See luxury apartments at former Trinity Lutheran Church in Syracuse (photos)

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Trinity Center apartments

By **Rick Moriarty | rmoriarty@syracuse.com**

Syracuse, N.Y. -- Real estate investor Robert Molta has turned the former Trinity Lutheran Church near Shop City Plaza into apartments that resemble luxury hotel suites.

Molta bought the former church in 2017 for $200,000 and has spent the last two years turning it into four three-bedroom apartments. Located at 140 Swansea Drive, the building has been renamed Trinity Center.

One of the units is fully furnished and decorated in a 1960s theme. (The church opened in 1960.)

Each apartment has two full bathrooms. Molta said he expects to begin leasing them in mid-July. Rents are not set yet, but he said they will run about $2,000 a month, including heat, for the three unfurnished units, and about $2,300 for the furnished apartment.

Off-street parking is included in the rent. A parking spot in a five-car garage under construction on the property will cost $100 a month extra.

Amenities include a fitness center, a mini-theater, a gaming room, a tenant lounge and heated floors.

The apartments are large, ranging from 1,674 square feet to 1,945 square feet.
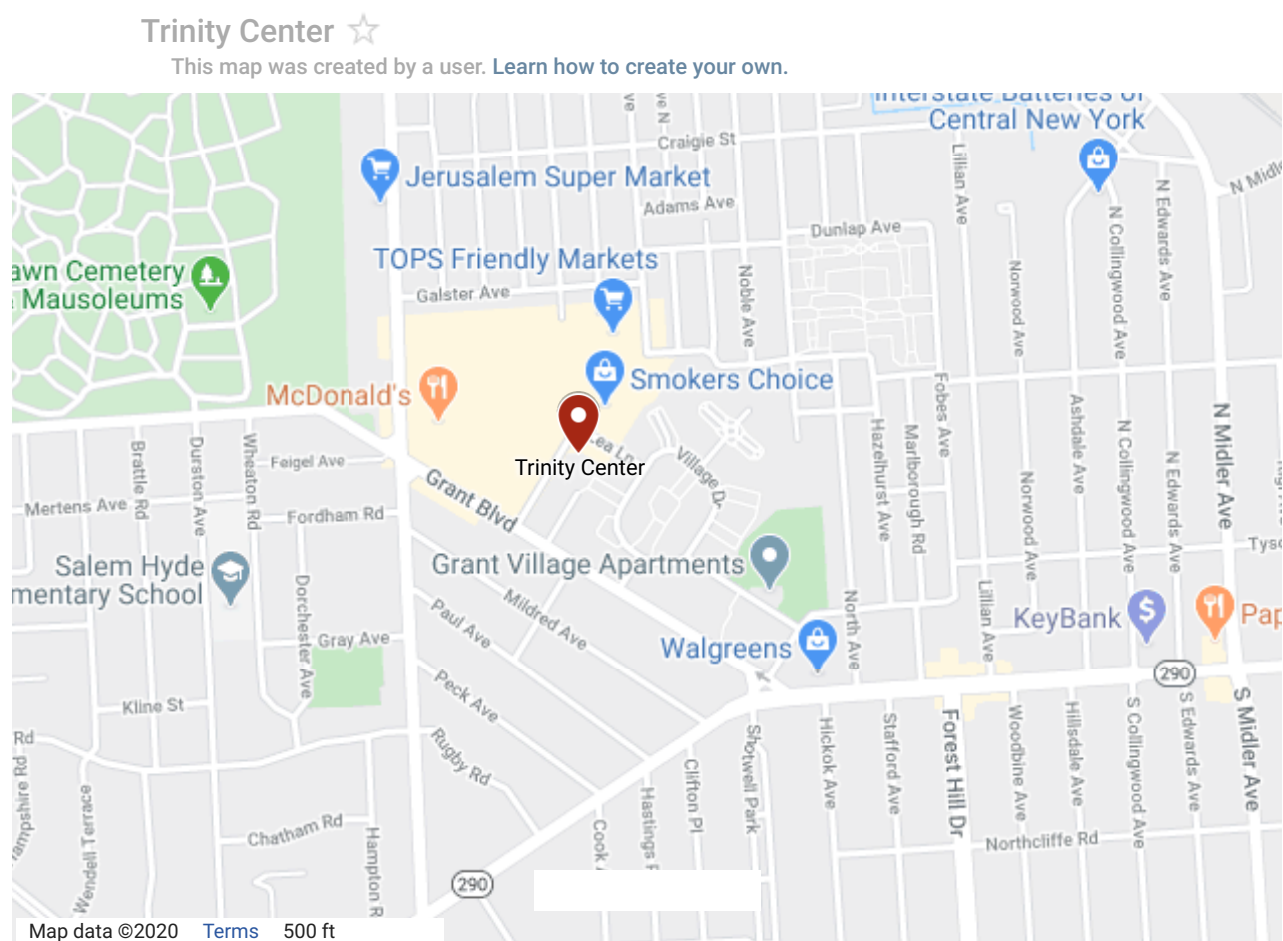
Molta milled all but two of the church's pews into trim wood for the apartments' windows and baseboards. The two pews that were saved are now benches in common areas of the building. Each apartment contains two of the church's original chandeliers.

"Whatever I found in the building, I tried to keep it," said Molta.

Molta has renovated numerous old buildings into apartments, but this is his first church. He said a friend told him about the church, which was vacant for about a year before he bought it.

"I've always wanted to do a church, a firehouse or a school," he said. "I walked in and I could immediately see what it could be."

More details and rental information are available at the Syracuse Upscale Rentals website.

Trinity Center ☆

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Rick Moriarty covers business news and consumer issues. Got a tip, comment or story idea? Contact him anytime: Email | Twitter | Facebook | 315-470-3148

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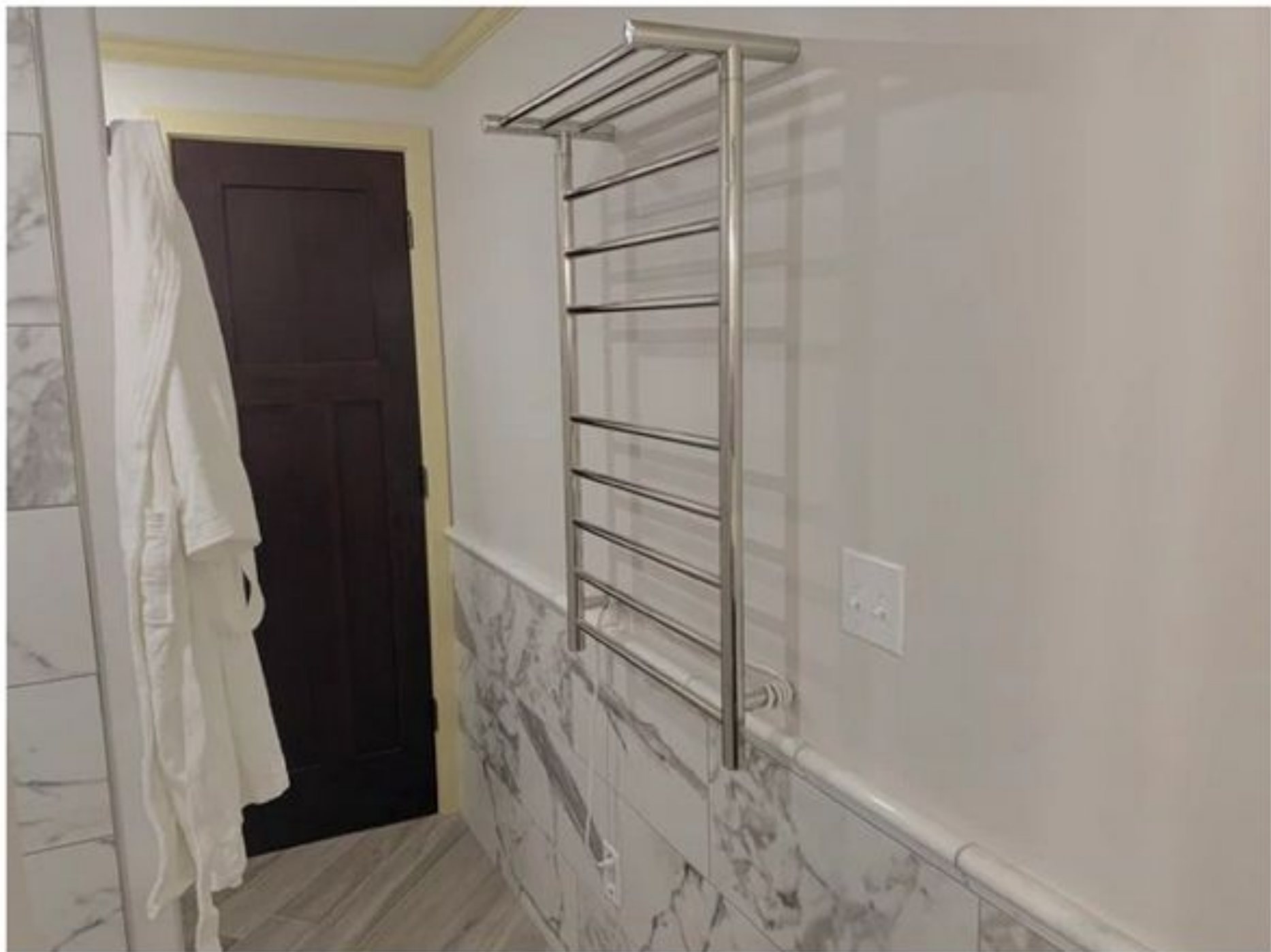
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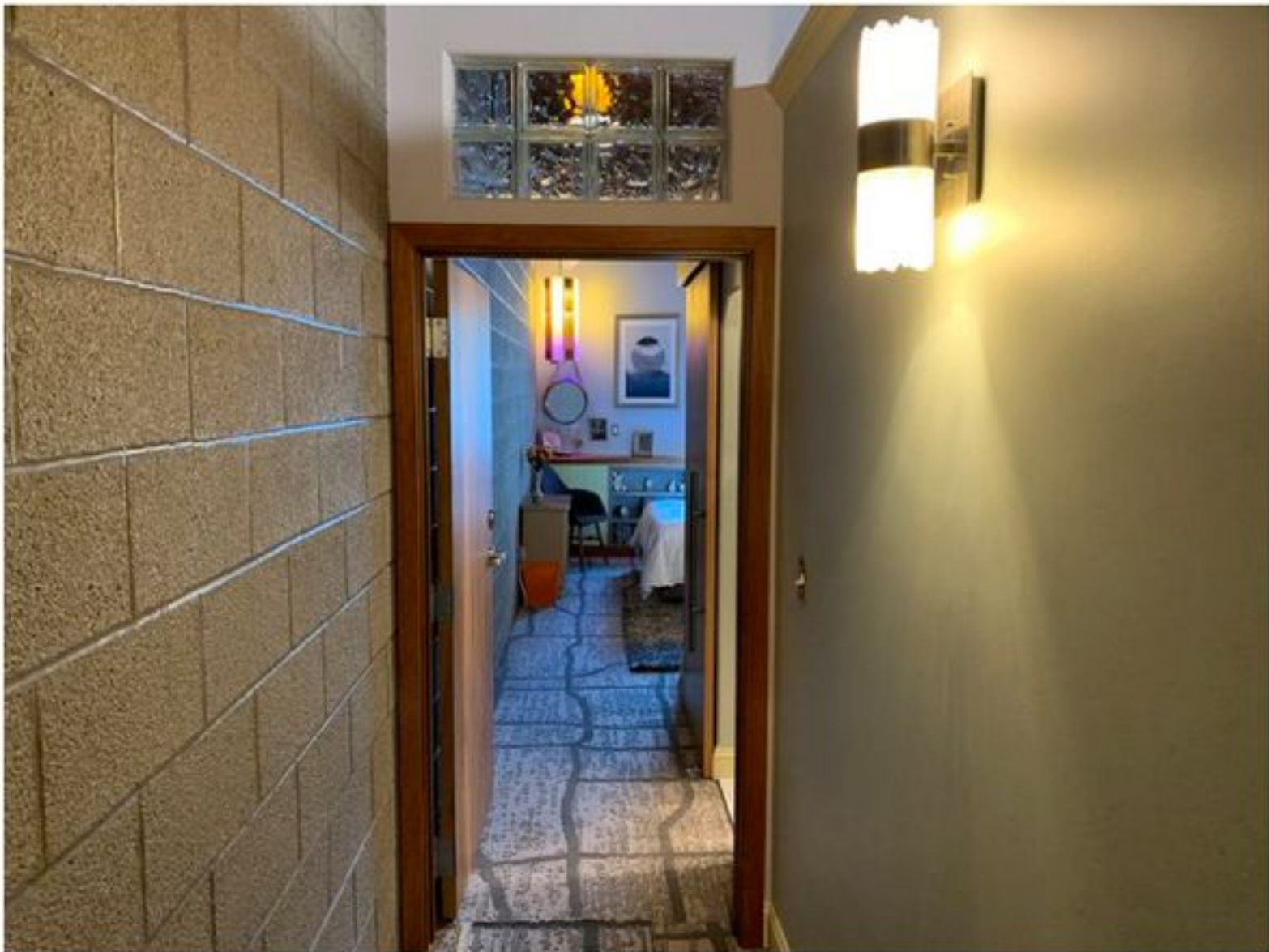
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All of the window trim in Trinity Center was made from Trinity Lutheran Church's pews. Rick Moriarty

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One of two Trinity Luthern Church pews that are being used as benches in Trinity Center apartments. Rick Moriarty

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The courtyard at Trinity Center apartments. Rick Moriarty

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That's developer Robert Molta's 1969 Mercury cougar parked in front Trinity Center apartment in Syracuse. Rick Moriarty

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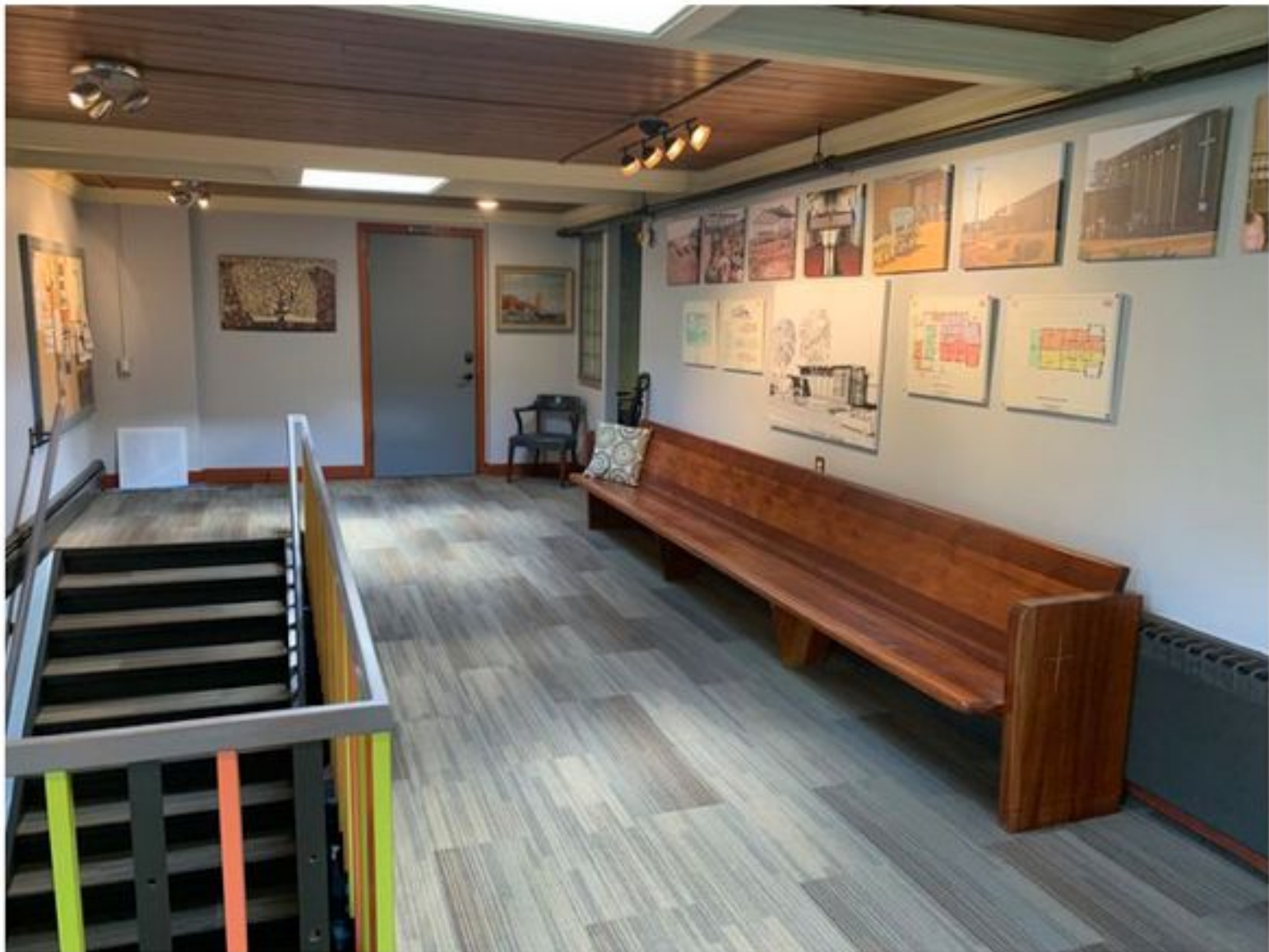
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The Trinity Lutheran Church altar is now a table for folding clothes in the laundry room at Trinity Center apartments. Rick Moriarty

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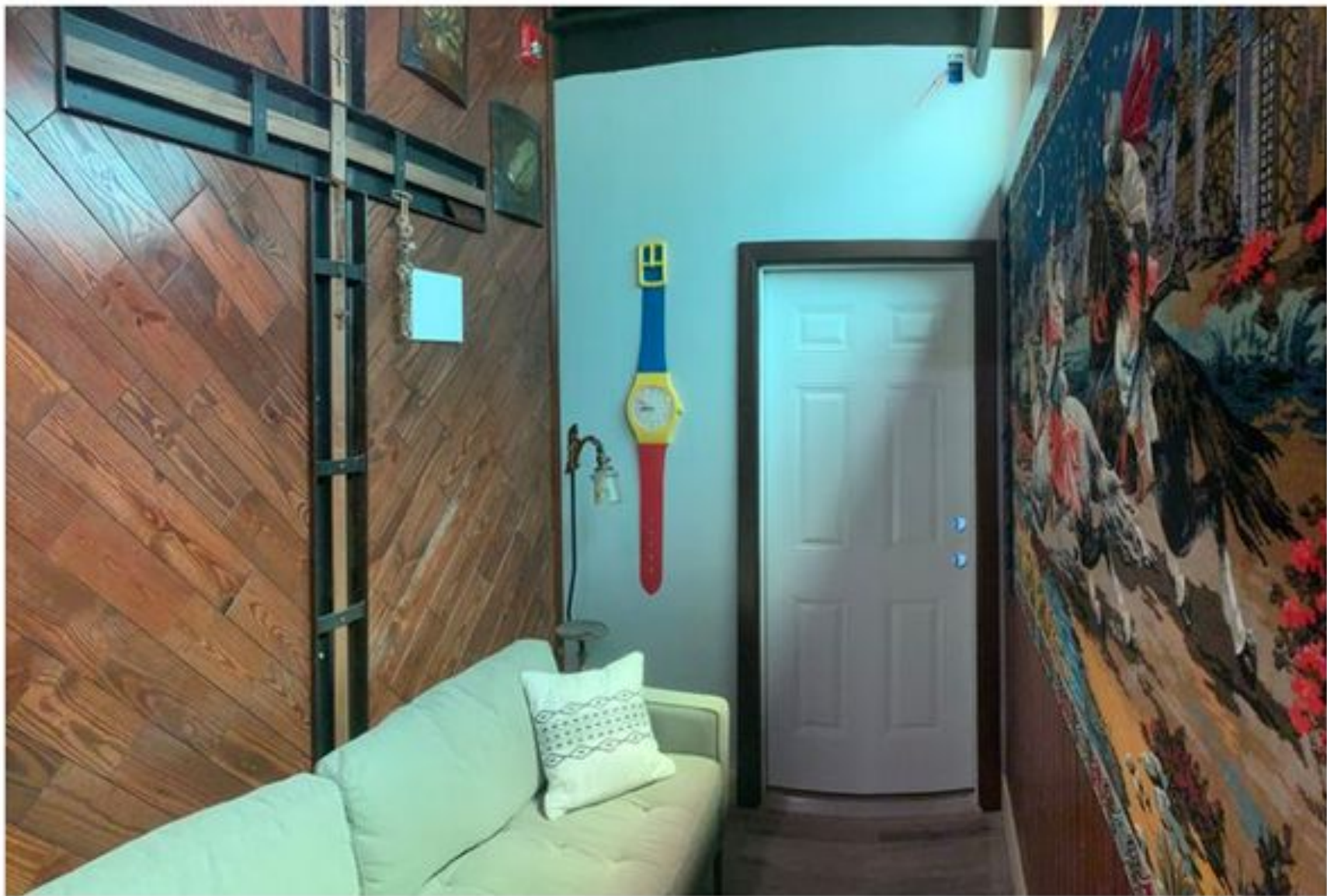
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An undated photo of Trinity Lutheran Church in Syracuse.

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Children play in this undated photo of Trinity Lutheran Church in Syracuse.

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- This is the inside of the Trinity Lutheran Church in Syracuse before it was turned into apartments by real estate investor Robert Molta.