Organ: Casavant-Freres 1976
Tracker (Mechanical)

The organ at Our Savior's Lutheran Church was built by Casavant Freres Limitee, under the supervision of Gerhard Brunzema. Mr. Normand Giard and Mr. Roger Chicoine assembled the instrument here on location. Our sales representative was Mr. Carroll Hanson.

This instrument is a modern tracker organ built according to the historic principles of organ building. It has eighteen ranks of pipes organized into eleven stops or voices as listed in the specification. The pipes are in three divisions: Manual I, located in the upper main-portion of the instrument; the Solo Manual, located in the lower center of the instrument; and the Pedal, located directly behind the Manual I and the Solo Manual. The visible pipes across the front of the instrument are a part of the 8' Praestare, "to stand in front". Manual I has a compass of 56 keys, the Solo Manual has a two and one-half octave compass beginning at middle C, while the pedal has a 30 note compass. The manual keys are made of rosewood; the sharps are of ivory overlay. The console is attached directly to the instrument in the form of a desk. The entire instrument is housed in two free-standing oak cases which serve to focus and blend the sound.

The sound of the instrument is the result of the happy marriage of excellent tonal design and a hard-surfaced acoustical environment. The tonal design follows the traditional principles which have evolved through the centuries of organ building. The tonal characteristics may be described as "classic". Each voice has definition, and yet the instrument has potential for widely varied stop coloring achieved through stop combinations. The organ is voiced on a low wind pressure. The pipes, which vary in length from eight feet to as little as one-quarter of an inch, are made of a mixture of tin and lead, and of oak, depending on the tonal requirements. The instrument is finished so that each rank of pipes has a distinctive voice, yet all voices blend to form a clarity and sturdiness of full organ tone specifically matched to the acoustical characteristics of the room in which it is heard.

The action of the instrument is entirely mechanical; that is, each key depressed by the player is directly linked with a valve in the wind chest beneath the pipes. This particular action is suspended near the front of the key, providing absolute control of the speech of the pipes, as sensitively as a harpsichord. The wind chests are constructed by means of the "tone channel" principle. Within each division, the pipes of the same pitch are placed on a common windway. When a key is depressed, air will pass into the tone channel, but only those pipes will speak which have been opened by means of a slider which is controlled by the stops. Thus, the name "slider chest" has also been applied to this design. Unforced natural winding from one "breath" source (wind reservoir) produces a sound very similar to, and easily blended with, vocal sound. All features combine to provide a superb instrument for congregational singing, choral and instrumental accompaniment, and the playing of a repertory that covers the whole range of one manual literature and the treble solo pieces of literature for two manuals as well. Because of the manner in which the organ is constructed, maintenance costs will be minimal, and the organ can be expected to serve indefinitely without major repair.