

June 15, 1975

PIPE ORGAN OPUS 6096

The pipe organ installed in Grace Lutheran Church of Melbourne Beach was designed and built by M. P. Moeller Company of Hagerstown, Maryland in the year 1932. The name plate on the console states that it is Opus 6096, or the 6096 th pipe organ manufactured by Moeller. In the fall of 1974 Grace Lutheran was most fortunate to have the opportunity to obtain the pipe organ from Ascension Lutheran Church, Indian Harbor Beach, for the sum of one thousand dollars. A special dedication service at Grace Lutheran Church is being held today, June 15, 1975.

Prior to serving Ascension Lutheran Church, it is believed that the pipe organ was installed in a church in West Palm Beach. Originally, the instrument belonged to a family in South Florida.

The console of the pipe organ has two 61 note keyboards called the Great and Swell. The full pedal keyboard has 33 notes. The operation of the pipe organ is controlled from the console. When a note is pressed, a series of valves operated either electrically or pneumatically allow air to flow into a pipe(s). The air flowing in the pipe causes it to resonant at a certain frequency, thus producing the desired note to be heard.

High on the ledge in the back of the church are six different sets of pipes and the equipment for controlling the air flow and pressure. The wooden pipes are known as the Stopped Diapasons or Flutes. The largest is eight feet long and is the low "C" from the pedal keyboard. Over 200 wires are required to connect the equipment located on the ledge to the pipe organ console. When the instrument is completed, a total of 362 pipes will have been installed.

About twice a year it will be necessary for the pipes to be tuned. Due to the fact that the majority of the pipes are made of metal, they have a tendency to detune as the temperature in the church varies. A temperature change of only a few degrees will noticeably change the resonant frequency of a pipe.

This pipe organ also has nine couplers which increase the versatility of the instrument. A coupler allows more than one pipe at different octaves to sound as a result of playing only one note. For example, on a simple hymn over thirty pipes are sounding simultaneously.

It is not common to find a pipe organ located in a church in Florida. We at Grace Lutheran Church are proud to be one of those special churches with such a fine musical instrument.