

Tinley Park Historical Society
Historic Ornament Series
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"OLD ZION" LANDMARK
6727 174th Street (formerly Market Street)

In 1872 a German Lutheran congregation was formed in the Village of Bremen (also known as New Bremen). Many of its organizers had previously been members of the Trinity Lutheran Church. Its fledgling congregation would meet in private homes of members until a building was acquired and moved from what is believed to have been the former settlement known as Batchelors Grove (in the vicinity of 143rd Street and Ridgeland). The building, possibly a former schoolhouse, was placed on the public ground (the Markt Platz or market place) in the



Village of Bremen. This small building was used as the first church and later as the church school. Remodeled and slightly enlarged, this building still stands directly across the street to the Landmark and serves as a private home (6726 174th Street). In 1883, a parsonage was built on land donated by Henry Vogt, Sr. It is located east of the Landmark (6715 174th Street). In 1884, the present church was built in the "Prairie Gothic" style by local residents, carpenters, and members of the congregation, John Klepper, Sr. and Jacob

Funk. The distinctive pressed metal sheet covering on the walls and ceiling of the sanctuary was added in 1920. The stained glass "bible window" on the front of the church was added in 1912. The tall stained glass windows on the east, west, and north walls were a later replacement and completed in 1938.

The Zion Lutheran congregation outgrew this frame structure and moved to its new church at 171st Street & 69th Avenue, which was dedicated in 1955. The old church structure was purchased by the Church of Christ (now Parkview Christian Church). An addition was built in 1959 to the rear of the church to expand the facility with a social hall & Sunday School rooms.

In 1975 the church building was acquired by the Village of Tinley Park following recommendation of its Bicentennial Commission for the newly founded Bremen Historical Society of Tinley Park. The Landmark was subsequently deeded to the Tinley Park Park District who provide for its maintenance.