



# Concordia Theological Seminary

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

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6600 North Clinton Street  
Fort Wayne, Indiana 46825

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Trinity Lutheran Congregation  
824 Wisconsin Ave  
Sheboygan, WI 53081

Friends in Christ,

I have been asked by your pastors and organ committee to offer some insight into the important decision before you concerning the future of the organ at Trinity. First, let me say that in doing this I am not representing any company. However, I am gladly offering my first hand experience with the company that you are considering for the renovation of your present instrument – John-Paul Buzard Pipe Organ Company.

Buzard's Tonal Director, Brian Davis, designed two Swell reeds for St. Paul's Lutheran Church, where I am the Kantor. This was before Mr. Davis went to Buzard and was still working for Visser-Rowland. I cannot tell you how much St. Paul's loves those reeds. They completely transformed the Swell division of the organ. They are reeds with real character that work well both as a solo and in an ensemble, and that is not an easy thing to bring off.

At Kramer Chapel, where I also serve as Kantor, we recently added some new reed pipes and revoiced the big State Trumpet. This recent work by Buzard with Brian Davis as Tonal Director is even more successful than the St. Paul's additions. Your committee asked me to rate the State Trumpet before and after. My answer: the original was a 4, then after Fritz Noack's revoicing it was a 7, but now with the Buzard revoicing it is a 10. Kantor Kevin Hildebrand and Dr. Paul Grime agree with this assessment.

St. Paul's and Concordia Theological Seminary are very pleased with the quality and careful work received from Buzard. We believe that we can trust Keith Williams and his team to consistently give an outstanding product. And from our experience - if we were not happy with something, they would work with us until we were.

I have assessed your present instrument and Buzard's recommendations. I am convinced that this is the right company to basically give you a new instrument using the best from the old. This is good stewardship, this is wise, and I predict a glorious result.

Why all of this is important is because Lutherans care deeply about singing their faith. And it is the organ and choirs that lead us in that singing through a significant part of our weekly time together in the Divine Service. For Lutherans that brief time is wonderfully filled with sung liturgy and hymns. It is good and right for a church to move ahead in ways that could only strengthen that amazing heritage and congregational leadership for years to come.

In Christ

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Richard C. Resch". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "R".

Rev. Richard C. Resch

*Kantor and Associate Professor of Pastoral Ministry and Missions, CTS*

*Co-Director, Good Shepherd Institute of Pastoral Theology and Sacred Music*

*Kantor, St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Fort Wayne, IN*