

MADE of LIGHT

St. Peter's on Queen Street
was designed to lift the spirit

BY KARL KESSLER

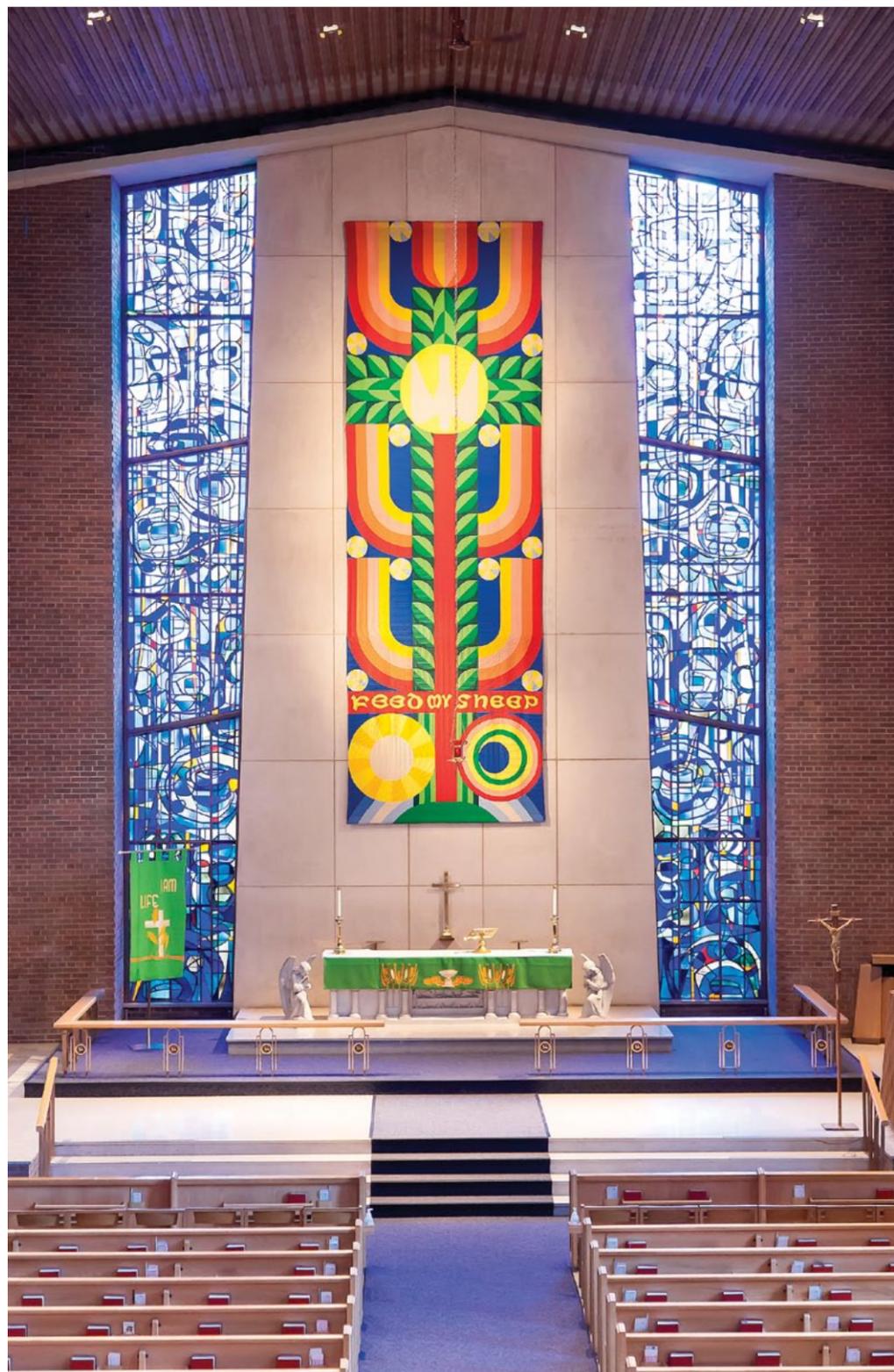
Some public buildings are designed to impress and impose, to convey authority and command respect through their architecture. Fewer are designed to awaken our senses and elevate our spirits, but concealed behind the understated modernist façade of St. Peter's Lutheran Church in Kitchener is a space created to do just that.

Designed in the 1960s by Waterloo-based Kruschen and Dailey, the St. Peter's sanctuary is one of Kitchener and Waterloo's great interiors: cathedral-like and seemingly made of light.

Ten enormous stained-glass windows, swirling with colour, balance the hard angles and crisp geometry of the room. Aside from the windows and the towering white columns — delicate, tapering forms that frame the space and add grace notes to the windows and dark brick walls — decoration is minimal, allowing the glass centre stage. The six nearly floor-to-ceiling nave windows are three-sided projecting bays, ingeniously increasing their surface area and their visual impact.

St. Peter's is among 48 Doors Open Waterloo Region sites you can visit Saturday, Sept. 17 (regionofwaterloo.ca/doorsopen). At 2 p.m. in the sanctuary, Colin Ellard of the University of Waterloo will give a talk about how the design of buildings influences what we think, how we feel and who we are.

Karl Kessler, Doors Open Waterloo Region



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