

*We are in the final days of our Sacred Space 2 campaign and hope that you have felt inspired by the videos you've seen, sermons you've heard and communications you've received. You've likely learned new things about Redeemer's rich heritage, our myriad ministries, our vision going forward and our current inadequacies. In this, our final campaign newsletter, we are focusing on the music programs at our church home. Don't forget that you can access all Sacred Space information on our website at [www.redeemberbirmingham.org](http://www.redeemberbirmingham.org)*



## Let There Be Music

You probably think that singing hymns and liturgy at church is a 'given'. But, prior to the Reformation, worshippers did not naturally get to glorify God through song. In fact, congregational singing had been banned by the Roman Catholic Church. We can thank Martin Luther for our vocal participation in today's services. He re-established congregational singing as the center of church life, helping make the church service an active experience, as opposed to the previous

approach where the congregation had no voice. Music is deeply embedded within the Lutheran style of worship and there is power in uniting as a congregation to offer thanksgiving to God in song.

Redeemer has a variety of musicians and choirs that enrich our worship with their contributions. We regularly have the Chancel Choir, Bell Choir, Redeemer Brass, Youth Choir, Heart of Worship, and the Praise Team, with each of these groups practicing once per week. Additionally, we have the Wing and a Prayer theater group, as well as special services and presentations at Christmas and Easter, bringing in many, many more musical experiences. There's

*Oh come, let us sing to the  
LORD; let us make a joyful  
noise to the rock of our  
salvation!  
Psalm 95:1*

a good chance that you've seen how crowded the sanctuary becomes on one of our special music Sundays.

What you may not know is that prior to Sacred Space I, the music department had three rooms to house all of these activities. This space was given up in order to accommodate a larger nursery and the Town Square, with the understanding that the space would be re-instated during Sacred Space 2.

The music department currently functions from a single room that is not sufficient for evening rehearsals or Sunday morning activities. In addition to housing the piano and the chairs for the singers, this room also plays home to all the music files, the music accessories (stands, microphones, etc), and the choir, acolyte and elder robes, to say nothing of a timpani drum in the bathroom. It's fair to state that this room is less than inviting to a visiting worshipper. No matter how well organized, the room reflects chaos.



having to setup and breakdown each week, and another room will house all of the music files. And, the new sanctuary will provide flexible accommodations for all of our own choirs as well as visiting musicians.

Importantly, this new space should encourage other people to participate in our music programs and help us better fulfill our mission of bringing others to Christ.



Due to lack of space, the youth choir practices in the Fellowship Hall where people are always walking through. The bell choir splits practices between the Fellowship Hall and the sanctuary.

With Sacred Space 2, the plan is to restore the music ministries space that was given up during Sacred Space 1. The existing room will have some closets and the filing cabinets removed, making additional floor space that can accommodate movable risers. Additionally, two more rooms will be added so that the Bell Choir can have its own space without



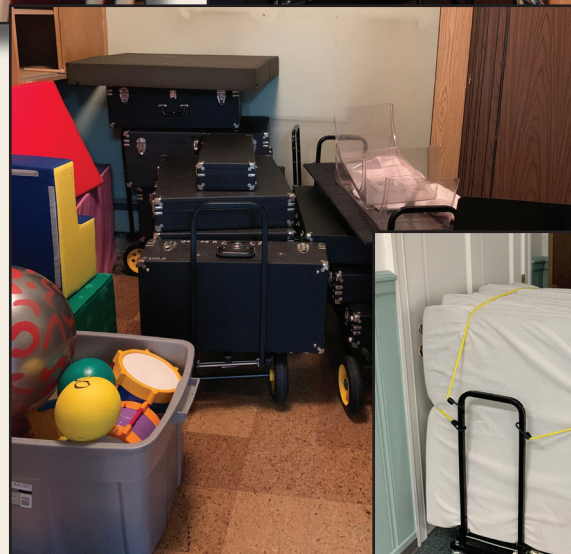
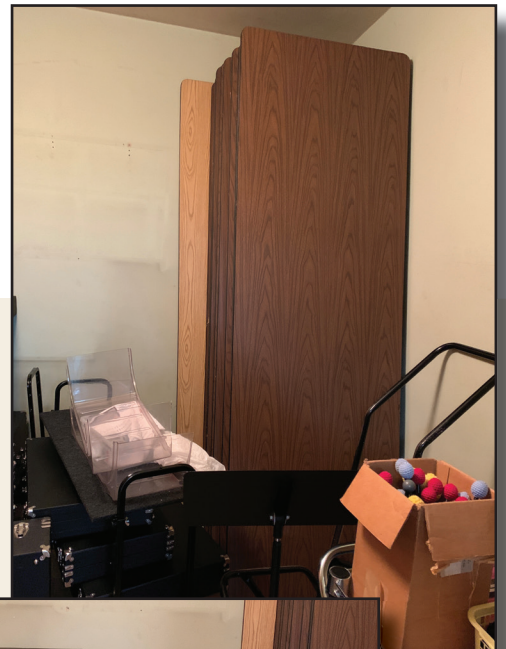


# The Bell Choir Workout

It's a lovely experience to listen to the dulcet tones of the bell choir, typically inducing a feeling of peace and all being right with the world. However, here's what it takes from the choir members to create that music.

The bell rehearsals are typically held in the Fellowship Hall where the bells are stored in a basement closet shared with Mom's Day Out toys. Each Thursday evening, the choir members move toys out of the way to access the bell cases, which measure about 36" x 30" x 8" and have some heft to them. Setup of the bells and the practice tables takes about 30 minutes and then all the breakdown time after rehearsal.

Practicing or performing in the sanctuary adds another level of accessibility difficulty. In these instances, the cases have to be moved upstairs via the elevator. While some members are getting bells, other are setting up the bell tables, which are currently stored in the closet across from the sacristy, and often blocked by other items. This all requires about 60 minutes of setup time. Then 90 minutes later, it's time to take all of this down until the following week. We should advertise that joining this choir also includes an aerobic workout. With Sacred Space 2, the Bell Choir will have its own space that won't require this setup/breakdown each week.





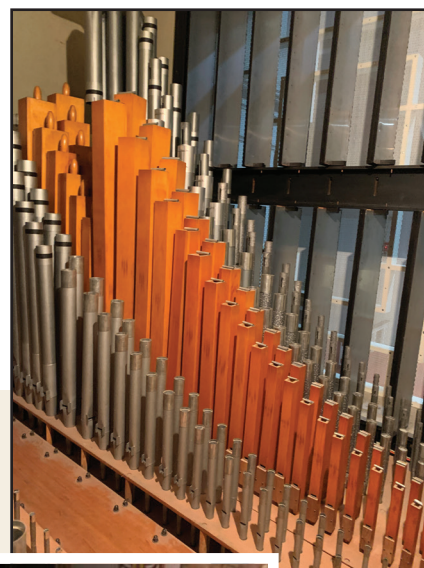
# All About the Organ

Just as congregational singing is a crucial part of Lutheran worship, the organ is the foundational instrument in the history of Lutheran ministry. The pipe organ is likely the only instrument really capable of supporting Redeemer's liturgical worship style. Yet, our 80-year-old organ is finding it harder and harder to keep up with the task. Due to the many controls/stops that simply don't function, it takes a very astute musician to get anything decent out of the current instrument. And, even then there have been more than a few instances where the organ simply would not play.

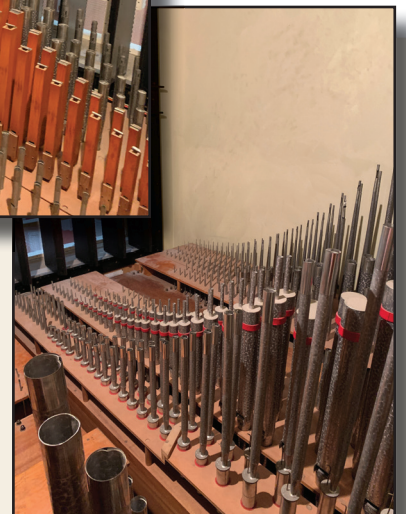
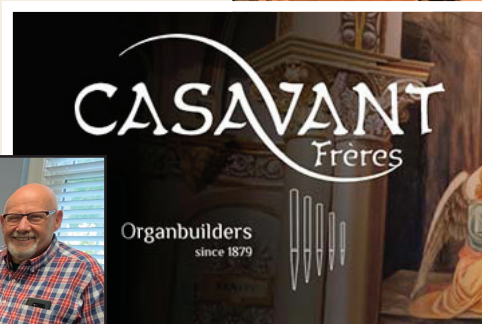
All pipe organs have to be refurbished after a period of time, and we are long overdue for a rebuild of our instrument. To lead us in the project, we are consulting with Casavant Frères in Montreal. Founded in 1879, Casavant is one of the best known and most respected pipe organ builders in the world. Luckily, we will be able to take the best of our current organ and incorporate it into the new instrument. The new pipes will be placed at the front of the sanctuary, providing an experience that cannot really be described through words, but believed to be transformational to our

worship. And, the console will be moveable and able to accommodate whatever configuration may be needed for different musical occasions.

A new instrument will provide decades of inspiration for generations to come, becoming a part of the Redeemer legacy. And when new musicians apply for the position here, one of the big reasons they'll want to come is that they'll have a wonderful instrument to make music for generations of Redeemer worshippers.



*Current pipes located in the closet*



*From the left: Steve Schneemann (MCD, architect), Simon Couture (Casavant, organ builder), Dave Wagner (LCR, organist), Pastor Randy, Ron Cieslak (MCD, architect.)*



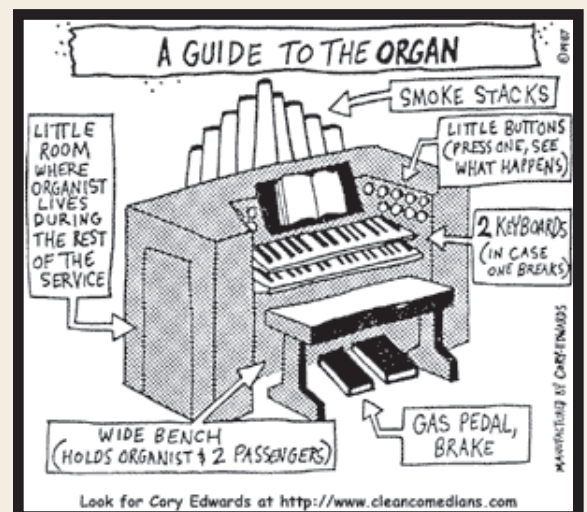


# The Man Behind the Instrument

You may think that it all sounds just fine from the organ. Well, do not be fooled. Much of that is due to the talents of our organists, both past, Jan Pflieger, and present, Dave Wagner (aka Dr. Dave). Dave Wagner holds a Doctor of Musical Arts degree from the University of Michigan and has performed all over the United States and in England, Wales, Scotland, Ireland, France, Hungary and Russia. He has also been organist and harpsichordist with the Detroit Symphony Orchestra. Dr. Dave has played a crucial role in evaluating the state of our current instrument and what will be required to build a new organ optimized for our new sanctuary.



In his spare time, he is WRCJ's (90.9 FM) program director as well as host of *The Morning Show*, 6-10am, and Dr. Dave's *Drive Time Elixir*, 3-7pm, Monday – Friday. His wry sense of humor combined with his vast musical knowledge should not be missed. Try setting your wakeup alarm to his daily 7:15am "Sousalarm."





# Why Should I Give

You may have accomplished many things and as it comes time to evaluate your Sacred Space 2 commitment, you may think “I’ve worked hard for everything I have. I’ve earned all this. Why should I share it?” As we focus on our earthly life and our stuff, we tend to forget that everything in our lives is due to God and everything belongs to God. We are caretakers, not owners. That is why Martin Luther said there are three conversions necessary in the life of a believer, “The conversion of the heart, the conversion of the mind, and the conversion of the purse.”

*“Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me.  
John 14:1*

God doesn’t need our money - he is the creator of the universe and has access to all the resources of the world. He asks us to give so that we can examine our priorities, so that we can break free from the bonds of materialism, and so that we have a way to show how grateful we are for the ultimate sacrifice that was made to save us. Giving first to God through the church actually achieves many benefits, including:

- Creating community
- Making us less anxious about our own money
- Simplifying our life
- Prioritizing our values
- Realizing our joy is not found in possessions

How many of us have fallen into the trap of buying as much house or as expensive of a car as we can afford? Giving to God and others puts this into perspective. Stewardship invites us to ask not “how much can we afford?”, but rather, “How much do we need?”

It might be easy to say that you trust God to provide for your needs, but it’s quite another to put that trust into action. The challenge for all of us during this campaign is to find quiet time to sit down with our spouse (if married), and

really evaluate what we are giving to God in terms of our money and our resources. It is a blessing and privilege to give. If the giving is being done without any sense of sacrifice, then you may be missing an opportunity to let God more fully bless your life.

It can be liberating to let go of money and instead cling to our Father. It’s all from God. It all belongs to God. And it’s up to us to decide whether or not we trust Him enough to give it back to him.

*Three conversions necessary in the life of a believer, “The conversion of the **heart**, the conversion of the **mind**, and the conversion of the **purse**.” -Martin Luther*



## How Much Should I Give?

As we reflect upon what kind of commitment we want to make to Sacred Space 2, wouldn't it seem so much easier if we were told a concrete amount to contribute? Most of us would like a clear answer to “how much should I give?” But, in 2 Corinthians 9:7 it says, “Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.” We are given immense freedom in deciding how much of our God given income we would like to donate.

As you reflect upon what you what kind of commitment you want to make to this capital campaign, consider the following:



# Sacred Space 2 Enhancements Summary

*So that all may have a place at His table*

## SANCTUARY

- Larger lobby (narthex) with visibility through to the sanctuary
- Natural light in the sanctuary via larger, yet traditional Redeemer windows
- Balcony access via two open stairways
- Longer pews and wider pew spacing
- New ADA compliant ramp access to the chapel, east end of the office corridor and sanctuary
- Handicap parking identified by the new sanctuary doors
- Wider side aisles to accommodate (or store) walkers and wheelchairs passing in both directions
- Dedicated sanctuary seating, front and back, for wheelchairs
- Access to communion distribution without having to navigate any stairs
- Inclined floor that improves the sightline of each pew
- New and improved sound system integrated with assistive listening devices
- New ADA compliant bathrooms (men's and women's) on the lower level
- Larger Town Square with more seating
- More direct access to and from the nursery and sanctuary
- Flexible seating that can accommodate 400 people regularly and over 600 as needed

## CHILDREN AND YOUTH PROGRAMS

- Six new classrooms that meet current licensing requirements
- New Christian Education Resource Center
- New multi-purpose fellowship space for children, youth and adults
- Four new bathrooms

## MUSIC

- A new organ with relocation of the existing organ pipes
- Additional dedicated practice space for vocal choirs and the bell choir
- Larger sanctuary chancel seating for vocal and bell choirs, and instrumentalists (eliminating folding chairs that block the communion access)
- An instrumental storage room
- Direct access between the music wing and the Town Square



## How Much Should I Give? *continued*

- Pray for guidance in reaching a financial decision that will be right for you and for the church
- Allow faith to become part of your decision. Look to God for guidance and He will help you with the decision you need to make.
- Consider sacrifice as a way to set apart a portion of what you have and to give something you personally value, as a way of expressing your love for God and Lutheran Church of the Redeemer

How much should we give? *“Give away your life; you’ll find life given back, but not merely given back—given back with bonus and blessing. Giving, not getting, is the way. Generosity begets generosity.”* Luke 6:38



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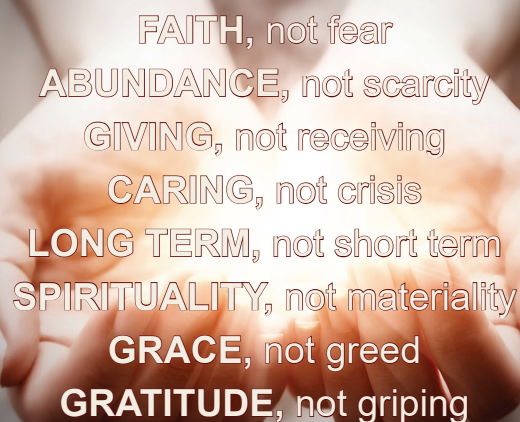
## Commitment Sundays

You should have received a Sacred Space 2 pledge card in the mail to turn in on our Commitment Sundays of Oct. 20 and Oct. 27. We will also have materials in the church for your use during these special services. If you are unable to make those dates, you can drop your card in the collection plate at any service or drop it off in the church office.

### Celebrate

October 20..... First Commitment Weekend  
October 27.....Second Commitment Weekend  
November 10.....Celebration Weekend

### Viewpoints for Giving



FAITH, not fear  
ABUNDANCE, not scarcity  
GIVING, not receiving  
CARING, not crisis  
LONG TERM, not short term  
SPIRITUALITY, not materiality  
GRACE, not greed  
GRATITUDE, not griping

### For More Information

Throughout the Sacred Space campaign, we will be sharing information with you in numerous ways with all information being stored for availability at any time on our website at [www.redeemberbirmingham.org/sacred-space-phase-2/](http://www.redeemberbirmingham.org/sacred-space-phase-2/). Or feel free to contact Steve Scheidt at [sacredspace@redeemberbirmingham.org](mailto:sacredspace@redeemberbirmingham.org).