



Pipeline

American Organist Guild—Red River Valley Chapter

Volume 25, Number 8


November 2008

Sing-A-Long for Young and Old Alike

The annual AGO Christmas Carol Sing-A-Long is scheduled for Sunday, December 7, at 3:00 pm at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Moorhead. We are very excited about being in this wonderful worship space, with their newly installed and dedicated organ! We are also very excited to be trying

something new; we are focusing on including children in our sing-a-long. St. Joseph's adult and children's choirs will participate, as well as the Moorhead High School Carolers and the St. Joseph's Handbell Choir. We are hoping that all of you will be there and will invite families to attend. The Christmas season seen

through the eyes of a child is the most enchanting time of the year.

We are eagerly anticipating this event. Mark your calendars *now*! If you are interested in playing one of the carols, please call Carolyn at 280-2189 or Mavis at 235-8591. 

Message From the Dean

On this beautiful fall day, my son, Alex and I spent hours hanging Christmas lights on the house. What a good feeling to be done with that job and not have the dread of doing this when it's freezing outside!



History will not repeat itself this year. My usual mode of hanging lights was to wait until the weather was blustery—the wind from the north would hit 30+ miles

and hour and I'd determine that I must get those blasted lights hung....so atop the ladder untangling strings of lights with no feeling left in my fingers....I would dream of living in warmer climates and always would announce to the world that I would not forget to get more help next year and do this job earlier!

Sometimes events like the Organ Spectacular last Sunday at First Presbyterian, can be a struggle—like hanging lights in December on the chilliest day.....maybe it didn't get organized early enough.... maybe you ended up doing the work yourself trying to pull things together....I know that organists can relate to this feeling. Well, the Organ Spectacular went "SPECTACULARLY"! There had obviously been great planning done by Sally Harmon and the Program Committee. It was a thrill to see SO MANY AGO chapter members jumping

in and helping in any way they could. It was a pleasure to be there.

The program showcased many of our wonderful local music talents! A big thank you to the First Presbyterian Church for their warm welcome and for the use of their beautiful sanctuary. What a treat for us to also have their phenomenal bell choir and their exceptional brass ensemble join us for the concert. A thank you also to the many choir members who joined us from Bethesda and St. John Lutheran churches. I can't begin to thank everyone by name as I'm sure I'll forget someone....but the special organ selections by Mark Ring, Michael Olson, Carolyn Hensrud, Mavis Tjon, and Mary Beth Berg were greatly appreciated.

Now our focus turns to the annual "Christmas Sing-A-Long" hosted this year at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Moorhead. If you have not heard their newly renovated organ—you are in for a real treat! This organ has incredible presence in the room and the acoustics of the church are perfect. Even if you are not a great singer, you will **sound** great in this space! So bring a friend along on December 7 at 3:00 pm for the Christmas Sing-A-Long. The event is free and open to the public. *This is another great opportunity for us to get together and sing our praise to the Lord. See you there!*

~Bill Tweten, Dean

First Friday Luncheon

Who Everyone is Welcome!

When First Friday of the Month at Noon

Where Fryn' Pan
302 Main Ave, Fargo

Chapter Officers

Dean: Bill Tweten

Sub-Dean: Marty Baumgartner

Secretary: Michael Olson

Treasurer: Ruth Strawn

Board Members at Large

2009: Sonia Carlson, Alpha Roeszler

2010: Gaylord Fagerland, Steve Eneboe

2011: Anna Goodin-Hayes, Erich Knapp



Composer Corner

I've always loved everything composed by **Dale Wood**. To me his "Softly and Tenderly" volumes epitomize the man's work and need to be in every organists library! The lush harmonies of this collection breathe new life into our favorite old hymn tunes.

The world of sacred music suffered a tremendous loss on April 13, 2003, when Dale Wood died of lung cancer in his northern California home. He was an *American Original*—a distinguished composer, editor, author, organist, and conductor. His music is sung or played worldwide.

Dale Wood was born in Glendale, California, on February 13, 1934, of Flemish-Polish parentage. His father's name was Wojtkiewicz, which immigration officials shortened to "Wood". His amazing composition skills were seen at age 13, when he won a national hymn-writing competition for the American Lutheran Church. A year later his first choral anthem was accepted for publication! Dale began playing organ at age 14, and served as organist and choirmaster at Eden Lutheran Church in Riverside and The Episcopal Church of St. Mary the Virgin in San Francisco. When asked why he never finished college, his wife retorted... "He fell out of the nest with all he needed."

Dale Wood is remembered for his beautiful harmonies, modulations, romance, wit and humor. His arrangements have such broad appeal because he drew

on musical melodies from American hymns, Victorian hymns, contemporary hymns, gospel songs, spirituals, international folk tunes, Gregorian chant and baroque chorales. He appreciated the music from the classics to Broadway! He admired composers from Leroy Anderson to Villa Lobos. With his settings Old World tunes take on new life. Most of his pieces were conceived with a three-manual organ in mind but are readily adaptable to smaller instruments. (With his lush harmonies be ready for lots of finger substitutions!) Lucky for us...there are more than 125 settings for solo organ arranged by Dale Wood—along with many choral pieces, and music for "organ and other instruments".

Dale Wood's career is interesting to read about—as he also played the theater organ—appeared on television shows in Hollywood, hob knobbed with the likes of Marcel Dupre and George Shearing—wrote many articles—contributed to many hymnals (including the Lutheran Book of Worship)—conducted choral festivals throughout the United States and Europe—on and on! What a legacy of music he has left for generations to come. A good website to check out Dale Wood's career is <http://www.mcn.org/k/works/>.



Remembering Norman Roos

Many of us in the Red River Valley Chapter were privileged to work with Norman Roos on several different occasions. His enthusiasm for the organ, his love of photography, and his remarkable life experiences made working with him and knowing him a particular joy. Our chapter is especially grateful to him for his role as Program Chair for our 2001 Regional Convention held here in Fargo Moorhead. His patient wisdom, and detailed handwritten minutes, assured all of us that he was on top of things throughout the planning and execution of our highly successful convention. Meetings at his home in Hawley, usually included a lunch or dessert lovingly created by his wife Mercedes—a long-time organist at several area churches, his constant companion. I wish I could have been in one of Norman's history or social science classes at Hawley High School—Norman lived much of the history he so carefully taught—quietly, yet with great dignity, bravery and humility.

We celebrate Norman Roos' life....a life to be remembered.

Board Meeting Notes

October 16, 2008: The following people were in attendance: Ruth Strawn, Gaylord Fagerland, Michael Olson, Anna Goodin-Hayes, Alpha Roeszler, Sonia Carlson, and Bill Tweten.

The brochures for Sunday's program have been ordered and received, and will be handed out with the programs themselves.

Ruth mentioned that, in the September 18 Secretary's report, the amount of money in the checking account should be amended to read \$2545.84 as opposed to \$2575.84. Ruth moved that the minutes of the September 18 meeting be approved as amended, seconded by Alpha. Motion carried.

The treasurer's report was presented. The amount in the savings account is \$4713.43. The amount in the checking account is \$2609.84. The total in the CD is \$5484.11. This gives us a grand total of \$12,807.38. Michael moved that the treasurer's report be approved, seconded by Sonia. Motion carried.

There was some discussion concerning putting some of our funds into a second CD. Ruth has done some investigative work for us. It was moved by Anna, and seconded by Gaylord, that we close our savings account and move a little money from our checking account to make the minimum

investment requirement of \$5000. This will be a Flexible CD. We will be able to withdraw up to half of the balance without penalty AND we will be able to trade up to a higher interest rate during the term. We will get a ten-month CD at this time. Motion carried.

Michael is going to (and did) send a reminder email to all members with email access about Sunday afternoon's event, Organ Spectacular, at First Presbyterian Church. There are nametags for all current AGO members at the table at the west entrance to the church (near the parking lot and elevator). AGO members who are able are encouraged to park at St. Mark's Lutheran Church which is only two blocks away from First Presbyterian Church. We discussed including a survey with the program. (Secretary's note: I don't think this happened...) There will be a freewill offering at the doors leading into the sanctuary. The offering will be designated completely for the Fargo/Moorhead Emergency Food Pantry. Ushers are needed to help hand out programs at the doors.

A motion was made by Gaylord, seconded by Ruth, to ask the Program Committee to let the board know of upcoming expenses for programs at least one month prior to the event. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Michael Olson, Secretary





Hymn Stories

"The Lord Bless You and Keep You"

I am always fed and nourished by this wonderful and ancient blessing. I have enjoyed countless arrangements of the familiar verse—and find it a blessing when I sing it and when the words are simply spoken to me in blessing. The familiar melody that is joined with these words are from the composer Peter Lutkin. The following words are taken from "Then Sings My Soul" written by Robert Morgan.

The Dead Sea scrolls were, until recently, our oldest copies of biblical text. But in 1979, Villanova professor, Judith Hadley, was assisting archaeologist, Gabriel Barkay, in excavating a site in Jerusalem's Hinnom Valley. In a burial cave, she saw something resembling the metal cap of a pencil. It was a sensational find, a tiny silver scroll of great antiquity. Another was found nearby. These tiny amulets, dating to the

Hebrew monarchy seven centuries before Christ, were so small and fragile they took several years to painstakingly clean and open.


When scientists finally unrolled them, they found the world's oldest extant copy of a biblical text, the words of Numbers 6:24-26: *The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face to shine upon you, and be gracious to you; the Lord lift up His countenance upon you, and give you peace.*

While the amulets date from the seventh century B.C., the original words are far older, coming 1,400 years before Christ. As the Israelites wandered in the wilderness, the Lord commanded the priests to bless the people with this three-fold blessing.

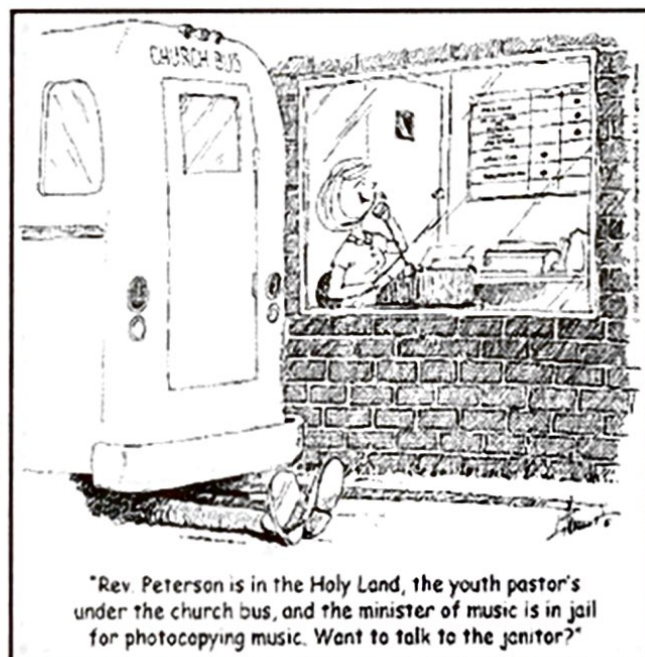
The ancient lyrics have been set to music many times, but never more beautifully than by Peter Christian Lutkin in his classic tune BENEDICTION. During the Fanny Crosby/Ira Sankey era of gospel music, when so much was written for easy congregational singing, Lutkin wrote more elaborate melodies with a classical flare.

Lutkin was born in Wisconsin in 1888, and devoted his life to church music, studying the masters in Europe, excelling on the organ, and founding the School of Music at Northwestern Illinois. He helped start the AMERICAN GUILD OF ORGANISTS!!

He died in 1931 and was buried in Rosehill Cemetery in Chicago.

In his *Notes from My Bible*, D. L. Moody said about the priestly blessing of Numbers 6: "Here is a benediction that can give all the time without being impoverished. Every heart may utter it, every letter may conclude with it, every day may begin with it, every night may be sanctified by it. Here is blessing – keeping – shining – the uplifting upon our poor life of all heaven's glad morning. It is the Lord Himself who gives us this bar of music from heaven's infinite anthem." 

Credit: *Then Sings My Soul* by Robert J. Morgan, Thomas Nelson Publishers



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Upcoming Events

September 21, 2008, 4:00 pm

The 2008 Minneapolis National Convention Revisited
Peace Lutheran Church, Fargo

October 19, 2008, 4:00 pm

Organ Spectacular – Music for Organ, and Others
First Presbyterian Church, Fargo

December 7, 2008, 3:00 pm

Christmas Carol Sing-A-Long
St. Joseph Catholic Church, Moorhead

February 11, 2009, 12:45 pm

A Valentine Recital – Music of Love
First Lutheran Church, Fargo

March 23, 2009, 7:00 pm

Concordia College Organ Students in Recital
Trinity Lutheran Church, Moorhead

April 19, 2009, 3:00 pm

BELL-abration! A Massed Performance of Handbells,
Vocal Choirs, Organ and Other Instruments
Nativity Catholic Church, Fargo

May 2009 (date/time TBA)

Event/location—TBA

Contact Information

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In celebration of the International Year of the Organ

The Red River Valley Chapter of the American Guild of Organists
cordially invites you to a...

Christmas Carol Sing-A-Long



*Bring your family
and join us
as we share in
the joy of children.*



Sunday, December 7, 2008 ~ 3:00 pm



St. Joseph Catholic Church ~ 218 10th St So, Moorhead, MN

This event is free and open to the public.

