



# Prairie Pippings

The Monthly Newsletter Of SDAGO



## An Update From the Board

Jared Ostermann, SDAGO Member at Large

Dear AGO members,

Continuing in our series of letters from board members, here are some updates from my work and the Cathedral of Saint Joseph in Sioux Falls! The first two months of the pandemic saw the Cathedral shut down, with just one service a week for our TV broadcast and internet streaming. Holy Week was quite surreal, with just me and a cantor in the loft, and a few clergy on the other end of the building in the sanctuary, with empty pews in between. One bright spot in those months was watching the streaming liturgies reach huge numbers of viewers, regionally and all around the world. At the peak, we had as many as 190,000 viewers a week, just on YouTube. We received messages from Asia, South America, Africa, Europe, Australia, and all over North America, thanking us for the broadcast and YouTube streaming.

Thankfully, we were able to re-open for in-person services in mid-May, and we haven't looked back since. Things have certainly been different – for example, my choir had to be split into small groups in a rotation, to accommodate social distancing – but, all things considered we are grateful to have been able to meet in person and have music at our services. We feel blessed that almost 8 months into our choir year, we have not had a single incidence of COVID exposure or spread in our ensembles.



Another update I'd like to share is that I will be teaching organ at the University of South Dakota, beginning in Fall 2021. The organ program there has been on hold following the retirement of Larry Schou, and of course the year of COVID. But in the Fall, students will again be able to pursue the BM, BFA, and MM in organ, as well as an organ minor or simply lessons. I do have organ-specific scholarship money available for undergrads, and there is still time to apply for the Fall. Please pass the word if you know of any potential students. I would love to get an organ studio up and running at USD again! This has been a truly difficult year to be a musician, but I am hopeful that the worst is behind us now. All the best to you in weathering the remainder of the pandemic, and in putting the pieces back together on the other side. I look forward to seeing you again at in-person musical events!

Thanks,

Jared Ostermann

# SDAGO Programs for 2020-21

March 19, 7:00 p.m.

## **Bach Birthday Bash**

Virtual Program Via SDAGO Website, Youtube, or Facebook.

March 26, 3:00 p.m.

## **Ken Cowan Lecture**

This event is part of the Joan Ringerwole Organ Recital Series.

Dordt University, Sioux Center, IA

March 27, 7:30 p.m.

## **Ken Cowan Recital**

This event is in place of the Marco den Toom recital. Ken Cowan is Professor of Organ and head of the organ program at Rice University's Shepherd School of Music in Houston, Texas. This event is part of the Joan Ringerwole Organ Recital Series.

Dordt University, Sioux Center, IA

April 24, times TBA

**Pedals, Pipes, and Pizza** in the morning featuring the organs at Our Saviors and a walk over to the Augustana Chapel to see the tracker. SDAGO Academy Auditions over lunch SDAGO Academy Recital following lunch/auditions. Our Savior's Lutheran Church, Sioux Falls

# Featured SDAGO Event



Our Bach Birthday Bash has consistently been one of our biggest events of the year!

This year is going to look a little different than in the past. We will be putting together a virtual program which will be premiered across our website, Youtube, and Facebook pages. Though we won't be able to be together in person, we'll be able to tour many local instruments all in one program!

We are currently in the midst of recording this wonderful program, which will feature several area instruments and organists. On the program we will hear several of Bach's large organ works, chorale based tunes, and even selections from a Brandenburg Concerto. You will be able to access the program at [SDAGO.org/BachBirthdayBash.html](https://SDAGO.org/BachBirthdayBash.html) at 7:00pm on March 19. We hope you enjoy the program and we express our deep gratitude for those who are performing

# Photographing Instruments

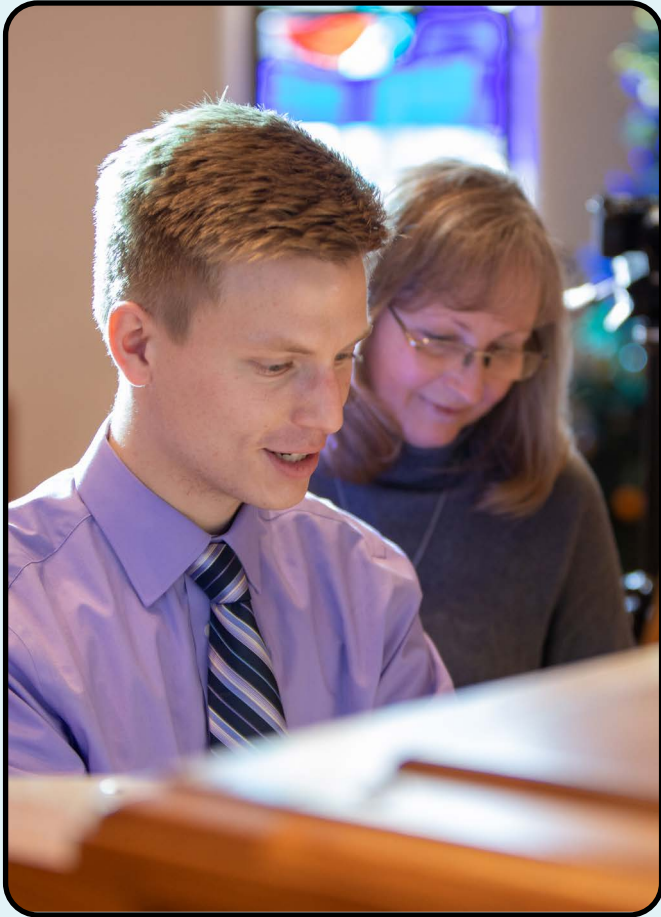
We're out of photos for our newsletter banner! We want to celebrate as many local instruments as possible. If you have any pictures of your instruments that you are willing to share, we want them to beautify our publications!

If you have professional photos to share, or would like to make an appointment to have pictures taken contact Matt Tylutki SDAGO Communications Officer.

**[SouthDakotaAgo@gmail.com](mailto:SouthDakotaAgo@gmail.com)**







## SDAGO Academy

Spring is a busy time of year for the SDAGO Academy as we prepare to hear auditions for next year's scholarships. We also anticipate celebrating this past year's scholars as they demonstrate their studies in the Academy Recital. Both of these events will be taking place in conjunction with the Pedals Pipes Pizza event at Our Savior's Lutheran Church on April 24.

The SDAGO Academy Brochure has also been given an updated look, as well as a brand new component to support organists in our area. **We are excited to be expanding access to scholarships to include current church musicians and adult piano students.** If you are currently an organist or pianist, and are interested in continuing your formal studies on the organ this program is for you!

The brochure, application form, and more information can be found at [SDAGO.org/Academy.html](http://SDAGO.org/Academy.html). The deadline for applications is April 1.



## News From Our Neighbors to the South!

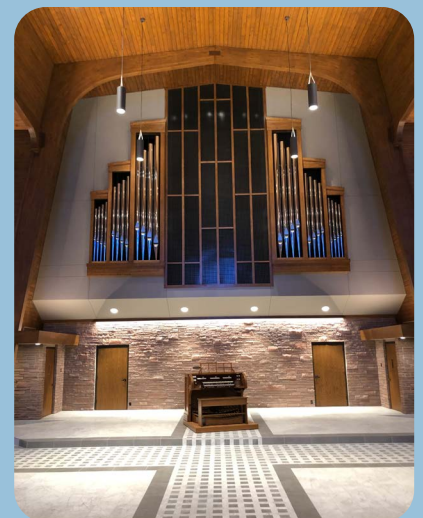
The Bedient Pipe Organ Company of Lincoln, NE has completed a major rebuild and expansion of a Kilgen & Son organ at Trinity Lutheran Church in McPherson, Kansas.

This organ has been a part of the congregation since it was installed in their "red-brick church" 1938. The congregation voted to renovate and update the sanctuary in 2018. The organ was a central part of those renovations.

The first priority was selecting ranks that would enhance the organ's ability to lead worship and congregational singing. The second goal was ensuring that all the additions would be in the same tonal

aesthetic as the original Kilgen stops. It was very important that no stop sounded "added on".

Two weeks of tonal finishing brought out an incredible amount of color from the individual stops. They now can be combined in numerous, creative ways for leading worship and playing a wide range of organ literature. A dedication recital will be scheduled at a later date.



# Chapter Leadership

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## Upcoming Episodes

# Pipedreams

Mar. 1: Women First

From the 19th, 20th and 21st centuries, music by women composers and performers.

Mar. 8: The Well-Tempered Clavier

Bach was the most thorough but not alone in writing in support of a 'modern' tuning system.

Mar. 15: There's No Holding Bach

Original and unbridled interpretations of music by the incomparable Johann Sebastian.

*Pipedreams airs each week in our area on KRSD 88.1 FM at 6AM Sunday mornings, or you can listen at any time at [www.pipedreams.org](http://www.pipedreams.org). Pro-*

Something for everyone!  
AGOYO virtual program year 20-21

## FRIDAYS AT NOON EST

videos will be premiered at:

<https://www.youtube.com/user/GuildofOrganists>

**August 14-** Organ crawl: West Point Chapel

**September 11-** Workshop:

Church musicians and technology

**September 25-** Panel: Organists of colors

**October 9-** Panel: The Global Organist

**November 13-** Organ crawl: Longwood Gardens

**December 11-** Organ factory tour: Austin Organ Co.

**January 8-** Webinar:

Young conductors/organists guide to church music

**February 12-** Organ crawl: Wanamaker

**March 12-** Panel:

Board positions in the guild/serving in leadership roles

**April 9-** Organ factory tour: Taylor & Boody

**May 7, 14, 21, 28-** Young organist recitals

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<https://www.facebook.com/groups/AGOYoungOrganists>

Follow us on Instagram at:

[ago\\_young\\_organists](https://www.instagram.com/ago_young_organists)

Email us at:

[conveneragoyo@gmail.com](mailto:conveneragoyo@gmail.com)

<https://www.agohq.org/ago-young-organists/>



Cover art: 2019  
Bach Birthday Bash,  
Augustana University  
Chapel

**Have your instrument featured** in the newsletter by submitting a photo or setting up a photography session with Matt Tylutki: [mttylutki@gmail.com](mailto:mttylutki@gmail.com)

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American Guild of Organists - South Dakota Chapter



**Get the latest on our website:**

<http://www.sdago.org/>