



OUR SAVIOUR'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

160 Hill Farm Road, Fairfield, CT oursaviours.net

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For Immediate Release

Our Saviour's To Dedicate Historic Pipe Organ *Dedication Concert and Reception Are Open to the Public*

FAIRFIELD, Conn., October 11, 2014 – Our Saviour's Lutheran Church will dedicate its newly installed, 19th-century Hutchings-Cooper pipe organ on Sunday, October 26, at 4 pm. A concert and reception will follow the dedication; the event is free and open to the public.

Our Saviour's received the historic organ in June as a gift from the Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Ascension, which closed its doors in 2011 after eight decades of ministry in Glendale, Queens, N.Y.

The one-manual, eight-stop organ was built in Boston in 1875 by the firm of Hutchings, Plaisted & Co., using parts from an unidentified organ dating to the 1840s. After years of use at a Congregational church in Maine, it was put into storage, where organ builder Jeremy Cooper of Concord, N.H., found it and began restoring it in 1978.

Ascension acquired the organ from Mr. Cooper in 1979. When the church closed in 2011, a search for a new home for the organ led to Our Saviour's by way of Ascension's former pastor, George Detweiler, who later served at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Bridgeport.

On May 31, Mr. Cooper supervised volunteers from Our Saviour's as they moved the disassembled organ from Glendale to Fairfield. Over the next two weeks, he reassembled the instrument, consisting of a black walnut case, mechanical or "tracker" action, and some 600 pipes. Since June 15, the instrument has led and enhanced worship at Our Saviour's every Sunday.

The dedication concert on October 26 will showcase the organ in a wide variety of musical contexts, encompassing literature for the organ alone, in combination with other instruments, and together with the singing voice. Congregational hymn-singing will be a major part of the program. A Festival Choir, soloists, and instrumental ensemble will lead the singing. The featured artist will be Dr. Thomas Schmidt, cantor of St. Peter's Lutheran Church, New York City. Dr. Schmidt is a renowned organist, pianist, conductor, and advocate for Lutheran church music. From 1978 to 1982, he was organist at Ascension in Glendale, and collaborated in the selection and installation of the organ at that time.

Our Saviour's is located at 160 Hill Farm Road in Fairfield. For more information, contact the church at (203) 255-0545 or visit www.oursaviours.net.

About Our Saviour's

Our Saviour's Lutheran Church, a congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), reaches out to the world and to its local communities with the Good News of the Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ. The congregation receives strength for this mission through Worship, Christian Education, Service, Benevolent Giving, Witness, Mutual Support and a commitment to grow in faith and participation. Our Saviour's is guided in the belief that, "As God Gives to Us, So We Give to Others." Holy Communion is celebrated during worship at 8:30 a.m. and 10:30 am each Sunday, with Sunday School and Adult Discussion held between services at 9:30 a.m. For more information, call (203) 255-0545 or visit us at www.oursaviours.net.

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