

Pastor Brian's  
Midweek Message  
May 18, 2022

**"ORGAN TRANSPLANT"**

*So I will praise You with the harp for Your faithfulness, O my God; I will sing praise to You with the lyre, O Holy One of Israel. (Psalm 71:22)*

Today is yet another big day in the short life of Trinity Lutheran Church of SW Florida. We are welcoming a new musical addition to our worship and praise of our God, an Allen GeniSys GX-335 Three-Manual, 45 Stops Organ. Our current organ, which has served us faithfully since we moved into our building, has pretty much run its life's course, and we thank Lanette and Earl Schmidt for providing it for our worship services these past 6+ years.



I did a little online research and learned that the organ dates as far back as the 3<sup>rd</sup> century BC and was an invention of the ancient Greeks. The earliest accounts of one being used in a church comes from the late 9<sup>th</sup> century AD, although the how and why remains shrouded in mystery. By the 1400s, just prior to the Reformation, organs were widely used in monasteries and cathedrals throughout Europe. The "modern organ" with nearly all the features of today's models emerged between 1510 and 1520.

Martin Luther produced his famous "95 Theses" in 1517 and was excommunicated by the Catholic Church in 1521. Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750) composed 11 volumes of works for the organ.

The church organ has been the preferred instrument in accompanying worship due to its sustained tones that beautifully support the congregational and choral singing. The wide range of tones helps to enhance the meaning of the hymn texts and add drama. The use of the organ today helps to maintain the heritage of the Church and keep us connected to the traditions of those who have gone on in the faith before us.

This Sunday in our worship service we will be blessing the organ and commissioning it for the service of the Lord early on in the liturgy. The pre-service and opening hymn will be accompanied on the Clavinova electronic keyboard, and immediately following the Rite of Blessing we will begin to sing to the wonderful sounds of our new Allen Organ, played by our Organist Dr. John Behnke.



On Sunday June 19<sup>th</sup> at 4:00pm we will be hosting an organ concert given by John Behnke. We invite all members and friends of TLC, fellow Christians in the area, and all who love organ music to come hear and enjoy this beautiful instrument. A dinner will follow the concert, and a free will offering will be taken to benefit our Trinity Lutheran Church of SW Florida Building Fund.