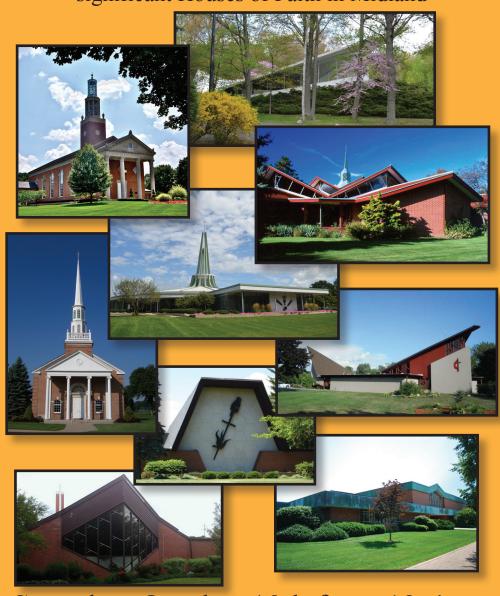
# Light From Above - Midland's Houses of Faith

An exploration of nine of the most architecturally significant Houses of Faith in Midland



Saturday, October 19th from 12-4pm Admission is free. Parking is provided at each location



## Alden B. Dow Home and Studio

A National Historic Landmark

The Alden B. Dow Home and Studio is excited to offer *Light From Above: Midland's Houses of Faith*, a hands-on exploration of nine of the most architecturally significant houses of faith in the Midland Community. Although Midland is known for it's abundance of incredible Mid-Twentieth Century architecture, the Houses of Faith tour represents a diverse array of architects and architectural styles woven into our city's character. When describing the buildings in a city, Alden Dow said it was at its best when it was "...a concentration of variety". *Light from Above* will allow us the opportunity to experience this variety for ourselves.

Midland was once known as "The City of Beautiful Churches". This tour is a rare opportunity to be able to view these Houses of Faith from a design and architectural perspective. A panel of architects and designers was assembled to review the 101 Houses of Faith in our community. In order to be considered for the tour, the structure had to be: designed by an architect, fit into an architectural style, have superior quality of materials and craftsmanship and add a richness to our community. Although we have many more Houses of Faith that fit these criteria, nine were selected for this year and we hope to feature additional structures in the future.

It has been a joy to work with the representatives from the Houses of Faith in organizing this free event. These representatives gathered information and history on their individual structures and provided the descriptions featured in this booklet. We thank them for their passionate commitment to this project.

We are proud to partner with the Saginaw Valley Chapter of the American Institute of Architects to bring you this booklet that gives background on each structure and begins to document these structure and the architects behind them. By taking the time to visit each structure, it will further our understanding and appreciation of our community and allow us to see the incredible level of excellence that exists in the design and craftsmanship of our religious structures.

We hope you enjoy experiencing and learning about these Houses of Faith. In addition to the knowledge you gain, we hope you will be inspired by the creativity of the designs, the beauty of the spaces and the part they play in our architecturally significant community.

Craig McDonald
Director



### Understanding Architecture of the Saginaw Valley

Every day we move through life likely paying little attention to the buildings we encounter, the parks we play at, and all the spaces in between. When thinking about architecture, it's important to recognize that architecture isn't just about buildings, but our built environment as a whole.

To understand architecture, it's imperative to recognize that architecture is a culmination of both art and science in a built form. There is a fundamental need to understand the physics of what makes a column transmit snow loads from a roof, down through the building, and to the footings resting upon the soil. But just as important is the architect's ability to create form that functions for people, give beauty to structure, and connect with its surrounding environment. Without any one of these elements architecture fails. The need to protect occupants is simple to comprehend, but a building that is structurally sturdy may not respond to the needs of it users, and fail at functionality.

Take a house that is not designed with a family in mind: It may meet the basic needs of its occupants, but it may fail at ever becoming a home. If the human element is left out buildings they fail to become architecture, and they merely exist as walls, columns, floors and openings, without any intent or direction.

A well designed space can lift our spirits, make us feel warm, safe and even focus our attention on the worship of an Almighty God. A church with well-placed windows can connect an interior space to nature and the heavens. As you explore Midland's Houses of Faith pay attention to how the windows impact the space. Do they frame a picture of the outside? Do they allow nature to flow into the space? How about the light? Is it falling over the bones of the architecture and highlighting it in a way that defines texture, or is it bursting through stained glass with natural rays of holy color that inspire enlightenment? Also, notice how you are guided through the space by form. Does a low ceiling make a space personal and reflective just prior to entering a sanctuary full of volume, where light, voices and music resonate? The impact of scale can intensify the perception of space and cause a sense of awe and awareness.

Our architecture identifies us. Those things that we deem are important articulate themselves in the architecture we build and protect. From our homes, places of work, to our sanctuaries of worship, architecture is an extension of us. It speaks of us as individuals and a community. Architecture is a reflection of us, our refinement and creativity. It identifies our priorities. Are we interested in evolving and fostering new ideas, or do we hold strong to culture and tradition? Throughout our region we have a rich history of architecture. The cities of Saginaw, Bay City and Midland all reflect the times in which they were created and the mindset of those that help to shape them.

We are fortunate to have such a vast array of architecture in the Saginaw Valley that represents us. As we continue to develop our built environment we will rely upon the interaction between our architects and community. Ultimately, it is the people who are the heart and soul of a place, and the architect that guides the process of development. It's only through this unique relationship that architecture arises, responding to needs, priorities and traditions. True architecture is a representation of the people it was designed for, and inspired by.

Paul Andrew Haselhuhn, AIA AIA Saginaw Valley President

# The Bertha E.R. Strosacker Memorial Presbyterian Church

1310 Ashman Street



Size of Congregation: 852 members

Architect of Original Structure: Aymar Embury II (Edward Coe Embury,

Associated) New York City, NY

**Year Built**: 1951 – 1953

Square Footage of Original Building: 39,000 square feet

Architectural Style: Georgian

Additions/Modification: 1961- Education Wing, Harold H. Fisher and Associates,

Detroit, MI. 41,000 square foot addition

### **Building Description:**

Designed in the wake of the Second World War, the architects of Memorial Presbyterian Church wanted the building to embody classical beauty, stability and peace. The Romanesque layout of the original church is very traditional; the sanctuary dominates the central space with two wings extending out both sides forming the shape of a cross. The sanctuary itself is composed of classical pillars, a soaring chancel and beautiful opaque windows. There is a formal parlor with Georgian furniture and handblocked Colonial wallpaper. The side chapel and assembly room are decorated in themes that evoke a distinct Presbyterian (and Huguenot) heritage. Several pieces of original furniture were licensed replicas from Williamsburg.

### **Description of Religion:**

Memorial Presbyterian Church is affiliated with the Presbyterian Church of the United States of America (PCUSA). Presbyterianism is part of the Reformed branch of the Protestant faith with roots in Scotland, France and Holland. As a Reformed church we have a theology grounded in the Bible and in Christ: a worship service oriented around traditional music, the Lord's Supper and infant baptism; a commitment of service to our community and to the world. Presbyterianism derived its name in the sixteenth century from its (at that time) unique form of church government; instead of being controlled by bishops or kings, our church is governed by elected elders (or, in Greek, *presbyters*). Even today our church operates through elected officials who oversee various committees dedicated to social justice, Christian Education, music and the arts and other expressions of our faith. Although small in numbers, Presbyterianism has been a very influential presence in American History.



### **Uses of Building:**

Because the church is committed to serving our community, we encourage outside groups to use our facilities. Beyond our own programs, our building houses a food pantry, cooperative preschool, Boy Scout Troop 765, the regional headquarters of Young Life, Happy Diners (an afternoon meal provided by Midland Senior Services), Kinship Caregivers (an organization for relatives raising young children), Alcoholics Anonymous, and Al-Anon and Al-Ateen all on a weekly basis. We also provide facilities on a less regular basis for Shelter House, the Michigan Jazz Trail, Project Blue Light, a semi-annual Grief Recovery Group and our Vacation Bible School.

### **Additional Information:**

In 2012 Memorial Presbyterian Church dedicated a new fifty-five rank organ from Orgues Létourneau (Québec).

### **Blessed Sacrament Church, Catholic**

### 3109 Swede Avenue



<u>Size of Congregation:</u> Approximately 1,750 registered households

Architect of Original Structure: Brysselbout, Starke, Hacker, Simon and Associates,

Bay City, MI **Year Built:** 1967

<u>Square Footage of Original Building:</u> 9,003 square feet **Architectural Style:** Mid-Twentieth Century Modern Design

### Additions/Modifications:

Two modifications have been made to the original worship space. Neither modification enlarged the square footage of the church. The first modification involved the Baptismal Font which was redesigned to allow for the immersion of adults in 1994. The second modification involved the northwest entrance. It was redesigned in 2007. The interior doors were moved to provide better sight lines as one enters the church, and an outside gathering area was added.

#### **Building Description:**

Blessed Sacrament was constructed with the Vatican II liturgy of the Church in mind. Its circular shape was designed by architects Brysselbout, Starke, Hacker, Simon and Associates of Bay City. All of the marble in the church consists of Travertine Marble obtained from a quarry near Florence, Italy. The main marble altar is an elliptically-shaped table on a sculptured base. The woodwork throughout the church, with the exception of the exposed cedar ceiling is of solid and veneer walnut. North Carolina Green Stone used in the facing of the walls. The pews are made from solid oak. The bell is a 1,000 pound Holland Bell. A feature of the exterior construction is the 97 foot high steeple cross based in lantern windows. The cross is spotlighted at night. The church windows were designed and constructed by James Hopfensperger, a parishioner

and former art teacher at Midland Public Schools, and consist of faceted glass, hand set in aluminum frames.

### **Description of Religion:**

Blessed Sacrament Church is a Roman Catholic parish, and member of the Diocese of Saginaw.

### **Uses of Building:**

The church is used for Sunday worship (5:00 p.m. Saturday, 8:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. on Sunday). We also have Mass on Tuesday and Thursday at 8:30 a.m., celebrate Evening Prayer at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesdays, and pray the Rosary at 8:30 a.m. on Saturdays. The church is used to celebrate weddings, hold funerals, and a wide range of other parish activities that takes place in the Parish Center. We have a parish Elementary School as well as Faith Formation programs for youth through adults.



### **Additional Information:**

Blessed Sacrament Parish was established on November 18, 1951. The first Masses were held in Northeast Intermediate School's gymnasium. The groundbreaking for the actual parish site occurred on Easter Sunday, April 17, 1954. The building project began with the construction of a nine classroom elementary school and an auditorium/gymnasium that would serve as the church until an actual church building was constructed. The first Mass in the present church was celebrated on August 20, 1967.

### First United Methodist Church

### 315 W. Larkin Street



Size of Congregation: 1,925 members

Architect of Original Structure: Alden B. Dow, Alden B. Dow Associates Inc.,

Midland, MI

Year Built: 1949 – 1950 sanctuary, lower level Fellowship Hall and kitchen

<u>Square Footage of Original Building:</u> 65,000 square feet **Architectural Style:** Mid-Twentieth Century Modern Design

### **Additions/Modifications:**

1953-Chapel, Reflecting Pool, lower level classrooms - Alden B. Dow, Midland, MI 1955- Parlor, Cloister Walk, Pre-School, Courtyard - Alden B. Dow, Midland, MI 1967-1968 – Office Area, Little Theater, McKay/Price Library, Choir Room, Hearth Room, classrooms, custodian's apartment - Dow, Howell, Gilmore, Associates, Inc., Midland, MI

2011-Apartment converted to Fresh Aire Counseling Center.

### **Building Description:**

The church is a brick and glass structure. Incorporated into the design are spaces for honorarium and memorial windows.

Mr. Dow made the following comments about the design:

"A church is not a place of seclusion or confinement. Transparent doors and windows tell us that beliefs must not be concealed from any man. It is important that people see the outside world as they sit in worship and as they leave the church. Growth is the fundamental objective of all things. The architecture of the First Methodist Church of Midland is striving to inspire this concept of growth. The pointed ceiling panel running down the center of the church is the life stream of this building. The panel ends in the sky window, the steeple of the church, which turns the worshippers' eyes to heaven.

The columns supporting it should become symbols of the essential qualities of life significant of true growth for mankind. The cross, symbolizing perfection in man, holds the dominating position within this church." The cross is visible but not overpowering, dominant but kind. The lectern and pulpit is moved forward to be closer to the congregation. The chancel is open, with no communion rail to separate the chancel from the congregation. The windows are rich in the symbols of the faith. The Fellowship Hall beneath the sanctuary is constructed without pillar supports.

### **Description of Religion:**

We are part of the United Methodist Church.

Our mission statement: We are a dynamic faith community, seeking to follow Christ's example of loving God, nurturing one another, and serving the world. To all who would know God and do God's will ... to all who would live and serve to make a Christian world ... to all who seek comfort and would find rest ... to old and young, wise and unlearned, rich and poor, saint and sinner, this church opens wide its doors and, in the name of Jesus, bids you welcome.



### **Uses of Building:**

The church is used seven days a week for church and non-church activities. Church activities include Sunday and Wednesday worship services, youth, men's, and women's fellowships, youth roll bakes, semi-annual rummage sales, LOGOS, rehearsals, board and committee meetings, United Methodist District and Conference meetings and events. Non-church functions include a Boy Scout Troop and Girl Scout events, English as a Second Language classes, Sunday Friendship Lunch, AA and NA meetings, I Know Me Community Health Camp, and a host of other regular and special community meetings and activities. In addition, bridal and baby showers, birthday and anniversary celebrations and other private parties are held at the church.

### **Awards or Recognitions:**

1956 – Award of Merit from the American Institute of Architects

1958 – featured in *Together*, a National Denominational Magazine

1959 – American Architects' Award of Excellence

### **Holy Scripture Lutheran Church**

4525 West Main Street



Size of Congregation: 150 members

Architect of Original Structure: Merrit, Cole & McCallum, Farmington, MI

Year Built: 1972 (Congregation organized in January, 1969)

Square Footage of Original Structure: 20,000 feet.

Architectural Style: Georgian.

Building Description: The building reflects the classic architecture of Orthodoxy when the Bible was held by all Protestants to be the inerrant authority for doctrine and life. This identification is signaled also by the congregation's name: Holy Scripture Lutheran Church. In a world that often darkly exalts the earthly, a soaring white steeple points toward heaven for hope, directing all upward to God, in Whom alone is peace. The cross and orb surmounting the steeple symbolize the ultimate victory of Christ's Cross over the world. On the interior, the dominant white bespeaks the holiness of God, focusing on the Bible and sword-cross, weapon of the Spirit (Ephesians 6:17). The pulpit, large and elevated, declares the importance of the proclaimed Word in authentic Lutheran worship. Stately columns rise majestically to Corinthian capitals in the interior, to the Ionic on the exterior, bequeathing an aura of loftiness and dignity. Our edifice says architecturally something of what we mean to say theologically. We believe the architect and building committee achieved an inviting warmth and satisfying aesthetic that should provide an agreeable setting for both worship and work.

The pipe organ, designed to accompany the Lutheran Liturgy, was built by the Schlicker Organ Company, Inc., of Buffalo, New York.

To the left of the front door on the Portico is a display of several bricks from the original 1723 "Old North" Church of Paul Revere fame, Boston, Massachusetts.

### **Description of Religion:**

We hold the Bible to be the verbally inspired Word of God, inerrant in all its part and the sole source of doctrine for faith and life. (2 Timothy 3:16,16).

We believe in one Triune God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, who is our Creator, Redeemer and Sanctifier. (Deuteronomy 6:4; Matthew 28:19)

We hold and teach that man is not the chance product of evolutionary processes, but the rational, accountable creature of the all-wise, almighty God. Man was created holy but through Adam's fall into sin is now by nature corrupt, alienated from God, and totally incapable of saving himself. (Romans 3:28; Ephesians 2:1-3, 11-13)

We believe and proclaim that all mankind was redeemed from sin, death, hell and the devil by the innocent life, substitutionary death and triumphant resurrection of Jesus Christ. Through Him forgiveness of sins, life and salvation are now offered freely in the Gospel and are received by faith alone. (Romans 5:6-10; 3:28)

We look forward to the personal return of the Savior who will judge both the living and the dead, taking all who believe in Him home to heaven. (Titus 2:11-15)



### **Uses of Building:**

Our activities include, Worship Services, Sunday School, Bible Study, Nursery facilities, Youth Group, Vacation Bible School, Ladies Guild, Fellowship gatherings, Outreach into the community and the world.

Our Mission: We exist to carry out the will of God who has commanded us to proclaim the good news of salvation through Jesus Christ into all the world. To accomplish this we unite in worship and join together in Christian fellowship. We are affiliated with the Evangelical Lutheran Synod, a federation of Lutheran churches united by a common love of God's Word. It is dedicated to spreading and defending the three great principles—The Word Alone, Grace Alone, Faith Alone—which are the heritage of the Lutheran Church. We grow in God's grace through the study of the Bible. We witness to the world that Jesus Christ became everyone's Savior through His perfect life, sacrificial death and triumphant resurrection. We desire to share the comforting confidence that everyone can be certain of eternal salvation through repentance of sin and faith in Jesus Christ.

### **Poseyville United Methodist Church**

### 1849 Poseyville Road



Size of Congregation: 116 members

Architect of Original Structure: Francis E. Warner, Midland, MI

Year Built: 1968

Square Footage of Original Building: 9,924 sq. ft

Architectural Style: Mid-Twentieth Century Modern Design

#### **Building Description:**

As one of the two Houses of Faith in Midland designed by Francis (Red) Warner, Poseyville Methodist Church follows Red's unique artistry of taking modest building materials and creating spaces that are engaging, beautiful and comforting. From the exterior, the structure looks much like a bird in flight with wings wide-spread. This allows the structure to appear to be reaching up to the heavens. The triangular form of the overall design reinforces the idea of the trinity. The cement block construction creates security and protection from the outside world while windows placed high in the sanctuary opening it to the infinite. The interior is a harmonious blend of warm, rich materials. Western white pine, walnut and hickory are used for all interior wood detailing including the large supporting beans that anchor the main sanctuary into the rest of the structure. The sanctuary is flooded with natural light from the windows behind the alter area. The glow from the inset colored glass adds interest and warmth to the otherwise neutral palate of materials. A center aisle leads your eye to the alter area that includes the choir seating behind. The cross in the alter area has two spot lights specifically aimed at it producing two shadows, one on each side signifying the trinity. The structure also includes classrooms, office space and a large area for fellowship and other church activities and events.

#### **Description of Religion:**

We are a United Methodist Church. In 1968 the denomination was formed representing a union between the Evangelical United Brethren and the Methodist churches. We believe in the one living and true God, maker and preserver of all things and in the unity of the trinity- Father, Son and Holy Ghost. We believe that all persons are of sacred worth regardless of race, color, creed, or gender and as such, all have the opportunity to accept the grace of God and salvation through Jesus Christ.

#### **Uses of Building:**

Our activities include Venture Crew (boy scouts), Monday-Tuesday 6pm fall biweekly Bible Study-Tuesday 6:30pm. Sunday Worship11:30 am- adult Sunday School 9:30 am, Children's Sunday School 11:00am, Fall Fish Fry-3<sup>rd</sup> Friday every month September-May. Fall Pancake Breakfast 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday monthly September-May.



#### Awards or Recognitions:

2011-United Methodist Spotlight Church 2012-United Methodist Spotlight Church

#### **Additional Information:**

Mission Statement is "Nurturing all God's children in a community of prayer and service" and we intentionally, actively and joyfully live this out in out worship to God and service to our community and the world.

### St. John's Episcopal Church, Midland

### 405 N. Saginaw Road



<u>Size of Congregation:</u> About 200 active households, with an average Sunday attendance of about 170 individuals.

Architect of Original Structure: Alden B. Dow Associates, Inc., Midland, MI Year Built: 1951

Square Footage of Original Building: 14,000 square feet with 14,000 square feet of basement

<u>Architectural Style:</u> Mid-Twentieth Century Modern Design **Building Description:** 

Embracing as it does a landscaped cloister, St. John's synthesizes the space of the outdoors with the security of the brick walls, fusing the two with the interpolation of broad window-walls. The cloistered memorial garden and pond offer a contemplative space along with security. Visible from inside both the sanctuary and parish hall, it brings the outside world in, and unites the different spaces of the church. The multipeaked roofline and clerestory windows of the parish hall admit an abundance of light and the ability to see through to the opposite side where the pattern is repeated. The 22' high x 48" wide window in the narthex was designed to elicit the image of a ship's prow. Triangles of color give modern treatment to the stained glass tradition. This window and the stunningly tall doors leading to the nave give a sense of spacial elevation, lifting gaze and spirit upward. The 400-seat nave features glass walls on three sides, allowing views of the cloistered garden to the east, sloping lawn to the west and Barstow Woods Park beyond the large south narthex window. The vaulted ceiling, light wood in the sanctuary, and abundant glass make for a bright, vibrant worship space. From anywhere in the nave, all lines converge on the suspended 13' cross. Slender window panels beside the cross enhance the sense of air and light around it. The church's lower level was designed for educational and social activities. It currently houses Sunday School and pre-school classrooms as well as Elliott Chapel, an intimate worship space featuring pews, doors and other fixtures original to the Larkin-Cronkright site (St. John's first home of over 80 years). Materials include brick exterior with copper fascia (some original copper has been replaced); brick, masonry and plaster interior; significant use of glass and window walls. White oak used for millwork and molding. Floor coverings include wood, carpet, linoleum.

#### Additions/Modification:

Chancel renovations and addition of current Ministry Center, designed by Dow-Howell-Gillmore-Associates Inc., Midland, MI 2001. The altar was moved forward and the choir was relocated from its sides to a gradually elevated area behind it. A wooden floor replaced the original linoleum in the chancel and the communion rail was also moved forward. In recent years, pews at the front of the church were modified for wheelchair accessible seating.

#### **Description of Religion:**

St. John's is an Episcopal Church and a member of the Diocese of Eastern Michigan. First established in 1867, St. John's has continuously offered worship and Christian formation in the tradition of the Episcopal Church and worldwide Anglican Communion since its founding. St. John's engages in Christian service and witness that is focused locally and globally. Long standing local outreach ministries include St. John's Episcopal Cooperative Preschool and SAMS Pantry, a founding member of the Midland County Emergency Food Pantry Network. Currently, our mission statement is "Linking Lives in the Love of Christ" and we are guided by the following statement of identity, "We joyfully gather to pray, worship, learn and serve as we seek to follow Jesus, and invite all to join us on a sacred journey of hope and transformation."



### Uses of Building:

Worship Services; regular formation, fellowship, outreach and stewardship ministries include: Bible Study, men's and women's study groups, Children's and Youth Formation, Samaritan Fund (drop-in outreach), AA meetings, Love Knots, Prayer Shawl, Daughters of the King, Centering Prayer groups, St. Martha's Guild, reception and luncheons, pre-school classes, Boy Scouts, Vestry meetings and committee meetings for Buildings & Grounds, Endowment, Finance & Administration.

### **Awards or Recognitions:**

1998-City of Midland Appreciation of Beautification Award

### **Additional Information:**

St. John's was the first Episcopal Church ever to be built in Midland, MI. Alden B. Dow incorporated parts of St. John's first home, a renovated barn, into Elliott Chapel in the current structure's lower level.

### St. John's Lutheran

### 505 East Carpenter Street



Size of Congregation: 1,559 members

Architect of Original Structure: Alden B. Dow, Midland, MI

Year Built: 1953

Square Footage of Original Building: 21,320 square feet **Architectural Style:** Mid-Twentieth Century Modern Design

### Additions/Modification:

1964-East and West Wing of the Kitchen: Classrooms, rest rooms, principal's office, nursery rooms and new choir room. Addition by Robert, Hammerschmidt, Midland, MI 1966- Alter and Cross enlargement.

1973-Cassavant pipe organ and installed in choir loft.

1970s-Kneeling tables were extended for communion

1986-Office wing reorganization and Room 5 was converted to the Weller Chapel.

Architect Robert Hammerschmidt, Midland, MI

1984- Classroom and gymnasium addition. Architect Robert Hammerschmidt,

Midland, MI

2008-Railings added to nave step

2010-Modular classroom converted to Youth Center

2011-Electronic Organ purchased and choir loft was restored

### **Building Description:**

The structure is octagonal in shape, with the altar and a four–armed cross at the center; the nave is divided into eight segments with aisles; the building radiates in eight separate wings. A corridor completely surrounds the nave, providing easy access. The corridor is separated from the main sanctuary with fixed glass sheets that are set in wood at an angle to avoid disturbing reflections. The doors into the nave are high to make the worshiper sense their relative smallness when entering. The roof is two layers of radiating gables with glass on each end. The original structure is 310 feet long by 167 feet. The building was designed to be family friendly, and no one in the sanctuary is more than 60 feet away from the pastor. The congregation can see most of their fellow worshippers during the service. In the first meeting with building committee the discussion centered around Martin Luther's directive to his congregation to go out and build a fortress to guard their ideals. Alden Dow stated that his first reaction was to turn everything inward to a central court with almost no windows. A

church member suggested an idea that was like a Japanese fan, with the roof supports radiating from one point through 180 degrees. The fan shaped form gave Alden Dow the idea of the people guarding the church rather than the building itself guarding the ideals. Alden Dow stated, "The symbol and center of this church -the congregation, the minister, the music, the meeting rooms, and finally the gardens and the open skyradiates and develops from this central theme. With humility and enthusiasm, this building is trying to show that growth is unrestricted as long as it radiates from the principles of God."

When the congregation identified that a new building was needed in the late 1940s, a committee was selected. They arranged a display of pictures of four main styles of religious architecture, Gothic, Romanesque, Mixed, and Modern. They had speakers give presentations about these categories. A vote was taken of communicant members, by postcard, and about sixty percent voted for Modern Design. The committee researched various architects and Alden B. Dow was engaged in the spring of 1952.



#### **Description of Religion:**

St. John's Lutheran Church is a congregation of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. With the Universal Christian Church, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod teaches and responds to the love of the Triune God: the Father, Creator of all that exists; Jesus Christ, the Son, who became human to suffer and die for the sins of all human beings and to rise to life again in the ultimate victory over death and Satan; and the Holy Spirit, who creates faith through God's Word and Sacraments. The three persons of the Trinity are coequal and coeternal, one God.

<u>Uses of Building</u>: We hold Sunday and Wednesday evening services and special services, weddings, baptisms and funerals throughout the year. Activities include, Nursery during services and for some meetings, "Meet with Pastors" Saturday mornings. Sunday School, Youth and Adult classes Sunday mornings, Day School and Nursery school during school year, Vacation Bible School in summer, various youth meetings and activities throughout the year. Leadership Team, committees, volunteers, music groups, organizations, study groups, kitchen workers...days and evenings, all days throughout the year.

**Additional information:** St. John's was the first Lutheran church in Midland, founded in 1884 to serve the German speaking immigrants to the area.

### Trinity Lutheran Church, Midland

3701 Jefferson Avenue



Size of Congregation: 1,800 members, 760 families.

Architect of Original Structure: Toshach, Prine and Spears of Saginaw, MI (now

known as TSSF Architects after a couple of mergers)

Year Built: 1963 (groundbreaking) 1964 (dedication)

**Square Footage of Original Building**: 29,670

Architectural Style: Post-War Modern

### **Additions/ Modifications:**

1995 to 1998-designed by Jeffery A Parker, Architect, of Grand Rapids, MI Constructed by Helger Construction of Midland, MI. Single-story building addition (which also includes a basement level), to accommodate a new foyer, nurseries, family activity center with a commercial kitchen, classrooms, music suite, child daycare center, administrative suite and exterior drop-off area.

#### **Building Description:**

"Three" and "four" are critical Biblical symbols and both – especially three - are used extensively in Trinity Lutheran Church. The Church's four-sided base rises in a truncated triangle, the four sides representing the world (four corners of the earth, four directions, winds, etc.) and the flattened triangle representing the Blesses Trinity. The triangle, traditional symbol of the Trinity, is reproduced many times in many ways. The altar itself is a large triangle with one point of it pointed toward the congregation. It is an altar emphasizing the sacraments of baptism and Holy Communion, the baptismal font being located in the angle pointing to the congregation. There are kneelers on the two back sides so the altar becomes a Communion table when members of the congregation are gathered around it. Even those who do not receive Communion on a particular Sunday are included as the communicants face each other and the other members of the congregation. Facing the altar and members of the congregation at the same time reminds all that when the people commune with God they do it not just individually but corporately. It is the act of communing with God and one another, identifying the people as one family, one congregation sharing together. Each beam in the church forms a triangle, and takes up the Trinity theme. At the front of the church, there are two free standing brick walls, in order for these walls to work, without falling

down, there had to be a collaborative effort between the builders, and Dow Chemical to find a mastic/mortar that would work with the bricks, and give enough to not be brittle, yet strong enough to keep the wall standing. The windows are of faceted glass, with those on the north side representing God the Father, the Creator. He is represented symbolically, especially in the items of His creation, as expressed in the first article of the Apostles Creed. The second article of the Creed is represented by a triangular figure of the resurrected Christ. Carved in Italy, it is mounted on the red brick wall far above the altar. Windows on the south side depict the Holy Spirit as represented in the third article of the Apostles Creed. Three basic materials were used – red brick, wood beams and decking- with the beams forming triangles and white plastered areas. Accents are of troweled marble. A massive Trinity symbol is also used on the exterior of the church, a symbol designed by a member of the congregation, Eugene Ulmanis. God the Father is represented by the traditional hand of creation, Christ by the cross and the Holy Spirit by the dove. After conceiving the design, Ulmanis carved it fullsize out of Styrofoam. It was then shipped to an ecclesiastical arts firm in Chicago where it was reproduced in pounded copper. The church was designed by Prine, Toshach, Spears Architects and Engineers of Saginaw and was awarded the Saginaw Valley Chapter, American Institute of Architects merit award in January, 1967. It was dedicated during a month-long celebration in October, 1965.



### <u>Description of Religion:</u> Lutheran, Protestant Uses of Building:

The building is used daily, there are groups that meet here, Fibromyalgia Group, Kiwanis, Midland Area Homes, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Brownies, and many others use the facilities for meetings. There are also special concerts given by some of the Midland School Choirs and groups. There is an Ecumenical Thanksgiving service every year, and the doors are open to many outreach programs including dinners and luncheons for those in need. Midland Mobile Food Pantry uses the church for food distribution twice a year. There is Preschool during the fall.

### **Awards and Recognitions:**

January, 1967- Saginaw Valley Chapter, American Institute of Architects' Merit Award.

### United Church of Christ, Midland

### 4100 Chestnut Hill Drive



Size of Congregation: 348 members

<u>Architect of Original Structure:</u> Charles Blacklock and Robert Schwartz of Schwartz and Blacklock, Midland, MI

Year Built: 1962 (groundbreaking) 1964 (dedication)

Square Footage of Original Building: Approximately 3600 square feet

Architectural Style: Mid-Twentieth Century Modern Design

Additions/Modifications:

1970- A kitchen, Choir Room, offices and classrooms were added. The architects were Blacklock and Schwartz.

1983 - A fellowship hall was added. Robert Schwartz, Midland, MI

### **Building Description:**

From the first moment you see this dynamic structure it invokes interest and exploration. Masterfully woven into its surroundings, the building is a stunning example of organic, Mid-Twentieth Century Design. The architects, Robert Schwartz and Charles Blacklock created a soaring structure that is open and free while at the same time comforting and intimate. It is a masterful combination of innovative materials, new technologies and daring and playful artistry. The roof over the sanctuary is a hyperbolic paraboloid supported by two buttresses, which spans 148 feet from point to point and the buttresses are 80 feet apart. Each buttress contains 45 yards of concrete and 10 tons of reinforcing steel; the buttresses are held together beneath the floor by a reinforced concrete beam. The roof contains 157 tons of light-weight concrete reinforced with 23 tons of steel. It was done in one continuous pour, with trucks coming from all over the area all day. The windows in the sanctuary are clear glass which ties the building to the outside world. Each season of the year provides a beautiful canvas for the worship space. The color scheme in the sanctuary is based on the liturgical colors, and includes purple carpet and red pews. This same color scheme is used throughout the building. In 1977 a custom built single-manual tracker organ,

patterned after the small pipe organs of sixteenth and seventeeth century Germany, was installed. This organ was built by John Brombaugh of Ohio.

#### **Description of Religion:**

The United Church of Christ, Midland was founded in 1960. It belongs to the United Church of Christ denomination which was created in 1957 with the joining of four historic Reformation churches: Congregational, Christian, German Evangelical, and German Reformed. The United Church of Christ, Midland, has always been at the forefront of issues of social justice. In 2004 this congregation voted to become Open and Affirming, which means that we joyfully welcome all who seek to follow Jesus into the life, leadership and ministry of the church, regardless of gender, sexual orientation, race, age, and ethnic background, difference in ability or family configuration.

### **Uses of Building:**

Alcoholics Anonymous, Phi Kappa, Paint and Palette, Daughters of the Union, Red Hat Society, Midland Retired Music Teachers, Cub Scouts, as well as various recitals and concerts.



### **Awards and Recognitions:**

2003- City of Midland Appreciation of Beautification Award. This award was given for beautification of the church grounds.

### **Additional Information:**

Recently the sanctuary was repainted, new carpeting was installed, the pews were refurbished and reupholstered, a new top was installed on the communion table and communion rails, a parlor and new nursery were created, and the fellowship hall was painted. The majority of this work was completed by members of the congregation.

### A Glossary of Church Architectural Terms

**Aisle**, the side of a nave (q.v.) separated from the nave proper by a colonnade.

**Ambulatory**, passageway around the choir, often a continuation of the side aisles of the nave.

Apse, a semi-circular or polygonal vaulted space behind the altar.

**Arcade**, a series of arches carried on piers or columns.

**Barrel vault**, semi-cylindrical vault with parallel abutments and of constant cross sections.

**Basilica**, a rectangular building with a central nave, side aisles separated by colonnades, with or without a transept.

Bay, a vaulted division of a nave, aisle, choir or transept along its longitudinal axis.

**Buttress**, a masonry member projecting from a wall, rising from the ground, and counteracting the outward thrust of the roof or vaulting. In Gothic architecture, a flying buttress is a freestanding element connected by an arch to the outer wall.

Canopy, a protective roof above statues

Capital, the head of a column.

**Chancel**, interchangeable with choir (q.v.), sometimes the area in front the altar.

Choir, area at the end of the nave which is reserved for clergy or monks (modern - singers), and which contains the altar and choir stalls.

**Clerestory**, the exterior wall of a nave above the level of the aisles with windows.

**Cloister**, quadrilateral enclosure surrounded by covered walkways, the center of activity for the inhabitants of a monastery.

Close, the area on which the cathedral and subordinate building stand.

**Crossing**, the area of a church where the nave is intersected by the transept.

Engaged column, a column embedded in a wall, not free standing.

**Finial**, the topmost portion of a pinnacle, usually sculptured as an elaborate ornament with upright stem and cluster of crockets; seen at a distance, it resembles a cross from any angle of vision.

Gable, the part of a wall that encloses the end of a pitched roof.

Galilee, a chapel or porch at the entrance to a church

Gallery, an upper story, running along the side of a church, open on one side to the interior.

Lancet, a pointed arched window of one opening frequently arranged in groups of two to five.

**Lantern tower**, a tower with windows shedding light into the crossing (q.v.).

Lunette, a semi-circular space above doors and windows, sometimes framed and decorated.

**Misericord**, In the choir stalls of medieval church, a bracket (often grotesquely or humorously carved) beneath a hinged seat which, when the seat was tipped up, gave some support to a person standing during a lengthy service.

**Narthex**, the single-story porch of a church

**Nave**, the area of a church between the façade and crossing or choir, specifically, the central area between the aisles.

Niche, a recess in the face of a wall or pier, prepared to receive a statue.

**Pier**, a mass of masonry supporting an arch or vault and distinct from a column, A clustered pier is composed of a number of small columns.

**Pinnacle**, a turrent tapering upward to the top, its gracefulness enhanced by crockets (q.v.), and top stone called a finial (q.v.).

**Pulpitum**, a screen dividing the choir from the nave. Often called Rood Screen.

**Predella**, the step or platform on which an altar is placed.

**Portal**, a major entrance to church, emphasized by sculpture and decoration.

Radiating chapels, chapels leading off from the ambulatory, and arranged in a semi-circular fashion.

**Reredos**, the wall or screen at the back of an altar, either in carved stone, wood or metal.

**Respond**, long narrow column or engaged column, mainly in Gothic architecture, which supports the arches and ribs of groan vaults or the profiles of arcade arches.

Rib, a structural molding of a vault.

**Rood screen**, the screen dividing the choir from the nave.

**Sanctuary**, the part of the church which contains the high altar.

**Sedilla**, seats in the sanctuary (q.v.) near the altar, usually three in number for clergy.

**Shaft**, the main part of a column, from its base to its capital.

**Transept**, section of a church a right angles to the nave and in front of the choir.

Vault, the ceiling of a church formed of concrete, stone in mortar or brick in mortar forming a continuous semicircular or pointed arch.

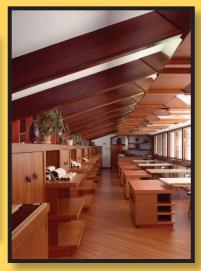
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