

Integon Proudly Presents...

Historic Trinity Lutheran Church



This is a reproduction of an original painting by Edward Swaim commissioned by Integon Insurance for Christmas 1997.

31st in a series of churches chosen for their significance to the friends of Integon Insurance.

It was Autumn past, 1850, when the Spirit of God descended upon a framed wooden chapel on Larned Street, near Rivard, in a town called Detroit.

Finding favor in the souls of pastors Rev. G. Shaller, H. Frick, A. Wuestermann, J. A. Huegli, H.C.F. Otte, G. T. Otte, the Spirit of Heaven guided these faithful followers through the birth of the Mother Church of Detroit Lutheranism.

Through the eyes, hands, and feet of hundreds – devoted through art, music, and sculpture – The Almighty blessed the tiny frame chapel to become a pillar of history – Trinity Lutheran Church – a testament to His Majesty.

Whose parapets serve as daily reminders, living stone covenants with Judges, Saints, Martyrs and Confessors of the Faith from Autumns past.

Faces, words and deeds of Moses, Aaron, Gideon, Hur, St. Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, Virgin Mother of Mary, Luther, St. Boniface, St. Athanasius,

Gustavus Adolphus, and the many who went before, memories seared forever in our hearts.

Whose inside walls of oak, cream and grey colored marble, altars of granite, limestone, and metal, affirm the inspired genius of 16th Century Pier and Clerestory Gothic Cathedrals.

Whose glorious stained glass windows depicting the Vine and the Branches of the Savior, The Life of the Church, stained faced narratives of disciples and apostles, a belief that would not rest, looking unto Christ to portray the one Truth: "Unto Him shall the gathering of the people be."

Now, in its 147th Autumn, Trinity Lutheran stands as none other but the House of God, The Gate to Heaven beckoning all who yet enter, leave not its portals without prayer to God for thyself, for those who minister, and for those who worship here – for Autumns not yet past.

...Nat Irvin, II 11/1/97

About the Artist

Edward Swaim lives in Winston-Salem, North Carolina where he has enjoyed a professional career in graphic arts and design for over 20 years. A native of nearby Thomasville, Ed has been painting since childhood and completed his education at the Harris Advertising School of Art in Nashville, Tennessee.

Today, Ed is devoted to painting his favorite subjects of rural scenes, nature, wildlife, and historic homes using watercolors and acrylics. His award-winning work can be seen throughout North Carolina. His most recent work, "Old Well" is on display at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. Limited edition prints can be purchased through CES Watercolors by calling 788-0439

Ed deftly captures the strong gothic character of the Trinity Lutheran Church in Detroit, Michigan, the corporate home of GMAC.



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