

THE 2026 MICHIGAN

CHURCH & HOUSE OF WORSHIP SECURITY REPORT

— PRESENTED BY MICHIGAN SECURITY SYSTEMS

WHAT EVERY PASTOR, BOARD & SAFETY TEAM SHOULD KNOW

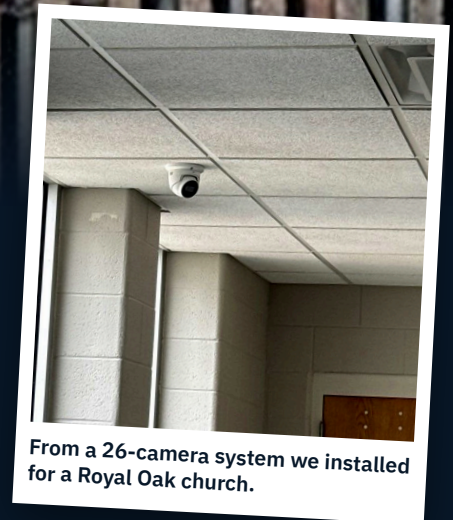
Lessons from recent attacks in Michigan and beyond

Break-ins, theft & vandalism hitting Metro Detroit churches

Security that still feels welcoming, zone by zone

Grant funding, honest costs & a 20-point scorecard

Inside: 10% off security for your congregation



From a 26-camera system we installed for a Royal Oak church.



586-466-4490

michigancamerasystems.com

WELCOME

WHY WE WROTE THIS REPORT

A house of worship is built to be open. Doors are unlocked on Sunday morning, visitors are welcomed by name or not at all, and during the week the building often sits empty except for a staff member, a volunteer or a cleaning crew. That openness is the point. It also makes churches, synagogues and mosques some of the easiest buildings in Michigan to walk into, break into or damage.

The last year brought that home. Two Michigan congregations were attacked by people who drove vehicles into their buildings. Closer to the everyday, Metro Detroit churches have been hit by break-ins, theft and vandalism, often by repeat offenders and often with no camera to show who did it.

This report is not meant to frighten anyone. It is meant to give pastors, boards, trustees and safety teams a clear, practical picture of:

- ✓ What is actually happening to houses of worship, with sources
- ✓ What helped, and what was missing, in real incidents
- ✓ How to protect people and property without feeling locked down
- ✓ How grant funding works in Michigan and what a system costs
- ✓ A scorecard to grade your own building in ten minutes

Michigan Security Systems is a commercial-only security integrator that has served Michigan since 2000. We design, install and service cameras, access control, alarm systems and monitoring for churches, schools, businesses and public agencies, always with our own licensed technicians and never subcontractors.

The team at Michigan Security Systems

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Since 2000

Protecting Michigan buildings

4.9★

Google rating, 88 reviews

26

HD cameras at one Royal Oak church

0

Subcontractors, ever

Your report bonus: mention code **MSSCHURCH26** when you book and save **10%** on a new security system for your congregation. Details on page 15.

SECTION 1

HOUSES OF WORSHIP BY THE NUMBERS

The data behind the decisions. Every figure on this page comes from a published source, listed on page 16.

415

hostile acts against U.S. churches were recorded in 2024: 284 acts of vandalism, 55 arsons, 28 gun-related incidents and 14 bomb threats.

FAMILY RESEARCH COUNCIL, AUG 2025

50 → 485

The same tracking found 50 incidents in 2018 and a peak of 485 in 2023. Totals remain far above pre-2022 levels.

FAMILY RESEARCH COUNCIL

2

Michigan houses of worship were attacked by drivers who rammed vehicles into the building, in Grand Blanc Township (Sept 2025) and West Bloomfield (March 2026).

FBI; WDET; CLICKONDETROIT

8

burglaries at several Warren churches in three weeks this spring (March 31 to April 20, 2026). Surveillance video helped police make an arrest.

CBS DETROIT, MAY 2026

\$50,000+

spent by one Detroit church to replace HVAC units damaged by copper thieves. The scrap value thieves get is a tiny fraction of the repair bill.

BROTHERHOOD MUTUAL

\$200,000

is the most a single house of worship can request per site from the federal Nonprofit Security Grant Program.

FEMA NSGP FY2026 GUIDANCE

1 in 3

In FY2024 FEMA received more than 12,000 NSGP applications and funded about 4,000. A strong, specific application matters.

NPR / MICHIGAN PUBLIC, MAY 2026

\$300M

in national NSGP funding was made available for FY2026, up from \$274.5 million in FY2025.

FEMA; FELDESMAN; NPR

What it means for your congregation: most incidents are property crimes that cameras, lighting and alarms deter or solve. The rare violent attack is where planning, training and fast communication save lives. A good plan covers both.

SECTION 2

LESSONS FROM RECENT ATTACKS

What happened, and what other congregations can learn from it.

We share these events with deep respect for the families and congregations affected. Details come from law enforcement statements and news reports listed on page 16.

SEPT 28, 2025

**GRAND BLANC
TWP., MI**

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

During Sunday morning services, a man drove a vehicle through the front doors, opened fire on worshippers, and investigators believe he set the building on fire. Four people were killed and nine injured. Police stopped the attacker in the parking lot within minutes.

Lesson: Main entrances need protection from vehicles (bollards or heavy planters), every room needs a way to call for help instantly, and your emergency plan must cover fire and evacuation, not only lockdown.

MARCH 2026

**WEST
BLOOMFIELD, MI**

Temple Israel

An armed man drove his car into the synagogue, where about 140 young children were in an early childhood center, and fired inside. An armed security guard returned fire and the attacker died. No children or staff were injured.

Lesson: Preparation works. Months earlier the congregation had hired a head of security and staff and clergy completed FBI-led active-shooter training. People who know the plan, backed by the right equipment, change the outcome.

AUG 27, 2025

**MINNEAPOLIS,
MN**

Annunciation Church & School

During a school Mass, an attacker outside the church fired through the windows at children in the pews. Two children were killed and 18 people were injured. Authorities do not believe the attacker ever entered the building.

Lesson: Security does not stop at the door. Exterior cameras, lighting and someone assigned to watch the grounds during services matter as much as locks on the inside.

A pattern worth noticing: two of the three attacks above began with a vehicle driven into or at the building, and all three struck when the building was full of people, two of them while children were present.

SECTION 3

BREAK-INS & THEFT CLOSE TO HOME

Violent attacks make headlines. Break-ins, theft and vandalism are what most Metro Detroit congregations actually face.

SPRING 2026
WARREN, MI

8 burglaries at several churches

Over three weeks, a burglar broke doors and windows, tampered with security systems, went through paperwork and stole items including a computer.

What made the difference: Surveillance video showed the suspect, his clothing and the bicycle he rode. Detectives used it to identify him and arrested him.

APRIL 2026
BRUCE TOWNSHIP, MACOMB COUNTY

Church break-in and theft

A church computer and a leaf blower were stolen in a break-in.

What made the difference: Camera video captured the suspect and his vehicle, which linked him to another theft investigated by Almont police.

JULY 2026
ST. CLAIR SHORES, MI

Repeated break-ins and graffiti

A congregation hit several times in a year had doors torn off their hinges, graffiti sprayed through classrooms and bathrooms, and food taken from its pantry, soon after a \$158,000 school renovation.

What made the difference: The church had no cameras. It has since installed new doors and plans to add cameras and possibly security staff.

ONGOING
DETROIT & NATIONWIDE

Copper and HVAC theft

Thieves strip rooftop and ground-level air conditioning units, gutters and wiring from churches, often while the building is empty midweek.

What made the difference: One Detroit church spent more than \$50,000 replacing HVAC units. Cages, lighting, motion-activated cameras and alarms that trip on power or coolant loss are the fixes.

The takeaway: where there was video, police identified suspects. Where there was none, the congregation was left with the damage and no answers.

SECTION 4

THE TOP RISKS FOR MICHIGAN CONGREGATIONS

What we see most often when we walk houses of worship across Macomb, Oakland, Wayne and beyond.

01 Break-ins & burglary

Empty buildings midweek and overnight, with glass doors, side entrances and little lighting.

03 Vandalism & graffiti

Broken windows, damaged sacred items, graffiti and arson, often repeated at the same site.

05 Child safety

Nursery and classroom doors, check-in and pickup, and custody disputes that arrive on a Sunday.

07 Targeted violence

Rare but devastating. Public service times and open doors make planning essential.

02 Copper & HVAC theft

Rooftop and ground units, gutters and wiring, with repair bills many times the scrap value.

04 Offering & office theft

Cash counting rooms, offices, computers, sound and media equipment.

06 Too many keys

Volunteers, past staff, renters and contractors with keys nobody can account for or cancel.

08 Liability & disputes

Parking lot accidents, slip-and-fall claims and conflicts, often decided by whether there is video.

Warning signs your building is exposed

- ✓ No one knows how many keys are out there
- ✓ Cameras are missing, dead, or show only blurry shapes
- ✓ The alarm is not monitored, or still uses a phone line
- ✓ Side and back doors stay unlocked during services
- ✓ Rooftop units and the parking lot are dark at night
- ✓ There is no written plan for an emergency during a service



A monitored alarm upgrade we installed at a Royal Oak church.

SECTION 5

THE 5-LAYER PROTECTION PLAN

No single product protects a congregation. Layers work together, so if one fails the others still do their job.

1

Deter Make your building a hard target.

Visible cameras, signage, good exterior lighting, locked side doors, and bollards or planters at main entrances.

2

Detect Know early when something is wrong.

Door contacts and motion sensors, glass-break detection, AI cameras that flag people or vehicles on the grounds after hours, HVAC tamper alarms.

3

Control Decide who gets in, where and when.

Door schedules that lock at set times, fobs for staff and volunteers you can cancel in seconds, a video intercom at the weekday entrance, secured children's wing.

4

Respond Get help and get the word out fast.

Panic buttons for greeters and the front office, 24/7 monitored alarm, one-button lockdown, PA or paging to every room, and a practiced plan.

5

Record Have the evidence when you need it.

Clear high-resolution video of every entrance and the parking lot, 30+ days of storage, and simple export for police and insurance.

Where to start: cameras on every entrance and the parking lot, a monitored alarm that does not depend on a phone line, and fobs instead of keys. Those three steps close most of the gaps we find.



An exterior dome camera covering a building entrance.

SECTION 6

SECURITY THAT STILL FEELS WELCOMING

You do not have to choose between an open door and a safe building. Here is what we recommend, area by area.

Parking lot & grounds

- Cameras that cover every drive and the lot entrance, including license plates
- Lighting with no dark corners near doors or HVAC units
- Bollards or planters in front of main entrances and glass

Main entrance & lobby

- One welcoming main entrance during services, other doors locked from outside
- A camera that captures every face coming in
- Greeters with a discreet panic button

Sanctuary & worship space

- Discreet ceiling cameras that blend in
- A way for ushers or the safety team to call for help instantly
- Clear, practiced exits and a fire and evacuation plan

Children's ministry

- A secured nursery and classroom wing, locked once services begin
- Check-in and pickup in view of a camera
- A way to lock the wing with one button

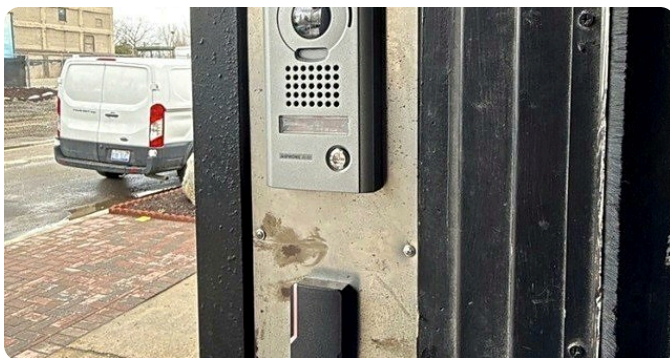
Offices & counting room

- Card access with a log of who entered and when
- A camera on the counting table and safe
- Panic button at the front desk on weekdays

After hours & weekdays

- A video intercom so staff can see who is at the door before unlocking
- A 24/7 monitored alarm with door and motion sensors
- Phone alerts and remote viewing for designated staff

Design principle: visitors should notice a friendly greeter, not a fortress. Good security is mostly invisible: discreet cameras, doors that lock on a schedule, and trained people who know what to do.



A video intercom and reader at a weekday entrance.

SECTION 7

THE TECHNOLOGY, EXPLAINED

What each system does for a congregation. Every one is designed, installed and serviced by Michigan Security Systems.

Security Cameras

High-resolution indoor and outdoor cameras, with clear video of faces and plates, viewable from any phone. Discreet domes for worship spaces.

michigancamerasystems.com/security-cameras/

AI Cameras & Alerts

Cameras that know a person from a car or a shadow, send an alert when someone is on the grounds after hours, and search hours of video in seconds.

michigancamerasystems.com/ai-security-cameras/

Access Control

Fobs, cards or mobile phones instead of keys. Doors lock and unlock on your service schedule, and a lost fob is cancelled in seconds.

michigancamerasystems.com/access-control/

Video Intercom

See and talk to visitors at the weekday entrance before you buzz them in, from the office or a phone.

michigancamerasystems.com/video-intercom/

Alarms & Panic Buttons

Intrusion alarms, glass-break and HVAC tamper sensors, plus fixed or wireless panic buttons for greeters, offices and the nursery.

michigancamerasystems.com/alarm-systems/

24/7 Monitoring

UL-listed central station monitoring over cellular, so help is dispatched even when the building is empty.

michigancamerasystems.com/alarm-monitoring/

Paging & Notification

Bogen paging and PA systems so a lockdown or evacuation message reaches every room at once.

michigancamerasystems.com/bogen-paging/

Repair & Takeover

We fix and upgrade systems other companies installed, often reusing the cabling you already have.

michigancamerasystems.com/security-camera-repair/

Best of all, it can work as one system: a door forced open at night pops up on camera, the alarm is verified on video before police are called, and the access log shows exactly who was in the building.



Monitored 24/7, even when the building is empty.

SECTION 8

PEOPLE, PLANS & FREE RESOURCES

Equipment is only half of security. The other half is people who know what to do. Here is a simple Sunday-morning routine.

Before the service

- ✓ Walk the building and grounds
- ✓ Lock every door except the main entrance
- ✓ Check that cameras are recording
- ✓ Greeters and safety team in place, radios on
- ✓ Children's wing staffed and secured

During the service

- ✓ Someone assigned to watch the doors and lot
- ✓ Late arrivals welcomed at the main entrance
- ✓ Children released only to checked-in adults
- ✓ Panic buttons within reach
- ✓ One person ready to call 911

After the service

- ✓ Escort the offering to a secured room
- ✓ Sweep restrooms and classrooms
- ✓ Confirm every door is locked
- ✓ Arm the alarm
- ✓ Note anything unusual for the team

Build your plan

- ✓ Write a simple emergency plan covering lockdown, evacuation, fire, medical emergencies and severe weather, and review it every year
- ✓ Train greeters, ushers and staff, and practice at least once a year
- ✓ Invite your local police department or sheriff to walk your building and share your floor plan with them
- ✓ Decide who can view cameras and receive alerts, and keep that list short
- ✓ Review keys, fobs and alarm codes every time staff or volunteers change

Free resources worth using

CISA Houses of Worship Self-Assessment

A free online or paper checklist from the federal Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency.

"Protecting Places of Worship: Six Steps"

A CISA guide to security against targeted violence that keeps a welcoming feel.

CISA Protective Security Advisors

Federal security specialists who work with communities and facility owners.

Your local police department

Many will walk your building, advise on layout, and want your floor plans on file.

SECTION 9

GRANTS & WHAT IT COSTS

Federal grant money can pay for much of a project, but it takes planning. Here is how it works in Michigan.

\$200,000

Maximum request per site; up to 3 sites per organization

NSGP-UA

St. Clair, Macomb, Oakland, Washtenaw, Wayne & Monroe counties

NSGP-S

Congregations in every other Michigan county

MSP

Michigan State Police EMHSD runs the state application

How the Nonprofit Security Grant Program works

- 1 Get a Unique Entity ID (UEI) on SAM.gov for your congregation.
- 2 Have a written vulnerability assessment of your site, less than 5 years old.
- 3 Write an Investment Justification that links each item you request to a gap in that assessment.
- 4 Apply through the Michigan State Police by the state deadline, which comes before FEMA's.
- 5 If awarded, wait for approval before work begins. Costs are generally paid upfront and reimbursed.

Eligible items include cameras, access control, impact-resistant doors and bollards, exterior lighting, alarms and intrusion detection, radios and public warning systems, and contracted security.

How we help

- ✓ An on-site security walk-through that identifies your gaps
- ✓ A written scope and itemized quote you can attach to your application
- ✓ Equipment that meets federal grant rules, including NDAA-compliant cameras
- ✓ Phased designs, so you can start now and expand when funding arrives

Timing: FEMA's FY2026 deadline was July 24, 2026. The best time to prepare for the next round is now, so your assessment and quotes are ready when it opens.

Typical costs

\$2,500+

Starting point for a 4-camera system, installed

\$400 – \$1,500

Per camera, all-in, depending on type and installation

\$1,200 – \$2,000

Per door for installed access control

Grant details summarize FEMA FY2026 NSGP guidance and the Michigan State Police program page; rules change each year, so confirm with MSP EMHSD. We help with the security side of an application but cannot guarantee an award. Cost ranges are typical Michigan Security Systems projects, not a quote.

SECTION 10

YOUR 20-POINT SECURITY SCORECARD

Check every statement that is true for your building today. Give yourself one point for each.

- | | |
|--|---|
| ☐ 1. Every entrance is covered by a working camera | ☐ 2. The parking lot and drives are on camera, day and night |
| ☐ 3. Cameras can identify a face, not just a shape | ☐ 4. Video is kept at least 30 days |
| ☐ 5. Someone checked this month that every camera is recording | ☐ 6. Staff can view cameras from their phones |
| ☐ 7. Side and back doors are locked during services | ☐ 8. Doors lock and unlock on a schedule automatically |
| ☐ 9. A lost key or fob can be cancelled in minutes | ☐ 10. You know who entered the building, and when |
| ☐ 11. The children's wing can be secured during services | ☐ 12. Weekday visitors are seen before the door is opened |
| ☐ 13. The alarm is monitored 24/7 by a UL-listed central station | ☐ 14. The alarm does not depend on a copper phone line |
| ☐ 15. Greeters and the office have panic buttons | ☐ 16. Rooftop and ground HVAC units are lit, caged or alarmed |
| ☐ 17. Main entrances are protected from vehicles | ☐ 18. A message can reach every room at once |
| ☐ 19. You have a written emergency plan, practiced this year | ☐ 20. Your local police have your floor plan |

17-20

Strong. Keep it maintained.

12-16

Good start, real gaps to close.

0-11

High risk. Let's talk soon.

10 QUESTIONS TO ASK ANY SECURITY INSTALLER

Whoever you hire, these questions separate a professional integrator from a box installer.

1. Have you secured houses of worship before?

Ask for examples. Churches have different needs than offices.

3. Will it be discreet?

Cameras and readers should fit the space, not dominate it.

5. Who owns the equipment and the video?

You should. Avoid contracts where leaving means losing your system.

7. How does the alarm communicate?

Cellular or dual-path, not a copper phone line that is being retired.

9. Will you help with grant paperwork?

A written assessment and itemized quote make an application stronger.

Red flags: pressure to sign today, long contracts for equipment you never own, consumer-grade cameras, no answer on storage or monitoring, and nobody who can tell you who services the system.

2. Do you use subcontractors?

Ask who will actually be in your building around your members and children.

4. Is the equipment commercial-grade and NDAA-compliant?

It matters for reliability, and for grant-funded projects.

6. Can volunteers use it?

Ask for simple phone viewing and training for staff and the safety team.

8. Can you work around our services and events?

Installation should never disrupt worship, weddings or funerals.

10. Can I get a fixed written quote?

Know the full price, including any subscriptions, before work starts.



A discreet PDK card reader beside a door.

SECTION 12

OUR CHURCH WORK & WHAT CLIENTS SAY

Michigan Security Systems holds a 4.9-star Google rating across 88 reviews from businesses, nonprofits, unions and agencies.

A Royal Oak church, two buildings

A Royal Oak church asked us to protect its campus. We designed and installed **26 HD cameras**, a dedicated recording server and a **new monitored alarm system**, placing discreet ceiling domes in hallways and common areas and covering every entrance.

The church was pleased enough to ask us back to secure a **second building** on the property. Designated staff can check the cameras from their phones without being on site.

Read more church security information at michigancamerasystems.com/industries/houses-of-worship/



“They were on time and worked well with the other contractors on site. They bid the project accurately and delivered high quality service... They manage our security system ongoing and can easily be reached for questions.”

Susan Styf

Director · Care of Southeastern Michigan (nonprofit)



“They carefully planned each camera’s placement for maximum coverage and took the time to explain everything. The access control system is accessible anytime, anywhere on any device.”

Kenny Dombrow

President · International Union of Operating Engineers



“Michael took the time to walk us through the system, explain how to program the fobs, and made sure everything was set up exactly how we needed it.”

Troy Williams

Metro Group Property Management



“Installation was smooth and completed on time, and they explained everything clearly, so the team felt confident using the system.”

Rekha Karamchandani

Ward Microdental Laboratory · Brighton, MI

Excerpts from public Google reviews of Michigan Security Systems. Read them all at michigancamerasystems.com/reviews/.

EXCLUSIVE REPORT OFFER

10% OFF

SECURITY FOR YOUR CONGREGATION

Thank you for reading the 2026 Michigan Church & House of Worship Security Report. As a reader, your congregation saves **10%** on a new security camera, access control or alarm system installed by Michigan Security Systems.

YOUR CODE

MSSCHURCH26

1

Call 586-466-4490 or request a free security walk-through at michigancamerasystems.com

2

Mention code MSSCHURCH26 when you book

3

We walk your building and give you a written quote with your 10% savings applied

Mention the code when booking. Applies to new system installations. Cannot be combined with other offers. A written assessment and quote are free and can support a grant application.



586-466-4490

Toll-free 24-hr emergency: 1-800-941-6797
Info@michigancamerasystems.com

SOURCES

SOURCES & NOTES

1. Family Research Council, *Hostility Against Churches* report (August 2025), as reported by EWTN News, “Report finds over 400 cases of vandalism, other ‘hostile’ acts against churches in 2024.”
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3. ClickOnDetroit / Associated Press, “Before recent attack, Michigan synagogue had been bolstering its security” (March 14, 2026).
4. FOX 9, “Annunciation Church and School shooting: Everything we know so far” (Aug 2025).
5. CBS Detroit, “Warren police arrest serial burglar who targeted local churches” (May 2026).
6. WNEM, “Shelby Township man accused in church break-in, theft cases; stolen gun recovered, MSP says” (May 1, 2026).
7. ClickOnDetroit, “St. Clair Shores church hit by repeated break-ins, graffiti” (July 24, 2026).
8. Brotherhood Mutual, “Guard Against Copper Thieves” (risk management library).
9. Michigan Public / NPR, “Religious leaders, lawmakers push for \$1 billion to secure houses of worship” (May 24, 2026).
10. Feldesman, “FEMA Announces \$300 Million in FY 2026 Nonprofit Security Grant Program Funding.”
11. FEMA FY2026 NSGP requirements as summarized in a state applicant walkthrough (Kentucky Office of Homeland Security, 2026).
12. Michigan State Police, Emergency Management & Homeland Security Division, Nonprofit Security Grant Program page.
13. CISA, “Protecting Houses of Worship” resources, including the Houses of Worship Security Self-Assessment.
14. Cost ranges: typical Michigan Security Systems commercial projects.

About Michigan Security Systems

Michigan Security Systems is a commercial-only security integrator serving Michigan since 2000. We design, install and service security cameras, access control, alarm systems and 24/7 monitoring, video intercoms, paging, structured cabling and Wi-Fi for houses of worship, schools, businesses and public agencies. Every installation is performed by our own licensed technicians, never subcontractors.

Areas we serve: Macomb, Oakland, Wayne, St. Clair, Livingston, Washtenaw and Genesee counties and communities across Michigan, plus Ohio and Indiana.

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This report is general information to help congregations plan. It is not legal, insurance or grant-application advice.



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10% off.**