



St. John's Episcopal Church, Midland, MI Parish Profile 2021

**St. John's Episcopal Church 405 N. Saginaw Rd. Midland, MI 48640
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Our Mission

Linking lives in the love of Christ

Our Vision

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.

Our Welcoming Statement

You are welcome here, regardless of age, race, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability, sex, national origin, marital status, family makeup, socioeconomic status, or political persuasion. St. John's Episcopal Church is a community of people who gather to acknowledge our need for divine and human love, and to respect our common humanity. At St. John's, all are welcome.

Our Logo



Table of Contents

Introduction	1
Our Parish Life	1
Worship	1
Music	2
Christian Formation	4
Children and Youth	4
Adult	5
Pastoral Care	5
Fellowship	5
Coffee Hour	6
St. Martha's Guild	6
Men's Breakfast Group	6
Special Events	6
Pandemic Changes	6
Outreach	7
St. John's Outreach Programs	7
Community Outreach Partnerships	8
Physical Resources	8
Financial Support	9
Pandemic Changes	9
Finance & Administration	9
St. John's Stewardship Campaigns	11
St. John's Property	11
Leadership	13
Vestry	13
Endowment Committee	13
Parish Staff	13
Rector Search Committee	14
Leadership COVID Response	14
Our History	14
Our Self-Study	15
Our Future	15
Our Midland / Great Lakes Bay Region Community	16
History and Growth	16
Economy, Major Employers, and Business	16
Culture	17
Education	17
Recreation and Sports	18
Volunteerism and Community Life	19
Great Lakes Bay Region	19

Introduction

We, at St. John's Episcopal Church in Midland, Michigan, are excited to begin the search for our next Rector who will boldly proclaim the Gospel, faithfully administer the Sacraments, and serve God's people with love and compassion. Our congregation brings many talents and skills. We desire a Rector who will lead, inspire, and challenge us to be the best version of who God is calling us to be. Thank you for taking the time to consider St. John's.

We are a congregation seeking to live out our mission statement in our ministries, making the most of opportunities to love God and our neighbors using the gifts with which God blesses us. The following profile provides a picture of the loving and welcoming spirit which is the essence of our life together as well as our concerns and opportunities for the future.

Please direct questions to Canon Michael Spencer, Transition Officer for the Diocese of Eastern Michigan at mspencer@eastmich.org or 989-752-6020. To submit your name, please email Canon Spencer your OTM portfolio, a current resume/CV, and a letter of interest addressed to the Search Committee. One of those documents should include links to your online presence, including an audio or video recording of a sermon.

For more detailed information about St. John's, view our [Annual Report](#) on-line, or visit our [website](#) or [Facebook page](#).

Links about Midland and the surrounding region can be found in the Community section of this profile.

Our Parish Life

Worship

Worship at St. John's is a joyful gathering. Our early worship service (8 a.m.) is a quiet and contemplative spoken service, without music, following the Rite II liturgy. Our later service (10 a.m.) offers music and follows the pattern of Enriching Our Worship 1. A Children's ministry is offered at the same time in the garden or indoors. Prior to the pandemic, a much-loved, long-standing tradition has been for the congregation to cross the aisle and hold hands for the dismissal symbolizing our mission of "linking lives in the love of Christ." The later service is also streamed live on our Facebook page.



Wednesday noon worship offers the Holy Eucharist in a spoken service using the Episcopal calendar of the Saints and drawing inspiration from Holy Women, Holy Men and Lesser Feasts and Fasts. In July 2021 we began live streaming this service also.

Our Worship Committee is actively involved in planning for the changing liturgical year. We currently provide additional worship opportunities for the community to join us, such as Blessing of the Animals, Blessing of the Backpacks and Briefcases, Blue Christmas, (a time of remembering those grieving a loss), and Ashes to Go.



As a congregation, we are open to future creativity and new styles of liturgical worship.

Music

St. John's celebrates and recognizes the elements of the liturgical year through music. We are blessed with a variety of church and community members who share musical talents. The Chancel Choir plays an integral role in leading worship each Sunday including extra services at Christmas and Easter. The Choir is comprised of adult congregation members and is supplemented by contracted singers, many of whom are in post-secondary music education. The Chancel Choir performs on special occasions and at events, such as the regional LGBTQ Pride Service, led by area Episcopal Churches. St. John's members and friends provide regular vocal and instrumental special music to enhance our services as well as serve as cantors and musicians for weddings, funerals, and other services.

Dr. Amon Eady, St. John's Director of Music, brings a background in various church denominations and academia. He acts as our primary cantor, Chancel Choir director, and trumpeter. Dr. Eady is currently



Director of Choral Activities at Central Michigan University. Our organist, Mair Alsgaard, a well-known community music leader, brings her talents and Welsh heritage to our congregation.



We recently made significant investments to enhance our musical offerings. In 2017 we purchased a Steinway piano for approximately \$100,000; in 2020 we spent approximately \$50,000 for a used organ. These expenditures have made us a sought-after concert venue. We welcome and collaborate with many musicians and organizations on concerts and educational series. We seek to incorporate inclusive and diverse opportunities for members and the community to serve through instrumental and vocal music, in line with the church's inclusive Welcoming Statement.

In the early days of the COVID pandemic when St. John's was shuttered overnight, our music program immediately pivoted to a remote music ministry. Our musicians streamed from their homes, using their own instruments. When opportunity arose for worship leaders to return to the sanctuary, our musicians streamed as part of the overall service. Although our Chancel Choir was not active during this time, members did individually record an Easter Anthem. Thanks to the talents of our administrative assistant, these recordings were harmonized with accompaniment to present as a choral performance.



Christian Formation

Children and Youth

The children and youth programs are small, but active under the leadership of Missy Harrison, the Director of Children and Youth Ministries since late 2018. With over 16 years of experience working with children and youth ministries, Missy brings creativity and fun rooted in Christ.

The following are examples of recent activities:

- Rotating volunteers lead a one room schoolhouse Sunday School format using Godly Play.
- The Youth Group learned to Zoom together and meets faithfully twice a month. This group has sponsored parish-wide game nights (live in 2019 and via Zoom in 2020/2021) and in 2021 provided 2 evenings of intergenerational “Fun Around the Campfire” giving young and young at heart a taste of a summer camp experience (and s’mores!). In 2019 they decorated small Christmas trees and delivered them to shut-ins providing much appreciated fellowship.
- In 2019 SJEC hosted an Alternative Spring Break Activity for SJEC and other community youth to participate in the Christian Appalachian Project’s “Youthfest” in Eastern Kentucky repairing substandard housing & mobile homes. Trips were cancelled in 2020 & 2021 due to the pandemic, but we look forward to reinstating this ministry opportunity.
- Separate Facebook groups were created for children and youth.
- During the pandemic, we held a virtual Easter Egg Hunt with SJEC families sending photos of eggs hidden in their yards, painting eggs, and sharing lessons about Easter.
- In 2020, we offered an intergenerational online Vacation Bible School called Compassion Camp in partnership with the Diocese. VBS Campers were sent a box of materials and a camp t-shirt. Participants were offered bible stories, music, games, and crafts through bi-weekly zoom meetings. This was well attended by all ages.



- In 2020, we celebrated Scout Sunday to recognize the many contributions to St. John's by the Midland Scouting community. SJEC invited all Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts to attend a special Sunday Service to be recognized, followed by a special Coffee Hour centered around Scouting activities such as Pinewood Derby and Girl Scout Cookies.



Adult

We provide several opportunities for adult formation. The regularly scheduled options are listed below:

- **Sunday Bible Study** – Meets between Sunday morning services to discuss the appointed lessons and how they can be applied to our lives as Christians.
- **Women's Bible Study** - A long-standing group that meets to study Scripture, pray, and enjoy some fellowship.
- **Bible in the Basement** - Open to all who are interested, this group explores a variety of studies/resources to help us more fully live the Gospel.
- **Women Journeying Together** - A long-standing women's group that views and discusses a mutually chosen video presentation – generally augmented by a book – or a book study, on a religious or biblically based topic. Prayer and fellowship are also an important component of this group.

While we have these opportunities for adult formation, we have identified this as an area for improvement – for example, programs with more emphasis on Christian fundamentals, spiritual development, and Episcopal beliefs and practices.

Pastoral Care

A team of lay people and the Rector make up the Pastoral Care Committee that serves as a resource and support to the congregation. Eucharistic Ministers (LEMs) and the Rector provide the Eucharist to shut-ins. An informal yet active network of care proactively provides transportation, meals, friendship, etc. to those in need.

Fellowship

St. John's is open and welcoming to all. Fellowship and gatherings are an important part of our congregational life. Through a combination of regular fellowship programs, weekly or monthly group meetings, and stand-alone events, members and visitors are invited to gather and share faith, service, food, and fun. The programs listed below are just a part of the many ways our congregation gathers in faith and companionship.

Coffee Hour

Every Sunday we have coffee hour following the 10:00 a.m. worship service in Williams Hall, just outside of the Sanctuary. The congregation gathers for coffee, juice, donuts and fellowship.

St. Martha's Guild

The members of St. Martha's gather monthly from September to June to plan service projects and share fellowship and dessert. Over the years, St. Martha's has hosted receptions, funeral luncheons and offered hospitality. Annually, they collect baby items to be donated to the local Life Clinic Community Resources. St. Martha's also holds fundraisers and donates monies for outreach supporting King's Daughters Christmas Closet, Salvation Army, SAMS Pantry, the Sharing Tree Project, and many other local charities.

Men's Breakfast Group

Traditionally held at a local restaurant but virtually through the pandemic, this group meets on the first Monday of the month. In addition to sharing fellowship, they help plan and serve at church events including our Pancake Supper and quarterly Sunday brunches.

Special Events

St. John's hosts special events throughout the year. These events often involve food, and all are welcome to join us.

- Christmas party
- Pancake Supper
- Great Lakes Loons games
- Community Barbecue

Some of these events draw 100 to 150 participants, with members of the congregation bringing neighbors and friends to share in fellowship with us.

Pandemic Changes

Our congregation kept one another safe by moving the majority of our regular fellowship group meetings and parish-wide events online, canceling in just a few instances.

The Youth Group, Men's Breakfast Group, and St. Martha's Guild hosted a virtual Pancake Celebration on Shrove Tuesday. Traditionally, we celebrate with a Pancake Supper cooked up in our parish kitchen and served in our parish hall. In 2021, volunteers hand-delivered kits of pancake mix, syrup, and small craft items to parishioners' homes so all could participate in this tradition. We celebrated together via Zoom to break bread (pancakes!) and offered opportunities to participate in the fun including Pancake Trivia, Pancake Races (videos), a Pancake Decorating Challenge and more.

Outreach

St. John's serves the community through its outreach programs and takes part in local, area-wide, national, and global outreach activities through volunteering, offering our physical resources, prayer, and generous financial support. This profile lists a few of our many outreach activities. Full details are available in the Annual Reports available on [our website](#). Articles in our newsletter, [The Epistle](#), also supply highlights and photos from our outreach efforts.



St. John's Outreach Programs

Share A Meal Service (SAMS) is part of a county-wide food pantry network. SAMS has been in operation for over 40 years and is prioritized as an ongoing service to the community. SAMS utilizes approximately 60 volunteers from St. John's and the community. SAMS has the capacity to provide food to 30 families per week.



During the summer months, the on-site Good News Neighborhood community garden supplies fresh produce for SAMS and other community organizations. Garden boxes are available for parish members and SJEC neighbors to "grow their own."



Our Samaritan Fund is a financial assistance ministry in which volunteers meet with and consider requests from people facing inability to pay for rent, utilities, medical procedures, and auto repair.



Our knitting group supplies handmade items to local hospitals and charitable organizations, and a quilting group supplies quilts for the C.S. Mott Children's Hospital in Ann Arbor.



Community Outreach Partnerships

We partner with Great Lakes Bay Pride (GLBP) to support their mission to supply LGBTQ and ally inclusive education, advocacy, networking, and resources. We are a major Pride Festival sponsor and participant, take part in the Pride service, and have provided support for GLBP's Harmony Diversity Choir, Transgender Support Group, and inclusive Online Service Directory.

St. John's volunteers collect and deliver clothing to St. Andrew's Episcopal Church in Flint and prepare and serve breakfast on the 5th Sunday of the month. We also periodically provide a community lunch at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Saginaw while joining them for Sunday worship. Beginning in 2020 we provided the take-out containers needed to support St. Paul's feeding ministry as it changed during the pandemic.

St. John's actively partners with the Midland Area Community Foundation's Cultural Awareness Coalition, a Midland County resource tasked with opening doors to understanding and creating an environment welcoming to everyone. We participate in the Coalition's annual "Neighboring Week" celebration in late September. In 2020, we hosted a virtual "Mister Rogers's Neighborhood" Sunday service, complete with all your favorite childhood songs. Won't you be our Neighbor?

Physical Resources

We provide classrooms, Wi-Fi, utilities, annual scholarships, money for additional programs and outdoor grounds for the Learning Tree Cooperative Preschool, an independent organization utilizing the basement of our building at no cost.

We supply meeting space for several community groups including, Alcoholics Anonymous, Scouting, Great Lakes Bay Pride, Tai Chi in the Garden, Mid-Michigan Drum Circle, and Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense. Many of our members are active participants in these groups.



Financial Support

St. John's is blessed with significant investments to support approximately \$150,000 in annual grants to charitable organizations. The St. John's Endowment Committee reviews grant applications from groups that do work to help people locally, regionally, nationally, and internationally. Beyond receiving grant applications, we invite members of helping agencies and non-profit groups in our area to enlighten us about the pressing needs of our community. We also consider grants from entities throughout the country and internationally.

The Endowment Committee has awarded grants to non-profits serving survivors of domestic abuse and sexual assault, animal rescue and adoption, reducing teen suicide, providing safe space for LGBTQ residents, local drug addiction services, housing assistance, scholarship assistance for Episcopal seminarians, etc. The Endowment Committee also



provided financial support to affected homeowners and nonprofit organizations serving those impacted by the local catastrophic 2020 flooding.

Members of the congregation also make a consolidated annual gift to Episcopal Relief and Development Gifts for Life, along with a matching contribution from the Endowment Committee.

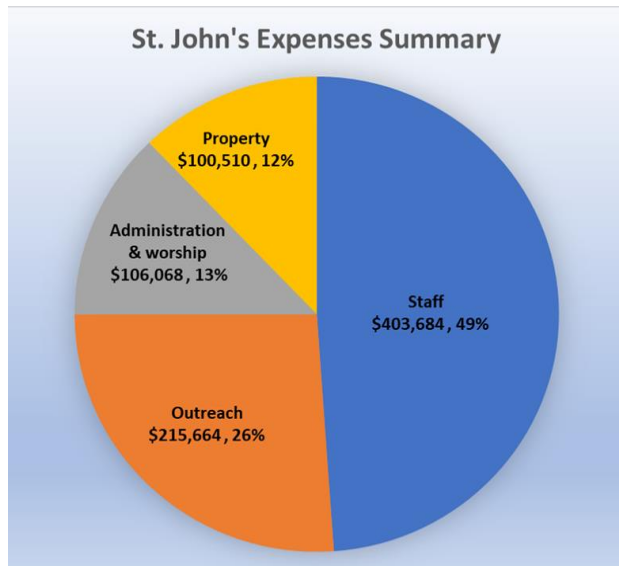
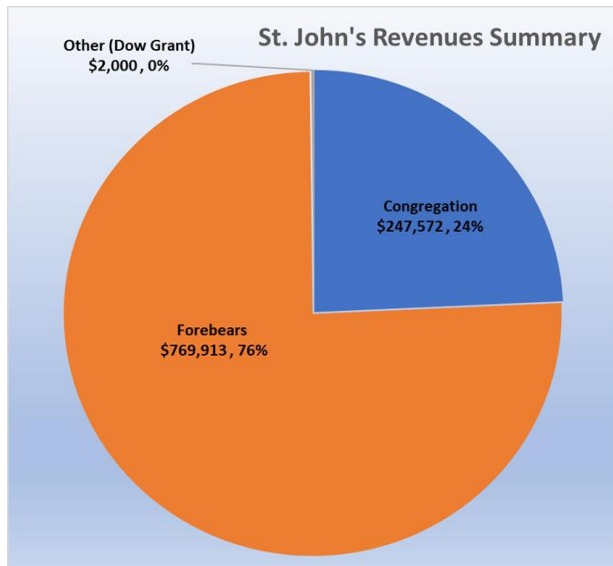
Pandemic Changes

Our outreach activities continued during the COVID-19 pandemic but with measures in place to protect the health of staff, volunteers, and those receiving aid. Our Endowment Committee switched to Zoom meetings to review grant applications and award funds. The Samaritan Fund continued to distribute funds where needed, using phone interviews with clients rather than meeting in-person. Food distribution at SAMS pantry switched from a client-select grocery store model to one where volunteers pre-pack food and deliver it outdoors to client vehicles. St. John's continued to plant and harvest food from our garden. Knitting and quilting groups did not meet in person but continued to create and donate items from home. Some activities normally held in our building, such as AA meetings, were on hiatus until the recent building reopening.

Finance & Administration

St. John's is blessed with a financially sound foundation. The pie charts reflect the inflows (revenues) and outflows (expenses) for the 2020 operating year.

- The revenues of the Church come from two primary sources: Most revenues (75%) are from Endowment investment earnings and draws. The remaining revenues are from pledges, plate offerings, and other donations (25%).
- Nearly half (49%) of the Church's expenses relate to staff salaries, benefits, and other payroll costs. Outreach activities comprise the second largest expense, accounting for 26% of total expenses. The other two major expense categories are related to church administration and worship activities (13%) and property maintenance and improvement activities (12%).
- Budgeted amounts for 2021 are similar to those shown in the pie charts. A couple of exceptions for 2021 include a major roof replacement expected to cost more than \$90,000 and the installation of an electronic sign costing approximately \$50,000. Both projects will be funded using existing resources.
- The church is blessed with endowments with a market value as of June 2021 of approximately \$15 million.



Below is a summary of church revenues and expenses for the years 2017 through 2020:

	Congregation Revenue	Forebears Revenue	Operating Expenses	Outreach Expenses	Revenues Over/(Under) Expenses
12/31/2020	\$264,597	\$754,888	\$569,942	\$255,985	\$193,558
12/31/2019	\$285,369	\$736,214	\$623,098	\$278,778	\$119,707
12/31/2018	\$306,595	\$741,406	\$679,225	\$297,916	\$70,860
12/31/2017	\$376,289	\$803,504	\$857,358	\$497,100	(\$174,665)

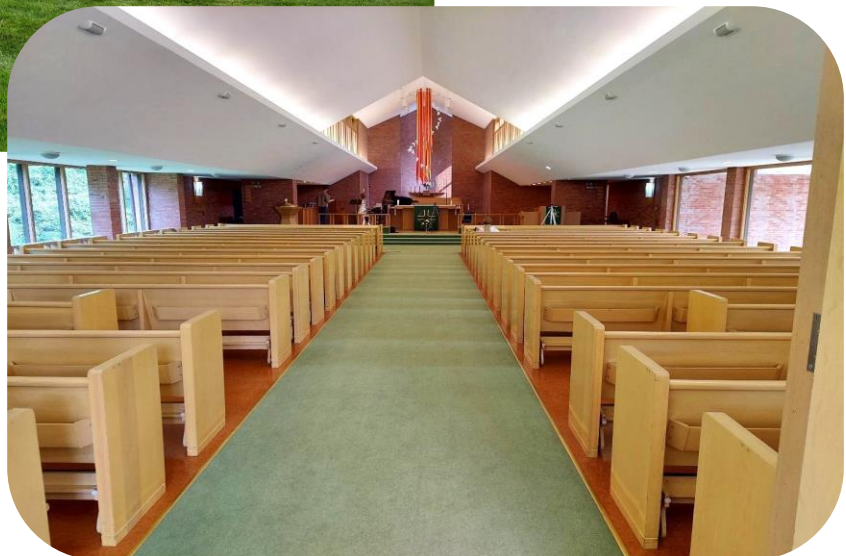
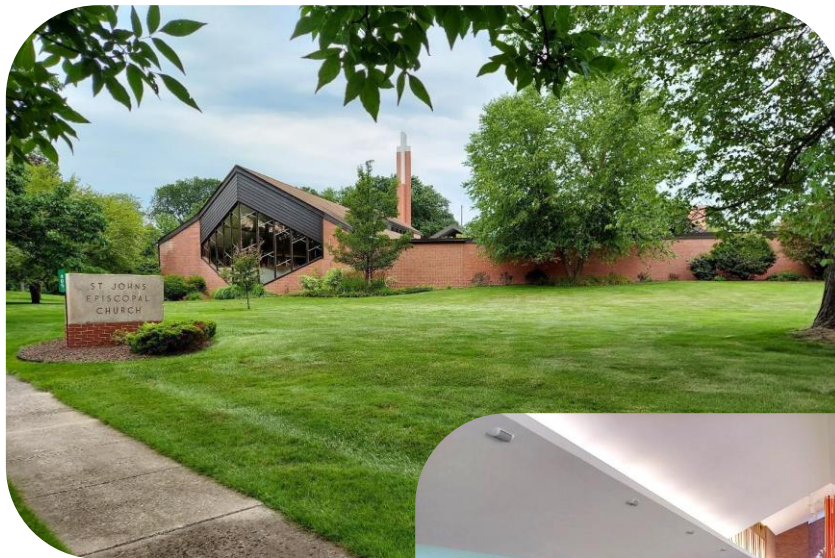
St. John's Stewardship Campaigns

Year	Pledges	Total
2017	94	\$246,859
2018	81	\$216,821
2019	71	\$197,378
2020	80	\$209,120
2021	76	\$210,429

St. John's lists 276 active members; average Sunday attendance for 2017 through 2020 has been about 90 parishioners.

St. John's Property

The 37,000 square foot, Alden B. Dow designed church building sits on 2.3 acres. Our sanctuary has a 150-person seating capacity. Parishioners are treated to music with both a Steinway piano and a newly replaced organ.



The church grounds include a columbarium surrounded by a beautiful courtyard garden and pond, complete with frogs, fish, and flowers. The Church occasionally holds alternative worship services and other events in the garden.



Leadership

Prior to this transition, St. John's supported a full-time Rector to provide leadership and support to the parish and community, and a part-time Assistant to the Rector, added in late 2018, to better serve our congregation and community.

During this time of transition, the Assistant is serving as the full-time Priest-In-Charge to lead worship services, provide pastoral care, and support members and parish staff in their missions. We are thankful for his talents during the pandemic as we transition back to face-to-face worship.

Vestry

Nine St. John's members serve on our Vestry annually with three-year terms commencing at the annual meeting. With our Rector, they oversee resource development, staff, property, and money to support the mission and ministry of our church. They give voice to and help shape St. John's mission.

The Co-Wardens assist the Rector in managing the Vestry work. The current Co-Wardens bring professional experience from corporate management, public health, religious leadership, and community service. The Vestry Clerk, along with the wardens, may act as a signing authority on documents required by external agencies. The positions of Co-Wardens and Vestry Clerk are elected by the Vestry annually.

St. John's Treasurer is appointed by Vestry (no term limits) to manage external accounts and oversee the work of the church's bookkeeper. The Treasurer is not required to be a Vestry member.

Endowment Committee

St. John's members also elect members of the Endowment Committee, whose charge is to seek charitable grant applicants, evaluate applications against established criteria, and award funding. Our Endowment Committee consists of nine members with three-year terms. The Vestry/Finance Committee sets the budget for the Endowment Committee annually.

Parish Staff

The staff includes a Director of Children & Youth Ministries, Administrative Assistant, Bookkeeper & Office Manager, Director of Broadcasting, Custodian, and worship service Nursery Care Provider. In addition, St. John's employs a Director of Music, an Organist, and a full-time Sexton.

Rector Search Committee

The Rector Search Committee is composed of nine active St. John's members selected by the vestry. Committee Members represent a broad base of the St. John's membership in age, race, orientation, gender, and attendance at the two Sunday worship services in addition to the length of membership both at St. John's and in the Episcopal Church.

Leadership COVID Response

During the COVID pandemic, church leadership actively partnered with clergy and staff to conduct church business remotely. Meetings moved to the Zoom environment, and the Rector and Vestry kept the congregation informed about safety requirements from the Diocese of Eastern Michigan. The Vestry communicated the status of church closure with the congregation and initiated extra contact with members of the church who were social distancing for safety reasons. In the spring of 2020, when a great flood hit the community, church leadership ensured the Church's safety and ministered to both affected members of the congregation and the wider Midland community. Leadership found many benefits of remote meetings and will use it in the future as time and environment dictate.

Our History



The current church building was designed by Alden B. Dow and built in 1951, with the first church service held in August 1952. However, The Episcopal Church (TEC) has had a much longer presence and impact in Midland. In 2017 we joined with Holy Family Episcopal Church, Midland for a community-wide year-long celebration of the 150th anniversary of TEC in Midland.

In 1867 the first group of Episcopalians met in a “drafty hall” on Main Street in the “rough and tumble” lumber town of Midland. For the next few years, congregants pursued their faith, dealt with numerous pitfalls, and finally acquired an old barn in 1870 in which to worship, and St. John's organized as a parish. The barn was moved to a newly purchased lot at the corner of Larkin and Cronkright streets. Over time, the frame of the barn became the body of the church. This frame barn, following numerous additions and renovations, served the parish, known as St. John's, for more than eighty years.

When the congregation outgrew the renovated barn, St. John's moved to the current building. In 1961, Holy Family Episcopal Church was built to meet the needs of the growing congregation that worshipped at SJEC.

One of the many ways we celebrated this milestone was to commission internationally recognized composer, Mark Hayes, to create a musical arrangement based on the 150th Psalm – “Let Everything That Has Breath Praise the Lord”. The hymn debuted at our 150th

Liturgical Celebration service. This continues to be a much-loved arrangement locally and has gained national attention.

<i>to commemorate the 150th anniversary of The Episcopal Church in Midland, Michigan</i>		1
Let Everything That Has Breath		
Praise the Lord		
<i>for SATB Choir, Organ, Handbells and Congregation</i>		
Words by Mark Hayes based on Psalm 150	Music by Mark Hayes (ASCAP)	
Joyously (♩ = ca. 69)		

Our Self-Study

The Rector Search Committee conducted a self-study of the congregation to help us discern our needs for a future priest. To do so, we held multiple listening sessions with members of the congregation, and then sought and received individual feedback from parishioners. What follows are the attributes and characteristics sought by members of the congregation for our new rector.

Overwhelmingly the Church shared the need for a rector who values diversity and is committed to enabling a church that is inclusive and welcoming. We are proud of our Welcoming Statement, and believe it communicates our values in a clear and effective manner. The Rector should be a dynamic leader and preacher who manages the business of the church while inspiring and equipping members to see Christ at work in our daily lives. We desire a Rector who is visible in the church and the wider community. The Rector should also be personally involved in pastoral care.

Those attending the listening sessions shared the need to prioritize identification of potential new members, particularly young families, who will appreciate our liturgy and inclusive values. While attracting young families was the demographic most discussed, the Search Committee and Vestry recognize there are other populations who need attention. We acknowledge a need to broaden our demographics and attract new members who appreciate our inclusive values and Episcopal beliefs and practices. Additionally, we see the need for faith formation and education for people new to the Christian faith and the Episcopal Church, as well as refreshers for current members.

Our Future

We recognize that we are now a pastoral size church still operating in a program size paradigm. We seek a rector who can help us identify what and how to change and identify

and provide the necessary skills to equip us. We don't expect someone to bring all the answers but help us ask the right questions, discern next steps, and inspire us to action.

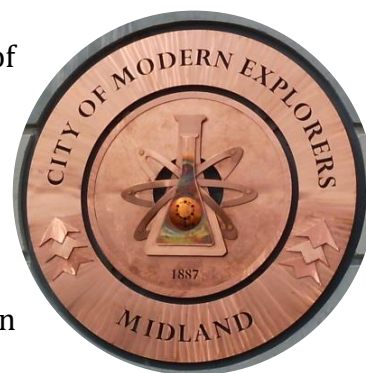
Fundamentally, we are at a crossroads but excited about the future possibilities. We need new perspectives to discern which current ministries are most effective, which can be sunset, and most importantly, what will help us live more fully into our calling as Christians.

Our Midland / Great Lakes Bay Region Community

The [City of Midland](#) is located 120 miles north of Detroit near the middle of Michigan's Lower Peninsula with a city population of approximately 40,000. It is governed by a council-manager style government and operates with an annual budget of approximately \$102 million. [Midland County](#), with a population of approximately 71,000, is part of the Great Lakes Bay Region, a collection of eight counties in mid-Eastern Michigan.

History and Growth

Midland has evolved from a Native American village to a "City of Modern Explorers." In the 1800s, the riverbanks were lined with the round huts of the Chippewa Indians. Fur traders initially settled the area in the early nineteenth century and together with the Chippewa Indians created a trading economy of manufactured goods such as blankets for beaver skins. By the mid-1800s, lumbering along the Tittabawassee, Chippewa and Pine rivers and agriculture were the main businesses.



The City of Midland was incorporated in 1887. Just three years later, Herbert Henry Dow arrived in Midland and set up his first operation to produce bromine from brine found in the liquid salt deposits which lay underground throughout the area. He subsequently founded The Dow Chemical Company in 1897. As the company grew over the next century and more, so did Midland.

Economy, Major Employers, and Business

Today, Midland is the global headquarters of the Fortune 500 [Dow Chemical Company](#). With its strong history in the chemical industry, Midland houses substantial manufacturing facilities for other major companies such as [DuPont](#) and [Corteva Agriscience](#). Midland is also home to the Midland Cogeneration Venture, the largest gas-fueled, steam recovery cogeneration facility in North America. Midland's largest single employer is MidMichigan Health, centered around [MidMichigan Medical Center](#), a state-of-the-art 324 bed nonprofit hospital complex. An additional 2,000 small businesses in the county contribute to the local economy.

Culture

Midland boasts cultural amenities that one would expect to be found in much larger cities. It has a lively [downtown area](#) with specialty shops, restaurants, and bars, all set on a streetscape set up to accommodate frequent community events such as the [Summer Art Fair](#), the [Tapped Craft Beer Festival](#), the [Midland Balloon Festival](#), and [Riverdays](#). In the summer months, the Farmer's Market, located at Dow Diamond, is open on Wednesdays and Saturdays, and local businesses have sponsored Movies on Main, an outdoor family movie night.

The [Midland Center for the Arts](#) provides state-of-the-art venues for world class music, theater, and stage performances, as well as a strong community theater program and the [Alden B. Dow Museum of Science & Art](#). The [Grace A. Dow Memorial Library](#) offers more than 250,000 items for children and adults including books, magazines, books on tape, CDs, videos and DVDs and offers on-line reference materials. [Creative 360](#) offers a diverse array of artistic and cultural exhibits, classes, workshops and events for all ages and populations.

[Dow Gardens](#), located on the Dow family estate, is a dazzling 110-acre display of annual and perennial flowers punctuated by distinctive bridges, an award-winning children's garden, towering pines, and delightful water features. [Whiting Forest](#), a part of the Gardens, includes the nation's longest [canopy walk](#), allowing visitors to walk through 54 acres of woodlands high above the ground.



Education

The residents of Midland place a high priority on K-12 education and there are several universities located in and near the city. [Midland Public Schools](#) have a long-standing tradition of excellence with most students typically more than two grade levels above national norms on standardized tests and posting above average scores on standardized college entrance examinations. Within the City, there are six elementary schools (grades K-5), two middle schools (grades 6-8) and two well-ranked high schools (grades 9-12). In addition to the public schools are several church-sponsored schools, a charter school, and a home-school network. Local colleges or nearby universities include: [Northwood](#)

[University](#), [Delta Community College](#), [Davenport University](#), [Saginaw Valley State University](#), and [Central Michigan University](#).

Recreation and Sports



Midland has many opportunities for recreation, fitness, and sports. The [Chippewa Nature Center](#) is a recreational hub, providing 19 miles of hiking trails, nature education programs, and access to the Chippewa River for kayaking and canoeing. The City has over 80 parks, including two [community pools](#) and the [City Forest](#), a 520 acre wooded park with miles of hiking and biking trails. At the confluence of the Tittabawassee and Chippewa Rivers, the Tridge, a three-legged footbridge, connects the Chippewassee Park and St. Charles Park. Chippewassee Park is home to the City's [Trilogy Skate Park](#) as well as a playground and a dog park. St. Charles Park hosts several softball fields and a disc golf course. The [Pere Marquette Rail Trail](#) starts at the [Tridge](#) and runs 30 miles west to Clare.

The [Greater Midland Community Center](#) provides racquetball courts, the [Curling Center](#), and a 20,000-square-foot indoor leisure pool. The [Midland Community Tennis Center](#) is recognized as one of the top 25 tennis facilities in the country. Just east of the [Midland Mall](#), you can find the [Midland Soccer Club](#), one of the largest soccer complexes in the State of Michigan with 30 fields spread over 54 acres. Organized and casual sports opportunities abound in Midland, including ice hockey, speed skating, and figure skating at the [Midland Civic Arena](#), a [BMX bike track](#), two public golf courses, bowling, baseball and softball, basketball, roller skating and roller hockey, gymnastics and rugby. [The Midland Country Club](#) offers an eighteen-hole golf course, swimming pool and newly built clubhouse with several restaurants and bars. The [Dow Great Lakes Bay Invitational](#), a nationally-televised LPGA event, was held at the Midland Country Club in 2019 and 2021, and is expected to be



a continuing tradition in the City. As the host site location is very close to the church, St. John's is a partner helping to bring this invitational competition to the community. Midland also offers the [Currie Municipal Golf Course](#), and there are several other courses in the area.



Finally, Midland is where you can find Dow Diamond, the home of the [Great Lakes Loons](#), Mid-Michigan's only minor league baseball team. The 5,500-seat Dow Diamond stadium near downtown Midland is a great place for games during the warmer months and special events throughout the rest of the year.

Volunteerism and Community Life

Midland has a strong community commitment to civic engagement. Midland residents are active in more civic, professional, educational, community, and religious organizations than can be listed. In recent years, the community non-profits, with significant corporate support, have focused on diversity and inclusion within their charitable work. Sixteen local foundations have donated millions of dollars to thousands of medical, cultural, recreational, religious and social service groups. Many community members devote their time, talent, and treasure to a variety of service organizations and nonprofits in order to better the community. St. John's is an active partner in the non-profit community, both through financial support and active volunteerism.

Great Lakes Bay Region

Midland is located within the Great Lakes Bay Region (GLBR), a collection of 8 diverse counties. The economically diverse GLBR is located in the central portion of Michigan's Lower Peninsula and includes the 4 primary counties of Midland, Bay, Saginaw, and Isabella.



The Region offers a variety of opportunities to live, work, and play.

- A champion of education and lifelong learning, the region is home to eight colleges, 60,000 students, and has built an internationally recognized STEM ecosystem.
- The region boasts multiple medical facilities, corporations, small businesses, and regional non-profits that engage in the larger community.
- Within an hour's drive (or less), you can bask on a Lake Huron Beach, take in the [Saginaw Children's Zoo](#), have dinner on the [Bay City riverfront](#), or spend the day in [Frankenmuth](#), our own little version of Germany and home to the world's largest Christmas store!

To learn much more about our beautiful region, check out these websites:

- [Great Lakes Bay Visitor's Bureau](#)
- [Great Lakes Bay Region](#)
- [Great Lakes Bay Regional Alliance](#)