



CHURCHES


BEAUTIFUL CHURCHES THROUGHOUT MANISTEE COUNTY



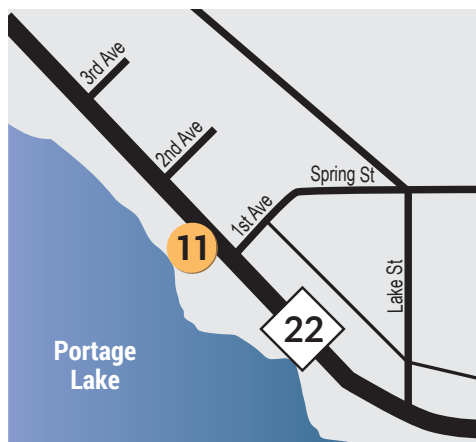
TOTAL TOUR TIME: 1.5 hours  

TOTAL SITES: 12 historic churches & 1 historic cemetery

TOUR START/DETAILS:

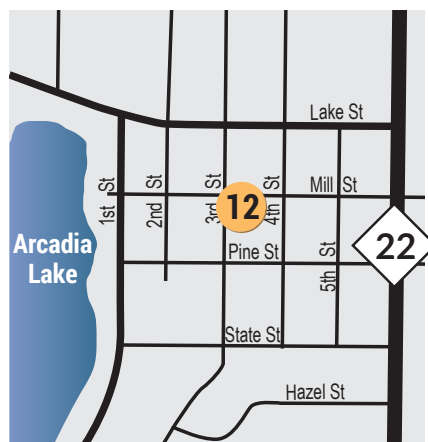
Begin the tour at the First Congregational Church
Here you will be able to park in the public parking lot at the Manistee County Courthouse/Church  Parking Lot. From here, you will be able to easily walk to the next 8 sites (sites 1 through 9) as those will take you on a 1.5 mile walk. We recommend you drive to sites 10-13 as these will require you to travel a greater distance.

DETAIL MAPS



Directions: to

Take Lakeshore Drive north and continue as it turns into Crescent Beach Drive. Turn north onto M-22 and continue through the Village of Onkama until reaching St. John's on the Lake on the north shore of Portage Lake.



Directions: to

From St. John's on the Lake, take M-22 North 13 miles until you reach the Village of Arcadia. Here you will turn west onto Mill Street and continue three blocks to 3rd Street where Arcadia Lutheran Church is located.



SITE MAP

RECOMMENDED START LOCATION

1 First Congregational Church

ARCHITECT: William Lebaron Jenny
CONSTRUCTED: 1892
LOCATION:
 412 Fourth Street, Manistee, MI
 Call for Tours: 231.723.3425 | 231.723.2131

TOUR VIDEO AVAILABLE
 Scan the QR code here to view
 a detailed tour video of this site

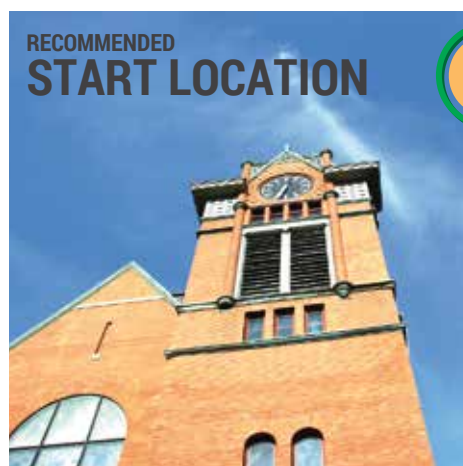
Listed on the National Register of Historic Places, the First Congregational Church of Manistee was founded on July 20, 1862, with 10 charter members. Their intent was "to join together for the purpose of supporting public worship of God and promoting Christian knowledge and charity." This is actually the second church built for the congregation as by 1887, they had already outgrown their first building which was an old school house on the corner of Second and Oak streets. This church has a capacity of 1,000 and was built for an original cost of \$60,000.

The outside of the building is red brick and stone with terra cotta trim. The red bricks for the building were shipped in from across the lake by boat. The foundation stone came from Sturgeon Bay, Wisconsin. The roof is black slate. The rain gutters are actually built between the inside wall and the outside wall, so they cannot be seen from either side. There are copper and black steel ornamental pieces decorating the outside walls.

This magnificent Romanesque church is probably best known for its extravagant stained-glass windows, two of which were created by the studio of Louis Comfort Tiffany. Many of these beautiful, vibrant windows were given to the church in honor or in memory of Manistee lumber barons, shipping industrialists and locally known families of the late nineteenth century.

The stately 132 foot clock tower also holds the bell which was crafted by McNeely Bell Company, of Troy, New York. It was considered to be a beautiful specimen of workmanship. The bell is approximately five and a half feet in diameter and weighs 3,200 pounds. Today, you can still hear the deep sound of the bell being struck on the hour. Every hour. Every day. 365 days a year.

DIRECTIONS TO NEXT SITE: 1 Walk west on 4th St. South on Pine to 5th St. 2



2 The Unitarian Church (New Life Tabernacle)

ARCHITECT: Sydney O. Osgood
CONSTRUCTED: 1886-1887
LOCATION:
 449 Fifth Street, Manistee, MI

The Unitarian Society began to hold services in Manistee beginning in 1884. The first services of the Society were held in a number of different buildings in Manistee, including the old Women's Christian Temperance Union Hall, later occupied by the Olympian Club.

It was during the tenure of Rev. Albert Wakley that the plan to erect a church building for the use of the society was inaugurated.

Architect Sydney H. Osgood, a prominent Grand Rapids architect, designed the church and well-known local builders, Maxted & Newcombe, built the church throughout 1886. Stone from Sturgeon Bay, Wisconsin, was shipped across Lake Michigan for construction of the church.

The building, featuring Romanesque architecture with Moorish influence, was completed at a total cost of \$13,466.30. Major contributions for its construction came from local businessmen Simeon Babcock and T. J. Ramsdell.

The Unitarian Church Society assembled for the first service in December of 1886. At the time, the Society occupied one of the most beautiful church edifices in the city, situated on the corner of Fifth and Pine streets, in the center of the best residential portion of Manistee.

The church was later sold by the Christian Scientists and purchased by the First Baptist Church, who dedicated it in September of 1955.

Today the church is home to the New Life Tabernacle of Manistee.

DIRECTIONS TO NEXT SITE: 2 Walk east on 5th St. Cross Maple St. and continue one block to Guardian Angels Church. 3





3 Guardian Angels Church

ARCHITECT: A. Drunding
CONSTRUCTED: 1888-1890
LOCATION:
371 Fifth Street, Manistee, MI

TOUR VIDEO AVAILABLE
Scan the QR code here to view
a detailed tour video of this site



On May 1, 1888, Rev. Father H. W. Grimme, of Big Rapids, took charge of the German & Irish Catholic congregation of Manistee, and steps were immediately taken to erect a church edifice. \$7,000 was then allocated for the construction of a new church. A lot on Fifth street, at the end of Sycamore, was purchased at a cost of \$3,000.

Architect A. Drunding of Chicago designed the building and C. H. Pelton and C. A. Sathern of Grand Rapids were awarded the contract bid.

The cornerstone of the new building was laid on September 2, 1888 and over two years later on December 21, 1890, Rt. Rev. Bishop H. J. Richter, of Grand Rapids, blessed the church under the name and the protection of the Guardian Angels.

60,000 bricks were required for the construction of the new Catholic Church. Some were ordered from nearby Onekama, some from Big Rapids, and the brick from Manitowoc, Wisconsin.

Many aspects of the church reflect its German and Irish heritage. One of the most visible features of the church is its 170 foot high spire. The spire was intended to represent a beacon and thus become a symbol of safety, protection, and homecoming for parishioners.

Some of the other features of the church are its carillon with a chime of 12 massive bells. The bells in the tower are played using a keyboard located in a room in the choir loft. The church also has a turn-of-the-century pipe organ with 28 stops and 1,600 pipes.

DIRECTIONS TO NEXT SITE: 3 4
From Guardian Angels, proceed east on 5th St., one block to the northeast corner of 5th and Walnut.



4 Scandinavian Methodist Church

ARCHITECT: Unknown
CONSTRUCTED: 1893-1894
LOCATION:
341 Fifth Street, Manistee, MI

Constructed in 1893-1894, this structure was originally the home of the Scandinavian Methodist Church. In 1951, the Scandinavian Methodists consolidated their congregation with the United Methodists and the building became the worship place for The Church of the Nazarene.

In 2007, the former church became the Masonic Lodge. Currently, the building has undergone many renovations, and the original lines of the 1893 church and windows still remain.

DIRECTIONS TO NEXT SITE: 4 5
Continue East on 5th St., cross US-31 and proceed to Hancock St. Turn right (south) and continue two blocks to 6th St.



5 St. Joseph Catholic Church

ARCHITECT: Unknown
CONSTRUCTED: 1885
LOCATION:
254 Sixth Street, Manistee, MI
231.723.2619

Organized as a separate Polish-Catholic congregation in 1885, the members of St. Joseph's began the construction of their own church that same year when Father W. Grochowski was formerly installed as pastor. The cornerstone of the church edifice was laid.

In 1887, two towers were added to the church and later a school, convent, and rectory. In the mid-1950s, the church underwent a major renovation both inside and outside including the installation of new stained-glass windows and a complete overhaul of the facade.

After consolidating all three Catholic Churches in Manistee, St. Joseph is now the primary parish that serves the local Catholic Community.

DIRECTIONS TO NEXT SITE: 5 6
Backtrack to 5th St. and turn left on 5th St. Proceed 1 block west to McKee and turn right. Continue 1 block to St. Paul's Church.



6 St. Paul's Lutheran Church

ARCHITECT: Unknown
CONSTRUCTED: 1890-1891
LOCATION:
313 Fourth Street, Manistee, MI

TOUR VIDEO AVAILABLE
Scan the QR code here to view
a detailed tour video of this site

St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church was organized in 1881. With the Methodists building a new church on property located on First Street, the congregation sold the small church on Maple Street to the newly formed St. Paul's Lutheran Church.

This building was used for a place of worship for a number of years, but similar to the Methodists, as the years passed, the congregation of St. Paul's began to grow and it was decided that a new building should be constructed.

With that in mind, in 1890, two lots located on the corner of Fourth and McKee streets were purchased and work soon began on the construction of the new church.

On September 14, 1890 the cornerstone for the building was laid with longtime pastor, Rev. A Moussa officiating. By the next year, the new church was finished with the old church on Maple Street torn down and the materials used to build a school building near the church.

As the years passed the church saw many additions and updates such as a parsonage built and dedicated in 1898, a new altar, and the coming and going of numerous Reverends.

By 1948, the school building was torn down with a two car garage being constructed in its place. That same year, art glass windows were authorized and later installed for the church as well.

Over the decades, the church continued to renovate and update its building as well as reinvigorate its congregation. Over 125 years later, St. Paul's Lutheran Church endures.

DIRECTIONS TO NEXT SITE: 6 Walk west on 4th St. and proceed across US-31 to the First Scandinavian Church.

7 First Scandinavian Lutheran Church

ARCHITECT: Unknown
CONSTRUCTED: 1874-1875
LOCATION:
331 Fourth Street, Manistee, MI

In 1874, the Swedes and Norwegians left the Danes at what has become Our Saviour's Lutheran Church, 300 Walnut St. The Swedes and Norwegians then built their own church at 331 Fourth St., which became the First Scandinavian Lutheran Church.

The Swedes left the Norwegians in 1884 and the structure became the Norwegian Lutheran Church, which closed in 1948. It was the Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses when it was listed on the Michigan State Register of Historic Sites in 1987. Today the building has been renovated into a modern office.

DIRECTIONS TO NEXT SITE: 7 Continue west on 4th St. Turn right (north) on Walnut and continue to Our Saviour's Lutheran



8 Our Saviour's Lutheran Church

ARCHITECT: Christian Petersen
CONSTRUCTED: 1868-1869
LOCATION:
304 Walnut Street, Manistee, MI

TOUR VIDEO AVAILABLE
Scan the QR code here to view
a detailed tour video of this site

The first Dane arrived in Manistee in 1860. Others quickly followed and soon there was quite a colony. The Danes united with the Norwegians and Swedes already settled in Manistee and a church was formed.

In May of 1868, the Scandinavians held a special meeting and selected a committee to assist with the building of a new church.

Within days, two lots on Third and Walnut streets were purchased for \$700. Christian Petersen received \$300 to design and build the structure. Ground was broken in late May.





On August 1, 1869, the first service in the new church was held despite the fact that it was without pews and was unplastered.

The church is a fine example of beautiful 19th Century Danish architectural influences, featuring decorated gables, a spire, belfry with louvered openings, an elaborate hand carved altar and an intricately carved replica of a Viking ship, complete with masts, sails, rigging, boom and rudder. Over 130 years later, the ship still looks out over visitors from its perch on the balcony railing.

In January 1970, the church consolidated with the two other Manistee Lutheran churches, and in 1972, it was added to the National Register of Historic Places.

Today, It is considered to be the oldest existing Danish Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. The church is open to visitors in the summer and includes a museum about the Danish-American history of Manistee County.

**DIRECTIONS TO NEXT SITE:**

8 

9
Proceed north on Walnut St. Turn left (west) on 2nd St. and cross Maple St. to Holy Trinity Episcopal.



9 Holy Trinity Episcopal Church

ARCHITECT: Richard Upjohn
CONSTRUCTED: 1888-1889
LOCATION:
410 Second Street, Manistee, MI



TOUR VIDEO AVAILABLE
Scan the QR code here to view a detailed tour video of this site



The Episcopal church in Manistee formally dates from 1869, when articles of agreement for a proposed parish were signed.

The congregation was officially organized in March of 1888. Lots for the church were purchased on Second Street shortly thereafter. The cornerstone for the Church of the Holy Trinity was laid in October 1888 and the first services were held in the church on December 16, 1888. This building, one of the few hand-hewn stone churches in the area, was designed by architect Richard Upjohn and constructed in the style of an English country church of Norman



design. A rectory, housing for the priest and family, was built next to the church in 1890.

A disastrous fire swept through the church in 1909 destroying the interior. Repairs were accomplished quickly and six months later the church had been repaired and consecrated. The beautiful woodwork of the ceiling dates from this renovation and was the work of local carpenters.

In the fall of 1929 faulty wiring in the organ caused another fire in the church. This fire damaged the organ, the chancel, the chapel and the Guild Room.

In the late 1970s, the 22-rank organ underwent an extensive, 2 year, renovation. Some portions of the instrument are from rare and early organs and are irreplaceable today. According to music experts, Holy Trinity's organ is considered one of the finest in the area.

Holy Trinity was placed on the Michigan Register of Historic Sites in 1981.



**DIRECTIONS TO NEXT SITE:**

9 

10
Proceed back to the starting location at First Cong. Church, and drive to the next location. Proceed North on Maple Street, crossing the bridge (now on Washington St.) Turn left on St. Mary's Parkway.




10 St. Mary of Mt. Carmel Shrine


ARCHITECT: James H. Livingston Associates
CONSTRUCTED: 1961-1962
LOCATION:
260 St. Mary's Parkway, Manistee, MI

Designed by James H. Livingston Associates of Ann Arbor and Father Anthony Bourdow, the sanctuary structure was designed to follow the form of praying hands with the hall to the north following the form of sand dunes that were so prevalent on the north side of the city.



Construction began throughout the summer of 1961 but received a big setback when in November a number of the laminated beams were blown down and had to be replaced. The first mass in the new church was said on August 26, 1962. On July 14, 1963 the church was dedicated as Our Lady of Mount Carmel Shrine. Varnished wood was contrasted with natural stone throughout the church, parish hall and rectory.

**DIRECTIONS TO NEXT SITE:**

10 

11
Proceed back to Washington St. and turn left (north). Turn right on Veterans Oak Grove Drive. Continue to Lakeshore Rd. Turn left. Continue on Lakeshore for 8.5 miles. Turn onto M-22 North and continue 4 miles to St. John's by-the-lake on M-22.

11 St. John's by-the-Lake

ARCHITECT: Dr. Francis J. Hall
CONSTRUCTED: 1911-1912
LOCATION:
 8860 Norwood Drive, Onekama, MI

In 1911, Dr. Francis J. Hall, a Professor of Dogmatic Theology at Western Theological Seminary purchased a waterfront lot along Main Street in Onekama. Hall soon hired local builder A.D. McCormick to construct a unique chapel on the property.

The next summer, the structure was completed at a cost of approximately \$700. In August of 1912 the chapel was consecrated. Hall remained in charge of the Protestant Episcopal Church until 1930. Today, the small chapel continues to serve congregants throughout the summer months in Onekama.

DIRECTIONS TO NEXT SITE: 11 ➡ 12
 Continue North on M-22 for 9 miles. You will enter the Village of Arcadia. Turn left (west) on Mill St. in the heart of Arcadia. Continue 3 blocks west to 3rd St.

12 Arcadia Lutheran Church

ARCHITECT: Frederick Velguth
CONSTRUCTED: 1887-1888
LOCATION:
 17191 Third Street, Arcadia, MI

At the start of 1887 a committee in Arcadia was assembled to begin plans for a church. Local settler and lumberman, Henry Starke, donated the land with Milwaukee architect Frederick Velguth making the plans for the building. Work soon commenced for the Lutheran Church that same year. One year later, the church was completed and it was dedicated on August 5, 1888.

The gorgeous building is a 40 ft. x 60 ft. building with a 106-foot tower. Many of the furnishings original to the church were done locally. The wood to construct the church came from the Starke Sawmill, pews were made from Arcadia birdseye maple, and the clock was made by famed watch-maker, Nels Johnson of Manistee.

DIRECTIONS TO NEXT SITE: 12 ➡ 13
 Proceed south on M-22, through Onekama. Turn right on Crescent Beach Rd/Lakeshore. Continue until reaching Veterans Oak Grove, turn right.

13 Oak Grove Cemetery

ARCHITECT:
CONSTRUCTED: Circa 1870s
LOCATION:
 1040 Veterans Oak Grove Drive, Manistee, MI

TOUR VIDEO AVAILABLE
 Scan the QR code here to view a detailed tour video of this site



By the early to mid-1860s, Manistee was experiencing a population boom due to the number of sawmills being constructed. Along with these new mills came more jobs which in turn brought more people to the area. With the increase in inhabitants, the matter of an adequate (multi-denominational) burial ground became a topic that was continually brought up in the local newspapers.

Over the next several years a small amount of money was raised through a subscription with a chunk of land later secured near the sand dunes on the north side of the river. The name of the burial ground was called Lake View Cemetery because of its approximation to Lake Michigan.

By 1883, a new association had been organized and incorporated with a Board of Directors that included local pioneer residents such as: John Canfield, T.J. Ramsdell, John Kinsley, L.S. Ellis and C.D. Gardner. Subscriptions for the operation of the cemetery were also sought with a large portion of the subscribers being locally well known, and well off, businessmen. The new association also changed the name of the cemetery to Oak Grove.

Throughout the next several decades the Oak Grove Cemetery Association continued to own and operate the burial grounds. In 1971, a local individual purchased Oak Grove from the Board of Directors. Today the grounds of the cemetery are meticulously maintained.

Many local, prominent lumber barons and businessmen are laid to rest at Oak Grove Cemetery as are their family members. Most of the grave sites here are well over 100+ years old.

HISTORIC CHURCHES TOUR COMPLETE
 Site 13 concludes the Historic Churches Tour. Please reference the table of contents to begin one of the other self-guided tours in this booklet.