

## David Tannenberg

**Founded/Born**

1728 - 1804

**Closed/Death**

**Still active?**

no

### Description

David Tannenberg, born on March 21, 1728, in Berthelsdorf, Germany, was a prominent Moravian organ builder who immigrated to Pennsylvania. He is recognized as one of the most significant American organ builders of the 18th century. After arriving in America in 1749, Tannenberg became involved in the Moravian community's construction activities and later specialized in organ building. He learned the craft from Johann Gottlob Klemm and, following Klemm's death, Tannenberg built over forty organs across various states including Pennsylvania and North Carolina. His organs, admired for their craftsmanship, are still in use today. He also built pianos and harpsichords, though none survive. Tannenberg passed away on May 19, 1804, in York, Pennsylvania.

### Sources

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/David\\_Tannenberg](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/David_Tannenberg)

## Nazareth, PA, Whitefield House

Whitefield House, East Center Street, 18064 Nazareth, PA, United States of America



<b>Builder</b>	D. Tannenberg
<b>Year</b>	1776
<b>Period/Style</b>	Classical
<b>Stops</b>	4
<b>Keyboards</b>	1
<b>Keyaction</b>	tracker/mechanical

### Description

The organ, restored by R. J. Brunner in 1997, holds a significant place in American musical history, likely originating from the Moravian chapel of the Saal or Single Brothers' House in Bethlehem. The restoration involved releathering the bellows, refurbishing the original Tannenberg keyboard, cleaning the pipes, and touching up the case. Originally costing £60, this instrument was dedicated in November 1776, making it one of the oldest known organs in the region. Over the years, it underwent minimal changes, including the addition of a 13-note pedalboard, which was later removed, preserving its near-original condition.

The organ's history suggests it remained largely untouched and unaltered during critical periods, largely because it was unplayable for many years, likely saving it from modifications during times when such changes were common. By the 1920s, it had been relocated to the Whitefield House in Nazareth. Its case, grain-painted in the 1830s, was left intact during the 1997 restoration to maintain its historical authenticity. The careful preservation and meticulous restoration efforts underscore the organ's cultural and historical significance, reflecting its journey through time while maintaining its original craftsmanship and sound.

## **Stoplist/Disposition**

### **Manual**

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Flute Amabile 8'

Viol da Gamba 8'

Flute (orig. Flöt duo) 4'

Principal 2'

### **Additional:**

### **Sources**

<https://beta.pipeorgandatabase.org/instruments/2399>

# Lititz, PA, Lititz Moravian Church

Lititz Moravian Church, 8, Church Avenue, 17543 Lititz, PA, United States of America



<b>Builder</b>	D. Tannenberg
<b>Year</b>	1787
<b>Period/Style</b>	Classical
<b>Stops</b>	9
<b>Keyboards</b>	1+P
<b>Keyaction</b>	tracker/mechanical

## Description

The organ originally built for the Moravian Church in Lititz, Pennsylvania, has a storied history of movement, damage, and restoration. Initially constructed for the church in Lititz, it was moved to the Moravian Church in South Bethlehem in 1879 and later dismantled and stored partly in Lititz at the church and partly in the Single Brothers' House. A significant portion of the organ stored at the church was destroyed in a fire in 1957. The remaining parts underwent a meticulous restoration and reconstruction effort led by James R. McFarland & Co. from 1976 to 1983, with the aim to restore the organ to its original 1787 condition.

The comprehensive restoration process involved replicating all missing parts, including two wedge-shaped bellows, the pedal chest, various parts of the case, and the front pipes which had been stored in the church attic. McFarland's team relied on detailed documentation and adherence to Tannenberg's original construction methods to ensure historical accuracy. The restored organ was installed in a newly constructed gallery in the Single Brothers' House adjacent to the church, featuring an authentic wind system powered by pulling ropes—a traditional setup once common in Pennsylvania-German organs. Further adjustments and the setting of a new temperament were completed in 2010, securing the organ's place as a significant historical artifact and a functioning piece of musical heritage.

## Stoplist/Disposition

### Manual

Principal Discant 8'

Flaut Amabile 8'

Viol de Gambe 8'

Qünt: Dehn 8'

Principal 4'

Floth 4'

Sub Octav 2'

### Pedal

Sub: Bass 16'

Octav Bass 8'

### Additional:

### Sources

<https://beta.pipeorgandatabase.org/instruments/375>

# East Pikeland Township, Zion Lutheran Church

Zion Lutheran Church, 39, Bonnie Brae Road, 19475 East Pikeland Township, United States of America



<b>Builder</b>	D. Tannenberg
<b>Year</b>	1791
<b>Period/Style</b>	Classical
<b>Stops</b>	6
<b>Keyboards</b>	1
<b>Keyaction</b>	tracker/mechanical

## Description

The organ in question has undergone several relocations and restorations over the years. Initially moved to the rear gallery of a new building in 1861, it was relocated to the main floor in 1901, moved back to the rear gallery in 1972, and extensively altered during these transitions. A significant restoration was undertaken in 1998 by Patrick J. Murphy, which involved meticulous attention to historical accuracy and preservation of original materials.

During the 1998 restoration, and subsequent refurbishments, many original features were preserved or restored, including the replacement of altered components with historically appropriate counterparts. For instance, an 8' Open Diapason added in 1861 was replaced with its original 3' Quinte stop. The restoration also focused on enhancing the organ's functionality while maintaining its historical integrity. Modern elements like a new blower were added, but designed to be non-intrusive to the original structure. Hand-planed eastern white pine was used to create new windtrunks and replace missing back case panels, ensuring that new additions blended seamlessly with the old.

Further discoveries during restoration, such as newspapers from 1791 found in the bellows, have provided additional historical insights and have been preserved as part of the organ's history. The restoration included the recreation of a period-style keyboard and meticulous work on the key action and pipework, culminating in a reinstallation that not only restored the organ's function and appearance but also preserved a significant piece of musical and cultural history.

## Stoplist/Disposition

### Manual

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Principal dulcis 8'

Gedact 8'

Principal 4'

Flaut 4'

Quinte 3'

Octav 2'

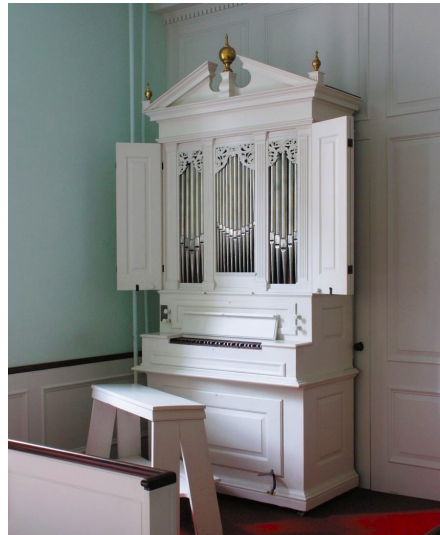
### Additional:

### Sources

<https://beta.pipeorgandatabase.org/instruments/1227>

## Lititz, PA, Lititz Moravian Church (Small Chapel)

Lititz Moravian Church, 8, Church Avenue, 17543 Lititz, PA, United States of America



<b>Builder</b>	D. Tannenberg
<b>Year</b>	1793
<b>Period/Style</b>	Classical
<b>Stops</b>	4
<b>Keyboards</b>	1
<b>Keyaction</b>	tracker/mechanical

### Description

The organ originally built for the Moravian Church in Graceham, Maryland, has experienced significant changes and relocations over its lifetime. Initially constructed for a specific religious community, it was moved in 1957 by the M.P. Moller company to its current location. About three decades later, around 1990, it underwent a significant restoration by James R. McFarland, aimed at preserving its historical integrity and functionality. The organ has a compass of 54 notes, which accommodates a wide range of musical compositions suitable for church settings.

This move and subsequent restoration underscore the importance and value placed on maintaining the operational and historical aspects of classic church organs. These efforts ensure that such instruments can continue to serve their musical and cultural purposes in their communities. The updates and maintenance over the years reflect ongoing commitment to the preservation of musical heritage within church environments, allowing future generations to experience the rich sounds of traditional pipe organs.



## **Stoplist/Disposition**

### **Manual**

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Gedackt 8'

Gambe 8'

Floet 4'

Principal 2'

### **Additional:**

### **Sources**

<https://beta.pipeorgandatabase.org/instruments/512>