teaching tool for good Lutheran music.
4. Professor Albrecht continued to delay beginning the replacement project because of master plan uncertainty. The master plan at this point does not indicate a major renovation of the chapel. Plans seem to be able to be firmed up at this point.
5. Continued delay will not assure that necessary funds can be gathered to cover the full cost of replacement. Organ prices are going through the roof.

We seem to have these options:

1. Revoice the present pipe system toward classical voicing, reinstall them in a case at the rear of the chapel, and purchase a new console.
2. Purchase a new 10-12 rank classical instrument at a cost of about \$60,000 to \$70,000.

Whichever of the above options we choose, we face two problems:

1. A cost problem. The \$30,000 in the organ fund is not sufficient to carry out either of the above proposals.
2. A P.R. problem. What will local people think when they hear the WLS is spending money on two organs?

Solutions:

1. I believe we can solve the COST problem as follows:
  - aa. Borrow money from the Seminary trust fund earnings at a fair rate of interest and repay the amount by means of offerings at concerts and at special organ/hymn festivals during the first year after the installation.
  - bb. This loan could also be repaid through larger gifts as area Seminary supporters begin to hear of definite plans to build.
2. I believe we could solve the P.R. problem as follows:
  - aa. The lead time to install an organ is from 2 to 3 years. The auditorium project would be long complete by the time the chapel organ is installed.
  - bb. We will want to make it clear that this project is being completed with monies which have been collected over the years.

FEEDBACK AND SUGGESTIONS