

# 1887 Carl Barckhoff Pipe Organ

Carl Barckhoff Church Organ Co., Salem, Ohio

2 manual console, 2 ranks, 158 pipes

This pipe organ was originally purchased by the generous pledge donations of 5 Gustavus Adolphus College faculty members in late 1887 for the cost of about \$1300 dollars. It was completed January 9th, 1888 and installed in the South Hall of Gustavus Adolphus College in St. Peter, MN; just in time for recitals and concerts in January, March and May of that same year. According to a current organ builder, today's replacement cost would be approximately \$71,000 dollars and there are only about 30 remaining Barckhoff pipe organs in playing condition left in the United States.

Originally, the organ would have been built in a large, self-contained wooden enclosure; with mechanical "Tracker" console control action, a manual hand pump bellows air system, 73 wooden and 85 metal pipes totaling 158 pipes in all.

In 1907 the organ was reconfigured. A new console was added to change the mechanical console to electric control and electromagnet valve action at the air chests for the pipes. A new electric powered blower and air regulation system was added at this time to replace the hand pump bellows.

Shortly after World War II, the organ was relocated from the College's South Hall to the Myrum Memorial Fieldhouse, with final work completed in 1948. During the time in the Fieldhouse, the organ was used as a practice organ for music students and faculty.

Years passed and the organ had fallen into disuse. During a Gustavus Adolphus College reunion gathering, Richard Shager learned about the organ's disposition. Richard and his wife Neala Kay Shager then purchased the organ in 1970 from Gustavus Adolphus College and installed it at their home in Stillwater, MN.

The Shager's played the organ in their home until 1984, when the organ was loaned to the Trinity Lutheran Church in Stillwater, MN for use in their Heritage Chapel. The organ remained in the church for nearly 40 years until changes in the use of the Heritage Chapel required the removal of the organ, and led the Shager family to receive it back again.

In June 2023 the organ was removed from the Church and donated to the Almelund Threshing Company where it was installed and refurbished to what you see here today.