



## RLC Pipe Organ Replacement Project

The RLC Pipe Organ Project entered an exciting stage this past year with major components built in the Nordlie workshop, visual changes at RLC and more opportunities for RLC volunteers to be involved. In the last year, 50 RLC volunteers helped host 11 work crew lunches, assisted Nordlie with moving, packing or cleaning pipes or helped with clean up during construction. It has been inspiring to see new connections and community formed around the project and what we can accomplish together!

Here is a recap of the last 12 months:

- October 2024 – The Project Team toured Nordlie’s workshop in Sioux Falls to see building process and progress.
- November 2024 – Project update for Adult Education, including a time-lapse video condensing the 6-day removal of the Birmingham Holtkamp organ in June to 2 minutes.
- January 2025 -
  - January 12: The Möller’s last Sunday including postlude special effects!
  - January 13-17: Removal of the organ, also dubbed the “Möller extraction”.
  - Press releases were sent to the daily newspapers, web and broadcast media outlets, the Twin Cities American Guild of Organists (TCAGO) and the ELCA St. Paul Synod. Coverage appeared in ***Bring Me the News*** and TCAGO’s newsletter and social media feeds. The Synod plans a story upon project completion.
- March 2025 – Nordlie constructed a floor on top of the existing pipe loft platform. It protrudes over the edge, is framed into the existing columns and creates the 28-foot arc for the façade pipes.
- June 2025 - Nordlie installed the wind trunks and lines in the loft floor, as well as the blower box and reservoir; all will feed wind to the pipes.



July 2025 – The beautiful console arrived. From the various wood species used to the customized Mission-style bench to the naming of John Helgen's favorite *Schwebung* 8' draw knob, it is truly unique!

Like all industries, the pipe organ industry has experienced supply chain disruptions, labor shortages, consolidations and customs issues that have affected our project's targeted completion date of June 2025. Nordlie expects the last two shipments of new and refurbished pipes very soon. This will allow them to complete pipe racks and windchests which require the precise diameter of each pipe. Once all the components are received and completed, there will be about 3 weeks of construction at RLC to assemble the organ followed by 6-8 weeks of final tuning and voicing.

As we eagerly await our new organ, the Project Team is working on several inaugural organ events for the fall of 2025 and continuing into 2026. Events include an orchestra concert featuring the Saint Saëns Organ Symphony; an All-Saints celebration with choir, orchestra, guest conductor and guest organist; a January 2026 organ dedication Sunday worship service with an afternoon concert featuring organ soloist Aaron David Miller from House of Hope Presbyterian Church in St. Paul, and a reception; guest solo recitals; collaborating with The Twin Cities American Guild of Organists (TCAGO) on multiple events; and an RLC organ recital series. There is much enthusiasm at RLC and from the greater Twin Cities organ community for RLC's new organ!

To learn more about this project, visit the Organ Project webpage by scanning the QR code below. Scroll to the bottom of the webpage to access several videos and a thorough FAQ section.



### ***Organ Project Team***

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