



# PIPELINE

American Organist Guild—Red River Valley Chapter

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December 2007

## A Natural Beauty

As a gift to the Fargo-Moorhead community our chapter presents the **Tenth Christmas Carol Sing-A-Long** in the stunning new sanctuary of the Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd at 4000 S. 28<sup>th</sup> St. in Moorhead on Sunday, December 2 at 7:00 pm.

The 2-manual, 34-rank Casavant organ has been moved to the new sanctuary and will be played by organists Sue Knorr, Michael Olson, Alpha Roeszler, Judy Sanders, Vicky Sieben and Mavis Tjon. Good Shepherd's Senior Choir, directed by Dr. Paul Nesheim, and the Chancel Bells, directed by Judy Sanders, and flutist Kirstin Carlson will also perform. In honor of this tenth presen-

tation, nature photographs by Jack Discher will be projected on large screens in the sanctuary during instrumental pieces. Jack is the physical education instructor at Longfellow Elementary in Fargo, and has coached gymnastics and diving at both the high school and college levels. He has received numerous accolades throughout his teaching career, but is also very well-known for his freelance photography. Jack currently serves as the photographer for the Fargo-Moorhead Acro Team, and the Fargo Public Schools.

As in years past, a free-will offering will be received for the Fargo-

Moorhead Emergency Food Pantry. Come and bring a friend – to lift your voice in songs of the season and enjoy the beauty of nature as well.



## Message From the Dean

Friends,

Matthew 1:18-21 Now the birth of Jesus Christ was on this wise: When as his mother Mary was espoused to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Ghost.

Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not willing to make her a publick example, was minded to put her away privily. But while he thought on these things, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a dream, saying, Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost. And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS



Christmas is an interesting time of year, with both the secular and spiritual interpretations of the season. Sometimes it is easy to get caught up with all the hustle and bustle of the holiday schedule, and forget what matters. I have pondered how the news of the circumstances of Jesus' birth would be received in our time. "What, did you hear about that girl, Mary, she says she was visited by an angel! Can you believe that? And

Joseph believed her story and married her anyway! Something's just not right here. Imagine, travelling all that way, and having a baby in a stable!"

Obviously, Mary and Joseph were very close to God, showed great spiritual sense. If you were Mary, would you believe the angel? If you were Joseph, would you believe she wasn't fooling around on you? I think they both showed great strength of character, listening to those angel messages from God.

May you welcome that Christ Child into your heart this season, mindful of the real meaning of Christmas, and the guiding star that lead the Magi. If you listen carefully on a cool clear night, you can hear the angels sing, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men." Luke 2:14.

"For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. Isaiah 9:6

Merry Christmas!  
Vicky Wms Sieben, Dean

## First Friday Luncheon

**Who** Everyone is Welcome!

**When** First Friday of the Month at Noon

**Where** Fryin' Pan Restaurant (Fargo)

## Chapter Officers

Dean: Vicky Wms Sieben

Sub-Dean: Robyn Vinje

Secretary: Ruth Discher

Treasurer: Ruth Strawn

## Board Members at Large

2008: Sue Clambey, Sally Harmon

2009: Sonia Carlson, Alpha Roeszler

2010: Gaylord Fagerland, Steve Eneboe

## Music and Its Place in Church

The Bible has many references to songs, sing/song/songs appear 295 times in the Old and New Testaments. Mary Baker Eddy, the discoverer and founder of Christian Science, had much to say about music and harmony. In her book "Science and Health" alone, she used the word "music" 18 times, and "harmony" 157 times. She made specific provision for music in the church service, and it is clear that she understood the powerful energy and expression of our relationship with God through music. Although she speaks of both Mozart and Beethoven, she is as definitive about the origin of music as she is about all creation – all ideas originate from God, for God is the source of all things. From the writings of Mary Baker Eddy:

S&H 89 Sound is not the originator of music.

S&H 213 Mozart experienced more than he expressed. The rapture of his grandest symphonies was never heard. He was a musician beyond what the world knew. This was even more strikingly true of Beethoven, who was so long hopelessly deaf. Mental melodies and strains of sweetest music supersede conscious sound. Music is the rhythm of head and heart.

Message for 1900 Music is more than sound in unison. The deaf Beethoven besieges you with tones intricate, pro-

found, commanding. Mozart rests you. To me his composition is the triumph of art, for he measures himself against deeper grief. I want not only quality, quantity, and variation in tone, but the unction of Love. Music is divine. Mind, not matter, makes music; and if the divine tone be lacking, the human tone has no melody for me.

Miscellaneous Writings p116 Subject: Obedience  
Are we filling the measures of life's music aright, emphasizing its grand strains, swelling the harmony of being with tones whence come glad echoes? As "crescendo" and "diminuendo" accent music, so the varied strains of human chords express life's loss or gain.--loss of the pleasures and pains and pride of life: gain of its sweet concord, the courage of honest convictions, and final obedience to spiritual law.

I know that Martin Luther also placed great importance on music in church services. Would someone care to continue this article in regard to the Lutheran church? How about the Methodist church? Presbyterian? Catholic? Others? There must be other quotes about the power and inspiration of music. Anyone?

~Vicky Wms Sieben

## Email Devotional

First Lutheran Church—Thursday, November 8, 2007:

Verse 1: Come; let us walk in the light of the Lord!  
Isaiah 2:5

Verse 2: Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

Matthew 5:16

I'm still humming the songs of All Saints Day. It is such a small holiday; it barely gets noticed by most. I suppose that it is as the older I get, the more saints I know. Some are in the church militant, that group who struggles against sin; yet others have joined the Church Triumphant, where sin, death, sorrow, and tears are no more. I thank God for those forgiven sinners with whom I get to share this journey. I thank God for those who have gone before me, whose memories still cause a tear to come to my eye or my throat to choke up.

The most common song stuck in my head is *For All the Saints*. I like this song so much; I don't even mind singing all 8 stanzas. I'd like to share with you my two favorite stanzas:

Oh, blest communion, fellowship divine,

We feebly struggle, they in glory shine;  
Yet all are one within your great design.  
(*For All the Saints*, stanza 4, #174, LBW)

AND

But then there breaks a yet more glorious day:  
The saints triumphant rise in bright array;  
The King of glory passes on his way!  
(stanza 7)

I thank God for your partnership in the Gospel—Let your light so shine before others, that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven!

Prayer (from [www.dailytext.com](http://www.dailytext.com)): *Thank you, Lord Jesus, for you are the Light of the World and have given me the joy and privilege to walk in that Light. So often I stumble around in the darkness of my sin. You invite me to come into the brightness of your glory and reflect your light to others. Shine, Jesus, shine in my life. Amen.*

~Pastor Bill Rindy, [brindy@flcfargo.org](mailto:brindy@flcfargo.org)

Submitted by: Michael Olson, Minister of Music,  
First Lutheran Church, Fargo.

## Interpreting "Soli Deo Gloria"

The motto of the American Guild of Organists, *Soli Deo Gloria*, sometimes abbreviated with the initials *S.D.G.*, stand for a quotation from the Latin translation of Romans 16:27, Jude 1:25, and I Timothy 1:17. Bach wrote *S.D.G.* in the corner of manuscripts.

Jude 1:25: To the only wise God our Saviour, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever. Amen.

*Soli Deo Gloria*. How do we interpret this? I start by getting myself out of the way, to be able express God more. When I am focused on myself, how can I be focused on God? My job as an organist is to promote the congregations' relationship with God through music. My job is not to show off, although I want to perform my task well. My job is to express all that the music has to support the activity of church.

Christian Science churches have no ordained clergy. We have two "Readers" for the Lesson-Sermon, one reads "Science and Health" by Mary Baker Eddy, and one reads the "Bible". I read the Bible in this capacity every Sunday morning. Before we start the Sermon, the first words out of my mouth are the first line of the Lord's Prayer. Every Sunday during the silent prayer, which comes before the Lord's Prayer, I finish with "not my voice", before I open my mouth to begin "Our Father". I am careful to realize that I read what some call "the word of God", the books of the Old and New Testaments. I can study scholarly interpretations of the Bible writings, research concordances and other reference materials, but I believe the most important part of reading the Bible well is to let the verses speak

through me. It is my willingness to "forget self" and to "realize God", that makes the characters, stories, and lessons of those ancient books come alive. I believe the same is true of the music that I play during the church service. I think everyone has heard speakers and musicians that are technically brilliant, but have no heart. Technique is important to get the notes right, but it is the heart of the music that brings it to life. Sorrow, joy, penitence, quiet prayer, are all expressed in music. If the words of the hymn whisper, so should we. If the hymn shouts for joy, that is what should happen.

Merriam-Webster's defines "hymn" as "a song of praise to God". David and others wrote 150 Psalms in the Christian Bible, defined as "a sacred song or poem used in worship".

KJV Psalm 150 Praise ye the Lord. Praise God in his sanctuary: praise him in the firmament of his power. Praise him for his mighty acts: praise him according to his excellent greatness. Praise him with the sound of the trumpet: praise him with the psaltery and harp. Praise him with the timbrel and dance: praise him with stringed instruments and organs. Praise him upon the loud cymbals: praise him upon the high sounding cymbals. Let every thing that hath breath praise the Lord. Praise ye the Lord.

So, how do you interpret *Soli Deo Gloria* in your life and work? Write in, and let us know.

### A Little Chuckle...

The sound of laughter ringing through the church made it impossible for me to keep playing the organ. "What was going on?" I asked the pastor afterward. He simply pointed to the hymn typed in the church bulletin. It read "*Sin*, choirs of angels, *sin* in exultation."

Credit: Diane Haley, Reader's Digest, December 2007 (All in a Day's Work p. 59.)

### Fargo Theatre Announces Christmas Concerts

*All concerts start at Noon*

- Michael Olson: Dec 14
- Steve Eneboe: Dec 12
- Tyler Engberg: Dec 17
- Lance Johnson: Dec 13,  
18, 19, 20, 21

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### Upcoming Events

**September 15, 2007, 10:00 am**

Paul Jacobs Master Class  
First Lutheran Church, Fargo

**September 16, 2007, 4:00 pm**

Paul Jacobs Recital  
First Lutheran Church, Fargo

**October 14, 2007, 4:00 pm**

Membership Meeting/Potluck/Music Exchange  
Messiah Lutheran Church, Fargo

**December 2, 2007, 7:00 pm**

Christmas Carol Sing-A-Long  
Good Sheppard Church, Moorhead

**February 2008, 4:00 pm**

Organ/Instrumental Concert  
TBA

**April 5, 2008, 4:00 pm**

Piano to Organist Workshop  
Dilworth Lutheran Church, Dilworth

**May 4, 2008, 4:00 pm**

Organ Crawl  
Fergus Falls, MN

### Contact Information

American Guild of Organists  
Red River Valley Chapter  
PO Box 2223  
Fargo, ND 58108-2223  
[rrvago@hotmail.com](mailto:rrvago@hotmail.com)

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