

Co-Pastors
The Rev. Christian G. N. Holleck
The Rev. Tiffany Nicely Holleck

Minister of Music
Maggie Ribb



Ministry Administrator
Joanie Keating

Operations Administrator
Ann German

St. Peter's Lutheran Church
The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

September 15, 2022

Dear Members, Associate Members and Friends of St. Peter's,

You are invited to a special Congregation Meeting on Sunday, October 2, 2022 after the 9:30 AM worship service. We will be voting on the following motion:

The Organ Task Force moves to accept the Southfield Organ Company organ as a donation from St. Paul's Lutheran Church and to fund the necessary monies, up to \$350,000, required to dismantle, transport, rebuild and install the instrument including the expenses to modify our sanctuary. Such modifications may include:

- **Expansion, redesign and reconstruction of the altar space**
- **Removal of soffits**
- **Reconfiguration of electrical, plumbing, HVAC and AV as needed**
- **Emergency egress near the front of the sanctuary**

Please make an effort to attend this important meeting in person. A Zoom meeting link is available below for those unable to attend in person. Please take some time before the meeting to read and review the following letter from the Organ Task Force which provides information about the motion.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Peg Flood".

Peg Flood, Congregation Council President

Join Zoom Meeting via computer

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89441007010?pwd=RU8za3VNZ3BheU9EbFNmdVNkMHdYUT09>

Join Zoom meeting by phone: +1 929 205 6099

Meeting ID: 894 4100 7010

Passcode: 061482



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REPORT AND RECOMMENDATION OF THE ORGAN TASK FORCE

Dear Members, Associate Members, and Friends of St. Peter's Lutheran Church:

The Lutheran Church, and St. Peter's also, has a rich tradition of music. Over the last year and a half our Organ Task Force (OTF) has been working diligently to research and ultimately recommend the best option for replacement of our organ. We have tried to be mindful of fiscal concerns while also recognizing this as a unique opportunity to shape the worship and music ministry of the church for many decades. Our current instrument is an electronic organ that was installed by Associated Organ Builders in 1989. The company has been out of business nearly 30 years. Our organ is obsolete due to limited availability and or nonexistence of parts. Therefore, our organ could be unplayable with the next failed part, a scenario we wish to avoid.

The OTF visited 14 organs from Maine to Nantucket to Connecticut, and throughout our state, including Needham, Dennis, South Yarmouth, Hyannis Port, Chatham, East Longmeadow and Natick. We communicated with consultants, organists, rectors and parish leaders to learn about different types of organs, organ components and the role that organ music can play in growing a worship community. We also met with an organ builder in his workshop. There we observed the various materials and methods used in the intricate and lengthy construction process.

In the midst of all of this, we were contacted by a member of St. Paul's Lutheran in East Longmeadow, who advised us that their church was closing and their pipe organ would soon be available. The OTF travelled to East Longmeadow on two occasions. We were impressed by the beautiful appearance and sound of their Southfield Organ Company (SOC) instrument. We were deeply moved when we learned that St. Paul's was considering donating their organ to St. Peter's as they hoped that its Lutheran legacy would continue via our church! The OTF decided to contract with two reputable organ rebuilders / builders who would professionally assess the physical and tonal condition of the SOC organ. These companies were also charged to determine the feasibility and cost to dismantle, redesign, rebuild and install the instrument in our sanctuary. We learned that it was built in 1991 and due to its 'superb workmanship and pristine condition a new instrument of its specification and quality would be valued at \$750,000 to \$1 million. Both companies we contacted visited St. Paul's and St. Peter's to assess the space for size, acoustics and tonal quality. Both companies are reputable and both stated it was feasible. We then asked for quotes/estimates as to the cost of such a venture.



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In addition, we understood that installation of a replacement organ would require some structural changes to the sanctuary. With guidance from Pastor Christian and Pastor Tiffany the OTF met jointly on August 18 with some members of the “Sanctuary Space” and “Safety and Security” Task Forces to share ideas and discuss possible changes they were envisioning. The discussion broadly addressed modifications that would make the sanctuary more welcoming, accessible and safe while also providing the appropriate space for a new organ.

We have been advised that St. Paul’s final worship service is November 6th, All Saints Sunday. Their closing is scheduled for early October, and the purchasers do not want the organ – consequently, a decision regarding the organ’s future must be made. The Organ Task Force is therefore inviting you to attend a Special Congregational Meeting on October 2nd when we will present our proposal (below) followed by discussion and a vote. Please view the YouTube recordings of worship for September 11 and 18 if you missed the Temple Talks given by members of the Organ Task Force. Additional educational opportunities include a one-hour conversation with organist and Pastor Jeffrey Johnson of First Lutheran, Brockton, on Tuesday, September 27 at 1 pm at St Peter’s and a workshop with the Rev. Joe Marchio, Director of the Chatham Chorale on Wednesday, September 28 beginning at St. Peter’s at 1 pm before car pooling to First Congregational Church in Chatham.

None of this will happen quickly. First, in East Longmeadow, MA, the organ must be dismantled and packed in custom wooden containers, and then, delivered to the organ rebuilders in Tolland, CT. The initial work will be completed by the Organ Clearinghouse in late January 2023 for a quoted price of \$27,000. The OTF has chosen Foley-Baker, Inc. to oversee the dismantling, rebuilding and installing the organ. They have estimated an installation completion date in the first quarter of 2024. The quotation for their work is \$250,000. The timeline from these professionals provides us with about 18 months for financial planning and fundraising. Options for this are currently being explored in consultation with the Church Council and Finance Committee and will be further addressed at the congregational meeting.

Based on the above information, the motion is:

The Organ Task Force moves to accept the Southfield Organ Company organ as a donation from St. Paul’s Lutheran Church and to fund the necessary monies, up to \$350,000, required to dismantle, transport, rebuild and install the instrument including the expenses to modify our sanctuary. Such modifications may include:

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As Lutherans, music is one of the ways we glorify God. With God’s given talents our musical gifts are an opportunity to establish a legacy. The gift of this organ will also pass on a legacy that began 125 years ago at St. Paul’s. The Organ Task Force members believe this extraordinary gift will enhance our worship and music ministry in many ways. Ultimately, it will enable us to celebrate and continue our Lutheran liturgical tradition for future generations both within our congregation and our surrounding community. In conclusion, we ask that you please give this proposal your prayerful consideration.

With faith, The Organ Task Force

Lynn Archambault, coordinator; Paul Bongfeldt; Pr. Christian Holleck; Gayle Olson; Rodney Schuller; Alice Vaughan; Minister of Music Maggie Ribb, Ex Officio