

*History of the*  
**PILLOT MEMORIAL ORGAN**  
**ST. LUKES UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**  
**Houston, Texas**

St. Luke's Methodist Church was founded in late 1945, and during its first 6 years Sunday worship services were held in Lamar High School auditorium. St. Luke's current Fellowship Hall served as the Sanctuary until September 1959, when the current Sanctuary (seating 1,280) was opened with its new 4-manual (keyboard) pipe organ – less than 14 years after the church's founding.

The Sanctuary was not opened for Sunday services until everything, including the organ, was fully prepared, which took place on September 13, 1959. The Sanctuary was formally dedicated 2 weeks later on September 27, 1959, and the service of dedication of the organ was held that evening, which concluded with a dedication organ concert by St. Luke's organist, Robert C. Bennett, who also performed an Anniversary Organ Recital each September through Dr. Bennett's tenure in May 1996.

The organ, Opus 9090 of the M.P. Möller Pipe Organ Company of Hagerstown, MD, and “Dedicated to the Glory of God and in loving memory of Camille G and Norman V Pilot, given by their devoted family”, was the largest pipe organ in Houston at the time, with 65 ranks of speaking pipes (generally, each stop's set of pipes) comprising 3,848 pipes, with 75 stops and 3 sets of bells (Chimes, Flemish bells, and Harp bells).

The original specifications of the Pilot Memorial Organ follow.

**ST. LUKES UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

**Houston, Texas**

**PILLOT MEMORIAL ORGAN**

**M.P. MÖLLER - Opus 9090 1959 (original specifications)**

Four Manuals 65 ranks 3,848 pipes 76 stops (incl. 3 bell stops)

**Great Organ** [Unenclosed]

16	Quintade	61 pipes
8	Principal	61 pipes
8	Bourdon	61 pipes
8	Salicional	61 pipes
4	Octave	61 pipes
2 $\frac{2}{3}$	Octave Quint	61 pipes
2	Fifteenth	61 pipes
1 $\frac{1}{3}$	Fourniture IV	244 pipes
$\frac{1}{2}$	Cymbale III	183 pipes
	Chimes	[Choir]
	Harp Bells (Schulmerich®)	37 notes
	Tremolo	

**Swell Organ** [Enclosed, Expressive]

16	Flute Conique	12 pipes
8	Rohrflöte	61 pipes
8	Flute Conique	61 pipes
8	Flute Celeste	49 pipes
8	Viole da Gamba	61 pipes
8	Viole Celeste	61 pipes
4	Principal	61 pipes
4	Flute	61 pipes
2	Fifteenth	61 pipes
1 $\frac{1}{3}$	Larigot	61 pipes
2	Plein Jeu III	183 pipes
16	Bassoon	61 pipes
8	Trumpet	61 pipes
4	Clarion	61 pipes
	Tremolo	

**Choir Organ** [Enclosed, Expressive]

8	Gedeckt	61 pipes
8	Erzähler	61 pipes
8	Erzähler Celeste	49 pipes
4	Loch Gedeckt	61 pipes
4	Fugara	61 pipes
2 $\frac{2}{3}$	Nazard	61 pipes
2	Blockflöte	61 pipes
1 $\frac{3}{8}$	Tierce	61 pipes
1	Siffelöte	61 pipes
1	Cymbel III	183 pipes
16	Schalmei	12 pipes
8	Schalmei	61 pipes
4	Regal	61 pipes
	Chimes	21 tubes
	Tremolo	

**Bombarde Organ** [Unenclosed]

8	Cornet III (full compass)	183 pipes
8	Trompette Harmonique	61 pipes
4	Clarion Harmonique	80 pipes
	Flemish Bells (Schulmerich®)	37 notes

**Pedal Organ** [Unenclosed]

32	Grand Cornet VI	(resultant)
16	Contrebasse	32 pipes
16	Bourdon	32 pipes
16	Quintade	[Great]
16	Flute Conique	[Swell]
8	Principal	32 pipes
8	Bourdon	12 pipes
8	Quintade	[Great]
8	Flute Conique	[Swell]
5 $\frac{1}{3}$	Quint	32 pipes
4	Choralbass	12 pipes
4	Bourdon	12 pipes
2 $\frac{2}{3}$	Quint	12 pipes
2	Octavin	12 pipes
2 $\frac{2}{3}$	Mixture III	96 pipes
16	Bombarde	32 pipes
16	Bassoon	[Swell]
8	Bombarde	12 pipes
4	Clarion	12 pipes
	Chimes	[Choir]

**Antiphonal Great** [Unenclosed]

8	Bourdon	61 pipes
4	Octave	61 pipes
2	Grave Mixture II	122 pipes

**Antiphonal Swell** [Enclosed, Expressive]

8	Rohr Gedeckt	61 pipes
8	Spitzgambe	61 pipes
8	Spitzgambe Celeste	49 pipes
4	Nachthorn	61 pipes
8	Hautbois	61 pipes
	Tremolo	

**Antiphonal Pedal**

16	Bourdon	12 pipes
16	Spitzgambe	12 pipes
8	Bourdon	
8	Spitzgambe	

## Couplers

Great	16, 4, Unison Off
Swell	16, 4, Unison Off
Choir	16, 4, Unison Off
Bombarde	16, 4, Unison Off

Swell to Great	16, 8, 4
Choir to Great	16, 8, 4
Bombarde to Great	16, 8, 4

Great to Pedal	8
Swell to Pedal	8, 4
Choir to Pedal	8, 4
Bombarde to Pedal	8, 4

Swell to Choir	16, 8, 4
Bombarde to Choir	8, 4

Bombarde to Swell	16, 8, 4
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Great to Bombarde	8
Swell to Bombarde	8, 4

Antiphonal Swell to Choir Expression Pedal

Chancel off  
Antiphonal off

## Expression Pedals

Crescendo Pedal  
Swell Expression Pedal  
Choir/Bombarde Expression Pedal  
Antiphonal Swell Expression Pedal  
Flemish/Harp Bells Expression Pedal

## Reversible Pistons

Great to Pedal	[thumb and toe]
Swell to Pedal	[thumb and toe]
Choir to Pedal	[thumb and toe]
Bombarde to Pedal	[thumb and toe]
Sforzando	[thumb and toe]

## Control System

General Pistons	1-10	[thumb/toe]
Great stops, division couplers	1-8	[thumb]
Swell stops, division couplers	1-8	[thumb]
Choir stops, division couplers	1-8	[thumb]
Bombarde stops, division couplers	1-8	[thumb]
Pedal stops	1-8	[thumb/toe]
Antiphonal Great	1-3	[thumb]
Antiphonal Swell	1-3	[thumb]
Antiphonal Pedal	1-3	[thumb]
Couplers	1-3	[thumb]
Couplers cancel		[thumb]
Antiphonal Swell to Choir Expression		[thumb]
Cancel		[thumb]
Setter		[thumb]

Generally, the character and voicing of the Swell and Bombarde divisions were of French style and the Choir division was of German style, further evidenced by their respective nomenclatures.

Some verbal reports have mentioned a Fagotto 16 in the Swell originally; however, a stop list document on file dated "6-5-59" (*i.e.*, before debut of organ) shows Bassoon 16. It is not clear that a Fagotto was ever in the final installed organ; if so, it did not remain long, being replaced by the Bassoon 16.

As photos will attest, organ pipes were mounted on both side walls of the chancel. However, these were decorative only and were non-functional.

Over ensuing years, stops/pipes were added and electronics were upgraded, notably:

Early 1960s:

The Bombarde division, situated in front of the Choir division expression shades, was originally unenclosed. In the early 1960s, the Choir expression shades were moved to be in front of the Bombarde division, which made the Bombarde stops expressible with the Choir expression pedal.

In 1972/73:

Pedal: added electronic Contra Bourdon 32, Contra Basse 32, and Contra Bombarde 32.

Choir: added Krummhorn 8 (Chimes stop knob removed to accommodate; Chimes remained available on Great; Chimes stop knob also added to Bombarde.)

Great: added Koppel Flöte 4, replacing Octave Quint 2 $\frac{2}{3}$ .

Swell: added Vox Humana 8, which was installed on a separate chest on the back wall of the Swell chamber.

Mid- to late 1970s:

Antiphonal Swell: added Oboe Schalmey from Chapel organ, replacing the Sanctuary Antiphonal Swell Hautbois, which was moved to the Chapel organ – a pipe swap.

After Christmas 1982, early 1983:

Console was removed to the Möller factory in Hagerstown, MD, for refurbishment and upgrades.

1980s (after 1983, but before 1987; precise time unclear; work was performed locally, not by M.P. Möller):

Bombarde: added Tuba 8 by extending the Pedal Bombarde 4 stop the 17 additional pipes required to make the Tuba 8 full compass on the Bombarde manual. Unlike the rest of the division, the Bombarde Tuba 8 was unenclosed since it was part of the unenclosed Pedal Bombarde rank. (Bombarde Unison Off stop knob removed to accommodate Tuba 8 stop knob.)

Summer 1987:

Both stop jambs removed; stop knob placement was modified to accommodate additional stop knobs, as well as returning stop knob layout to near-AGO standards.

Original combination action replaced with a solid-state combination system (SSL – Solid State Logic®).

Great: added new Trompette 8/Kontra Trompette 16 (73 pipes). (Great Tremolo stop knob removed and another stop knob added to accommodate.)

Pedal: added Kontra Trompette 16 (from Great) and Kontra Posaune 32 (12 pipes, not electronic; extension of Great Kontra Trompette 16. Electronic Contra Bombarde 32 removed to accommodate new stop knobs; additional stop knob added.)

Swell: Fifteenth 2 moved to Choir (pipe swap with Choir Blockflöte 2).

Choir: Blockflöte 2 moved to Swell (pipe swap with Swell Fifteenth 2).

Swell: Plein Jeu III revised, increased from III to IV (244 pipes).

Swell: Vox Humana enclosed in its own box, with adjustable lid.

Choir: Cymbel III revised, increased, becoming Zimbel IV (244 pipes).

Antiphonal Great: Grave II revised, increased, becoming Mixture III-IV (220 pipes).

Schulmerich® Flemish Bells and Harp Bells were replaced with newer versions of same.

Late 1988:

Great: added Flute Harmonique 8, replacing Salicional 8.

Specifications of the Pillot Memorial Organ through the 1990s follow.

**ST. LUKES UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

**Houston, Texas**

**PILLOT MEMORIAL ORGAN**

**M.P. MÖLLER - Opus 9090 1959 (after revisions)**

Four Manuals 73 ranks (incl. elec.) 4,312 pipes 83 stops (incl. 3 bell stops) + Zimbelstern

**Great Organ [Unenclosed]**

16	Quintade	61 pipes
8	Principal	61 pipes
8	Bourdon	61 pipes
8	Flute Harmonique	61 pipes
4	Octave	61 pipes
2 $\frac{2}{3}$	Koppelflote	61 pipes
2	Super Octave	61 pipes
1 $\frac{1}{3}$	Fourniture IV	244 pipes
$\frac{1}{2}$	Cymbale III	183 pipes
16	Kontra Trompete	12 pipes
8	Trompete	61 pipes
	Chimes	[Choir]
	Harp Bells (Schulmerich®)	37 notes

**Swell Organ [Enclosed, Expressive]**

16	Flute Conique	12 pipes
8	Rohrflote	61 pipes
8	Flute Conique	61 pipes
8	Flute Celeste	49 pipes
8	Viole da Gamba	61 pipes
8	Viole Celeste	61 pipes
4	Principal	61 pipes
4	Flute	61 pipes
2	Blockflote	61 pipes
1 $\frac{1}{3}$	Larigot	61 pipes
2	Plein Jeu IV	244 pipes
16	Bassoon	61 pipes
8	Trumpet	61 pipes
8	Vox Humana	61 pipes
4	Clarion	61 pipes
	Tremolo	

**Bombarde Organ [Enclosed in Choir, Expressive]**

8	Cornet III	183 pipes
8	Tuba (Ped Bombarde ext)	17 pipes
8	Trompette Harmonique	61 pipes
4	Clarion Harmonique	80 pipes
	Flemish Bells (Schulmerich®)	37 notes
	Chimes	[Choir]

**Choir Organ [Enclosed, Expressive]**

8	Gedeckt	61 pipes
8	Erzahler	61 pipes
8	Erzahler Celeste	49 pipes
4	Loch Gedeckt	61 pipes
4	Fugara	61 pipes
2 $\frac{2}{3}$	Nazard	61 pipes
2	Principal	61 pipes
1 $\frac{3}{5}$	Tierce	61 pipes
1	Siffflote	61 pipes
1	Cymbel IV	244 pipes
16	Schalmei	12 pipes
8	Schalmei	61 pipes
8	Krummhorn	61 pipes
4	Regal	61 pipes
	Tremolo	

**Pedal Organ [Unenclosed]**

32	Grand Cornet VI	(resultant)
32	Contrabasse (elec)	12 notes
32	Bourdon (elec)	12 notes
16	Contrebasse	32 pipes
16	Bourdon	32 pipes
16	Quintade	[Great]
16	Flute Conique	[Swell]
8	Principal	32 pipes
8	Bourdon	12 pipes
8	Quintade	[Great]
8	Flute Conique	[Swell]
5 $\frac{1}{3}$	Quint	32 pipes
4	Choralbass	12 pipes
4	Bourdon	12 pipes
2	Octave	12 pipes
2 $\frac{2}{3}$	Mixture IV	128 pipes
32	Kontra Posaune	12 pipes
16	Bombarde	32 pipes
16	Trompete	[Great]
16	Bassoon	[Swell]
8	Bombarde	12 pipes
4	Clarion	12 pipes
	Chimes	[Choir]

Zimbelstern (unenclosed in Great division;  
reversible toe stud only)

**Antiphonal Great [Unenclosed]**

8 Bourdon	61 pipes
4 Octave	61 pipes
2 Grave Mixture III-IV	220 pipes

**Antiphonal Pedal**

16 Spitzgambe [Ant Swell]	12 pipes
16 Bourdon [Ant Great]	12 pipes
8 Spitzgambe	[Ant Swell]
8 Bourdon	[Ant Great]

**Antiphonal Swell [Enclosed, Expressive]**

8 Rohrgedeckt	61 pipes
8 Spitzgambe	61 pipes
8 Spitzgambe Celeste	49 pipes
8 Nachthorn	61 pipes
4 Oboe Schalmel	61 pipes
Tremolo	

**Couplers**

Great	16, 4, Unison Off
Swell	16, 4, Unison Off
Choir	16, 4, Unison Off
Bombarde	16, 4

Swell to Great	16, 8, 4
Choir to Great	16, 8, 4
Bombarde to Great	16, 8, 4

Great to Pedal	8
Swell to Pedal	8, 4
Choir to Pedal	8, 4
Bombarde to Pedal	8, 4

Swell to Choir	16, 8, 4
Bombarde to Choir	8
Great to Choir	8

Bombarde to Swell 16, 8, 4

Great to Bombarde	8
Swell to Bombarde	8, 4

Antiphonal Swell Expression to Choir Expression Pedal

Chancel off  
Antiphonal off

**Expression Pedals**

Crescendo Pedal (programmable)  
Swell Expression Pedal  
Choir/Bombarde Expression Pedal  
Antiphonal Swell Expression Pedal  
Flemish/Harp Bells Expression Pedal

**Reversible Pistons**

Great to Pedal	[thumb and toe]
Swell to Pedal	[thumb and toe]
Choir to Pedal	[thumb and toe]
Bombarde to Pedal	[thumb and toe]
Kontra Posaune 32	[toe]
Zimbelstern	[toe]
Sforzando (programmable)	[thumb and toe]

**Control System**

General Pistons	1-10	[thumb/toe]
Great stops, division couplers	1-8	[thumb]
Swell stops, division couplers	1-8	[thumb]
Choir stops, division couplers	1-8	[thumb]
Bombarde stops, division couplers	1-8	[thumb]
Pedal stops	1-8	[thumb/toe]
Antiphonal Great	1-3	[thumb]
Antiphonal Swell	1-3	[thumb]
Antiphonal Pedal	1-3	[thumb]
Couplers	1-3	[thumb]
Couplers cancel		[thumb]
Antiphonal Swell to Choir Expression		[thumb]
Cancel		[thumb]
Setter		[thumb]

**Other**

SSL® combination memory system,  
16 levels of memory  
4 programmable Crescendo settings  
Programmable Sforzando  
Drawknob console on elevator

In 2001 the entire organ was removed, refurbished, and further expanded to 79 ranks with 99 levels of memory by the Schantz Organ Company of Orrville, OH. As noted below, 2 additional ranks were added in 2002; and in 2014, when the sanctuary was remodeled to its current configuration, the façade rank of pipes and the horizontal trumpets (Trompette en chamade) were added, bringing the Pilot Memorial organ to 83 ranks, 4,618 pipes, with 87 speaking stops, 3 sets of bells plus Glockenstern.

In August 2021, the Solo Trompette en chamade 8 was renamed Landes Herald Trumpet 8 in recognition and honor of 25 years of service to St. Luke's Music and Fine Arts by Rob Landes, Organist and Artist-in-Residence.

**ST. LUKES UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**  
**Houston, Texas**  
**PILLOT MEMORIAL ORGAN**  
**M.P. MÖLLER - Opus 9090 1959, with revisions 1988**  
**SCHANTZ 2001, with revisions 2014**

Four Manuals    83 ranks (incl. digital)    4,618 pipes    87 stops + 3 bell stops + Glockenstern

**GREAT** (unenclosed) 4½" wind pressure

16 Contra Gamba (façade, added 2014)	61 pipes
16 Violone	61 pipes
8 Open Diapason	61 pipes
8 Gamba (ext)	12 pipes
8 Violone (ext)	12 pipes
8 Gedeckt	*61 pipes
8 Harmonic Flute	61 pipes
4 Octave	61 pipes
4 Koppel Flute	*61 pipes
2 Fifteenth	61 pipes
1⅓ Mixture IV	244 pipes
½ Scharf III	183 pipes
16 Kontra Trompete	*61 pipes
8 Trompete (ext)	12 pipes
Chimes (enclosed in Choir)	21 notes

**SWELL** (enclosed/expressive) 5" wind pressure

16 Rohrgedeckt	*61 pipes
8 Geigen Diapason	61 pipes
8 Geigen Celeste	54 pipes
8 Salicional	61 pipes
8 Voix Celeste	49 pipes
8 Rohrflöte (ext. of Rohrgedeckt 16)	12 pipes
4 Principal	61 pipes
4 Flute	*61 pipes
2 Octave	61 pipes
1⅓ Larigot	*61 pipes
2 Mixture IV	244 pipes
16 Double Trumpet	61 pipes
8 Trompet	61 pipes
8 Oboe	61 pipes
8 Vox Humana	*61 pipes
4 Clarion (added 2002)	61 pipes
Tremulant	
Harp bells (playable on Swell [MIDI])	

**CHOIR** (enclosed/expressive) 4" wind pressure

16 Spitzgamba	*61 pipes
8 English Diapason	61 pipes
8 Spitzgamba (ext)	*12 pipes
8 Spitzgamba Celeste	*49 pipes
8 Gedeckt	*61 pipes
4 Octave	61 pipes
4 Traverse Flute	*61 pipes
2⅔ Nasard	*61 pipes
2 Principal	61 pipes
2 Octavin	*61 pipes
1⅓ Tierce	*61 pipes
1 Mixture IV	244 pipes
16 English Horn	*61 pipes
8 Clarinet	61 pipes
8 Cornopean	61 pipes
Tremulant	

Glockenstern (rocking tab, unenclosed in Great division)

\* pipes from original M.P. Möller organ

**SOLO** (enclosed with Choir Organ) 7" wind pressure

8 Grand Cornet V (C2 - D5)	195 pipes
8 Landes Herald Trumpet (15" wind, 2014)	61 pipes
16 Tuba Magna (18" wind)	61 pipes
8 Tuba Major (18" wind) (ext)	12 pipes
8 Festival Trumpet (ext, Ped Bombarde)	*17 pipes
8 Schalmei	*61 pipes
Flemish Bells (playable on Solo [MIDI])	
Chimes	21 notes
Tremulant	

**PEDAL** (unenclosed) 4½" wind pressure

32 Contrebasse (digital)	32 notes
32 Bourdon (digital)	32 notes
16 Contrebasse	*32 pipes
16 Contra Gamba (façade, added 2014))	(Great)
16 Violone	(Great)
16 Spitzgamba	(Choir)
16 Bourdon	*32 pipes
16 Rohrgedeckt	(Swell)
8 Principal	32 pipes
8 Violone	(Great)
8 Bourdon (ext)	12 pipes
8 Rohrgedeckt	(Swell)
4 Choralbass	32 pipes
4 Flute (added 2002)	32 pipes
2⅔ Mixture IV	*128 pipes
32 Contre Bombarde (digital)	32 notes
16 Bombarde (6½" wind)	*32 pipes
16 Kontra Trompete	(Great)
16 Tuba Magna	(Solo)
8 Bombarde (6½" wind) (ext)	*12 pipes
8 Tuba Major	(Solo)
4 Clairon (6½" wind) (ext)	*12 pipes
4 Schalmei	(Solo)
Chimes (enclosed in Choir)	21 notes

**ANTIPHONAL GREAT** (unenclosed) 4" wind pressure

8 Principal	61 pipes
8 Bourdon	*61 pipes
4 Octave	61 pipes
2 Mixture III	*183 pipes

**ANTIPHONAL SWELL** (enclosed/expressive) 4" wind pressure

8 Gedeckt	*61 pipes
8 Flute Celeste II	*110 pipes
4 Nachthorn	*61 pipes
8 Hautbois	61 pipes
Tremulant	

**ANTIPHONAL PEDAL**

32 Resultant	32 notes
16 Flute Conique (ext fr Swell)	*12 pipes
16 Lieblich Bourdon (ext fr Great)	*12 pipes
8 Flute Conique	(Ant Swell)
8 Bourdon	(Ant Swell)



## COUPLERS

Great 16, 4, Unison off  
Swell 16, 4, Unison off  
Choir 16, 4, Unison off  
Solo 16, 4

Great to Pedal 8, 4  
Swell to Pedal 8, 4  
Choir to Pedal 8, 4  
Solo to Pedal 8, 4

Swell to Great 16, 8, 4  
Choir to Great 16, 8, 4  
Solo to Great 16, 8, 4

Great to Choir 8  
Swell to Choir 16, 8, 4  
Solo to Choir 8

Solo to Swell 16, 8, 4

Swell to Solo 8, 4

Antiphonal Swell expression to Choir expression  
All Swells to Swell expression  
Great/Choir transfer (incl division pistons)

Chancel Off  
Antiphonal Off

## EXPRESSION PEDALS

Crescendo (programmable)  
Swell Expression  
Choir/Solo Expression  
Antiphonal Swell Expression

## CONTROL SYSTEM

General Pistons	1-16	[thumb]
	[toe studs duplicating 1-10]	
Great stops, division couplers	1-8	[thumb]
Swell stops, division couplers	1-8	[thumb]
Choir stops, division couplers	1-8	[thumb]
Solo stops, division couplers	1-6	[thumb]
Pedal stops	1-8	[toe]
Cancel		[thumb]
Setter		[thumb]

## REVERSIBLE PISTONS

Great to Pedal		[thumb/toe]
Swell to Pedal		[thumb/toe]
Choir to Pedal		[thumb/toe]
Solo to Pedal		[thumb/toe]
Swell to Great		[thumb]
Great/Choir transfer (incl division pistons)		[thumb]
Glockenstern		[toe]
Full Organ I, II (programmable)		[thumb/toe]

## OTHER

Peterson® combination action system  
99 levels of memory  
4 programmable Crescendo settings  
2 programmable Sforzando settings  
MIDI on Great, Swell, Choir, Solo  
Moveable drawknob console

Documented and prepared Spring 2020 (during worldwide epidemic of coronavirus COVID-19)  
Updated August 2021  
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