

MULLER PIPE ORGAN COMPANY

PO Box 353 • Croton, Ohio 43013 • 800.543.0167 • www.mullerpipeorgan.com

Emanuel Lutheran Church Napoleon, Ohio

**Two manuals, 17 stops, 18 ranks
1921 Pilcher Organ Company
Rebuilt 2001**

In 1921, the original organ at Emanuel Lutheran Church was constructed by the Pilcher Organ Company of Louisville, Kentucky. The cost of the organ was \$3,500 and equaled 25% of the cost to build the entire building. The ten rank instrument was located at the right of the chancel.

In the 1950s, the sanctuary was remodeled and porous acoustical tile was installed on the sanctuary ceiling, impeding the speech of the instrument. When Emanuel Church contacted Muller Pipe Organ to inquire about rebuilding the organ, it was decided to delay the organ project until the unfavorable acoustical situation could be resolved. The acoustical consultant recommended hardening the ceiling and removing the carpeting. The church decided to take the recommendations a step further, resulting in a liturgical redesign of the entire worship space. Acoustical tile was removed, the ceiling was plastered, the floors and pews were sanded and refinished, and new flooring was installed in the chancel.

Muller designed and constructed the new two manual, eighteen rank organ, now located in the center of the chancel. The new casework is designed in the style of the original Pilcher case, and makes use of the original facade pipes, which were restored as part of the project. The Great principal chorus is unenclosed and located immediately behind the facade, with the remainder of the division under expression in an independent enclosure.

Tonally, our objective was to update the design of the instrument to more effectively lead liturgy. A moderately scaled and voiced principal chorus is found in the Great organ. Voiced to fill the nave with a gentle, warm sound, the Principals speak freely with a slight articulation. A delightful departure from what we typically use in most of our instruments, the retained Pilcher flutes and strings of this division retain the essence of the former organ, and add to the overall color and effect of the instrument.

The Swell organ is home to a secondary principal chorus. Possessing lesser stature than the Great, this chorus allows extraordinary depth and flexibility, especially in choral accompaniment. The strings and flutes are brighter in character and possess more classical articulation than those in the Great organ. A German style Trumpet and Oboe are the organ's two reeds. The Trumpet, playable on all manuals and pedal, serves both as a solo and chorus stop, and defines the instrument's exciting, full sound. The Oboe stands restored as a wonderful Romantic solo reed.

The entire playing mechanism of the organ is new. The fine existing console shell was refinished and fitted with new keyboards, stop controls, and combination action

Successfully blending new pipework with existing, the organ preserves the traditions of the past, while looking forward to the future. The new organ is well equipped to serve the congregation of Emanuel Church for generations to come.