

For immediate release
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Tacoma's Historic Sacred Places: Free Open House & Tours

15 buildings dating from 1873 to 1968 open to the public October 25th, 1-5pm

At 1pm on Sunday, October 25th, church bells will toll across the city, opening fifteen churches and temples for tours and programs. This free event sponsored by Historic Tacoma celebrates Tacoma's diverse collection of religious architecture, as well as the contributions each congregation has made to the development and vitality of the City. Participants will enjoy building tours, exhibits and music ranging from organ to traditional Slovak to gospel, while viewing soaring architectural spaces, stunning stained glass and hand-carved detailing.

This event comes after completion of a comprehensive citywide inventory of pre-1970 religious structures funded by a federal grant obtained by the City of Tacoma. Over 170 buildings, representing a range of architectural styles, were identified in the survey. Documentation for these buildings has been filed with the State and the City and detailed research was conducted on the most culturally and architecturally significant structures, laying the groundwork for future preservation efforts.

Highlights of this inventory project are being published in print and web-based formats. The print publication will be available for purchase at the October 25th event and available in pdf format on Historic Tacoma's website in October. Programs and publications are made possible through a grant from the National Society of Colonial Dames of America in the State of Washington.

Pick-up a tour guide & map at one of three locations:

St. Luke's Memorial Episcopal Church, 3615 N. Gove (bus routes 11 & 51)

Immanuel Presbyterian Church, 901 N. J Street (bus route 11)

Holy Rosary Catholic Church, 434 S. 30th (bus route 3)

Other participating congregations include: Center for Spiritual Living, Christ Episcopal; Church of St. Patrick; First Church of Christ, Scientist; Northwest Baptist Seminary; Old St. Peter's; Peace Lutheran; St. Joseph's Catholic Church; St. Paul Lutheran; St. Rita of Cascia Catholic Church; Temple Beth El; and Urban Grace.

About Historic Tacoma: Historic Tacoma is a private not-for-profit grassroots organization dedicated to preserving Tacoma's architectural legacy through education and advocacy. Historic Tacoma advocates for the thoughtful preservation and rehabilitation of historic structures, sites, and neighborhoods, while urging policy makers, developers and citizens to consider the value and unique qualities of historic structures. www.historictacoma.net

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