

# MULLER PIPE ORGAN COMPANY

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## **First English Lutheran Church Mansfield, Ohio**

### **Three manuals, 42 stops, 50 ranks 1950 M.P. Möller Organ Company (Opus 7997) Rebuilt 2002**

The original pipe organ at First English Lutheran Church was installed by M.P. Möller in 1950 (Opus 7997), who also made tonal additions in 1961. In the 1980s, minor stopgap repairs were completed and the Great 8' Principal and 4' Octave ranks were replaced. Over time, the condition of the original windchests and console had deteriorated nearly to the point of failure.

In addition to the new pipework, select ranks of the existing pipework were restored, then revoiced and rebalanced to serve in new capacities within the ensemble of the new instrument. The Great Organ now features a robust principal chorus comprised of new pipework, a full complement of flutes and strings, and a fiery Trompette. The Swell Organ boasts a secondary principal chorus and a battery of chorus reeds. The Choir Organ is both most intimate and the most colorful division of the instrument, containing a flute-based Cornet and the sonorous Clarinet from the original organ. The Antiphonal Organ (the Great principal chorus in the original instrument) helps support congregational singing for those seated in the rear of the nave. Due to its relatively poor placement, this pipework was substantially revoiced and regulated to speak on much higher wind pressure to insure adequate volume. The Pedal Organ, with its independent principal chorus and powerful Posaune, provides an exciting foundation for the instrument.

Critical to the overall success of the project, the church completed significant renovations to the chancel area while work was in progress at our facility. The new area is much more flexible, providing a suitable space for orchestras or large choirs. Acoustics were improved by replacing the plush carpeting in the chancel with hardwood flooring. In addition, substantially improved tonal projection was achieved by removing the original plaster wall that served as the front of the organ chamber and replacing it with grille cloth.

The entire playing mechanism is new, with the exception of selected offset windchests, replacing a problematic Möller mechanism. The beautiful original console cabinet was refinished and fitted with wheels, and is playable from three locations in the chancel. The ivory and ebony manual keyboards and the pedal keyboard were restored. New solid state operating systems were installed, including MIDI with record/playback capability, along with new drawknob and tilting tablet assemblies. A custom music rack was built, featuring walnut with bird's eye maple inlay, and a new adjustable bench with backrest was provided.

From the softest stops to full organ, the instrument is versatile and exciting, and is a wonderful example of the American Classic tradition.