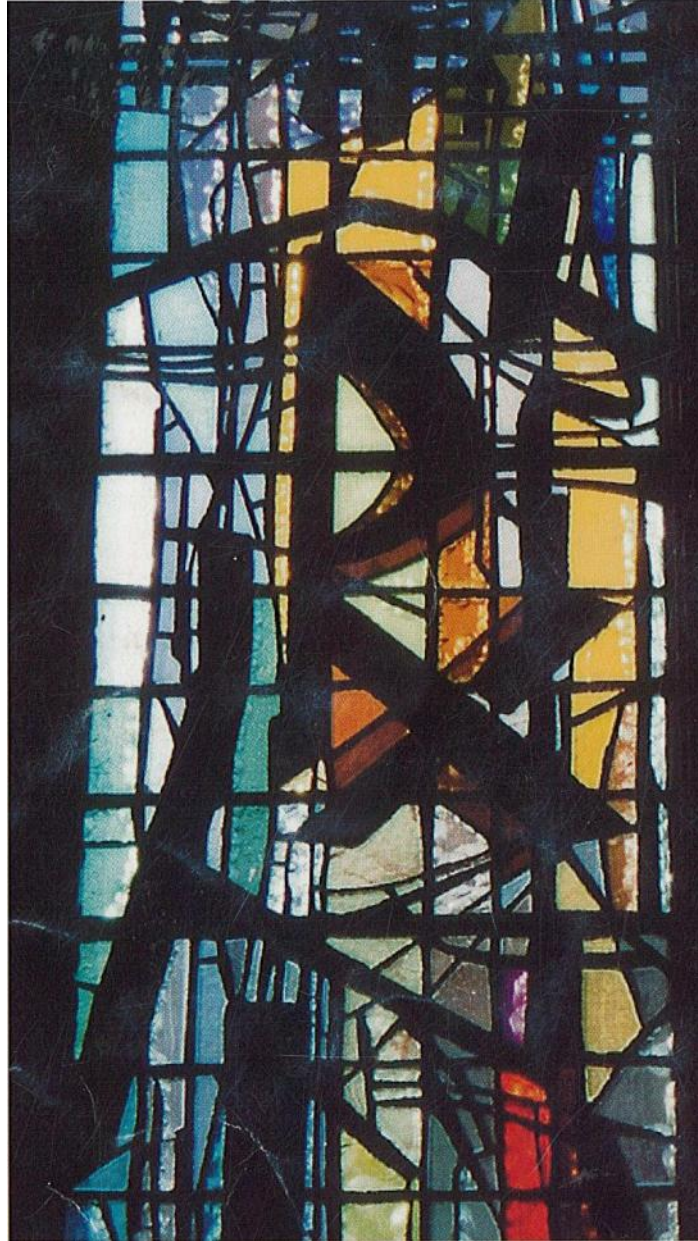


Meanings Behind Our Stained Glass Windows

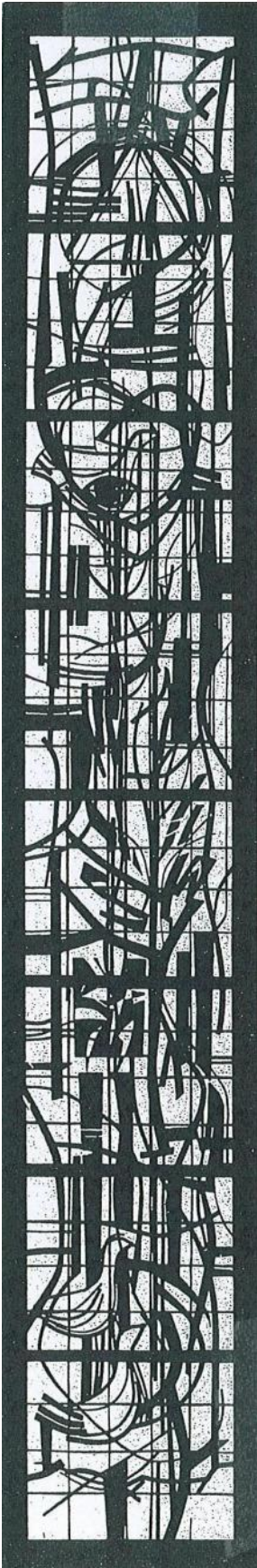


Holy Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church

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Holy Trinity Window

Windows for the Sanctuary of Holy Trinity were designed and executed by the Willet Studios of Philadelphia, PA, using one of their new techniques in 1968. This consists of brilliantly colored glass, usually an inch in thickness, but up to two or more inches for special effects, cut to the desired size. The inner surface of certain pieces is then chipped or faceted conchoidally to enhance the design and to add a jewel-like quality. The matrix of epoxy resin is poured around the carefully arranged pieces of glass, and holds them in place to form a structural unit of great strength. It is the thickness of the glass that assures the breath-taking radiance and complete purity of color which are the outstanding characteristics of the medium.

There is a symbolism inherent in each window discernable in some more easily than in others. The iconography is intended to represent the major seasons of the Christian year, although not in the order of their observance. Generally speaking the windows on the right side of the nave represent events of the passion, death and resurrection while those on the left represent the events around the incarnation.

An additional feature included in each window is the dominant color of the particular church year season e.g. Maundy Thursday and Advent are dominated by violet; Good Friday suggests the more somber mood with its gray; while Easter lets white dominate as does Trinity the green. Each window shows its darker colors at the bottom and then gradually lightens as it approaches the top to portray something of man's experience of encounter with the Light of the World as that which is earthly is transformed by the heavenly.

In many of the windows there is a noticeable "stream" of red, originating above and flowing downward. This is representative of the Grace and Mercy of God as it always originates with God, yet is brought to bear upon our world to transform that world in God's own way.

Narthex Windows

Located in the stairwell portion of the Narthex on the southwest corner is the signature of the parish "Holy Trinity". Dominated by the color green as the symbol of growth, this window includes at the top a triangle enclosed in a circle representing the Triune God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, three-in-one and eternal. The Lutheran faith is Trinitarian as each of the Church's ecumenical creeds and confessional writings bear witness. God's love for man is shown as evoking the response of man's love (heart) with both body (eye) and soul (bird). At the bottom of this window are two doves which speak of the peace that comes as the love of God prompts man's love for his neighbor. The whole length of the window seems to burst into flame-like shapes symbolizing the inter-relationship of the love of God and man as expressed in Luke 10:27 "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself."



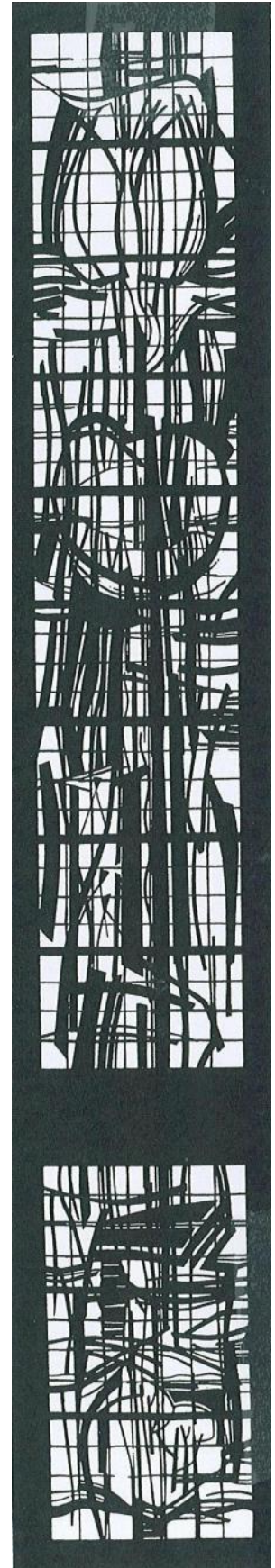
Reformation Window

In the stairwell portion of the narthex on the southeast corner is the Reformation window. The bottom part of the window contains a scroll and hammer representative of the 95 Theses, which Luther nailed to the door of the Castle Church at Wittenberg in 1517. At the top is an interpretation of Luther's Seal. Luther's own explanation of his Seal is as follows:

The first thing expressed in my seal is a cross, black within the heart, to put me in mind that faith in Christ crucified saves us. 'For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness.' Now although the cross is black, mortified and intended to cause pain, yet it does not change the colour of the heart, does not destroy nature i.e., does not kill but keeps alive. "For the just shall live by faith," – by faith in the Saviour. But this heart is fixed upon the centre of a white rose, to show that faith causes joy, consolation and peace. The rose is white, not red, because white is the ideal colour of all angels and blessed spirits. This rose, moreover, is fixed in a sky-coloured ground, to denote that such joy of faith in the spirit is but an earnest and beginning of heavenly joy to come, as anticipated and held by hope, though not yet revealed. And around this ground base is a golden ring, to signify that such bliss in heaven is endless, and more precious than all joys and treasures, since gold is the best and most precious metal. Christ, our dear Lord, He will give grace unto eternal life.

Chancel Window

Pentecost: The theme of the descent of the dove representing God the Holy Spirit at Pentecost dominates the chancel window. Throughout the window, which extends the full height of the building, shapes representing God's mercy pour downward. God's mercy through people of God on earth (represented by the human heart below the dove) flows into the world of men. In the lower portion of this magnificent window seen from the basement corridor one sees dead trees coming to life. This signifies the great mission of the Church in the world as she seeks to be true to her mission, letting God's mercy flow through the lives of her members to bring new life to a world lost in sin and darkness. Pentecost is the birthday of the Christian Church and the dove is one of the earliest reminders of the presence of God, the Holy Spirit with that Church.



Pentecost Window

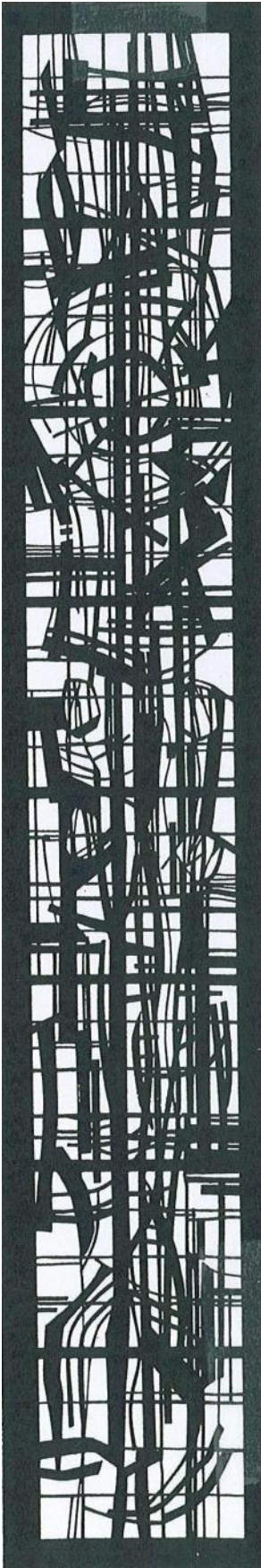
Nave Aisle Windows

In the Nave as one faces the Altar the seasons begin on the Gospel side (left) beginning at the Chancel and moving toward the rear of the Nave.

Advent: The prophecy of Advent, the coming of the Messiah, is shown with the shape of a tree extending throughout the length of the window. This is reminiscent of the symbolic tree of Jesse found in the west front of Chartres Cathedral and in other medieval cathedrals. The tree terminates in a tau cross (T shaped) which is the Old Testament cross of prophecy. A sunburst is used to symbolize the long awaited Messiah who is spoken of in Malachi 4:2a "...the Sun of righteousness shall rise, with healing in its wings."

Also in the window are the lights of four candles of the Advent Wreath representing the four weeks of the Advent season and used in many churches to dramatize the approaching festival of the Nativity as the light grows brighter as the day dawns and the sun of righteousness appears.

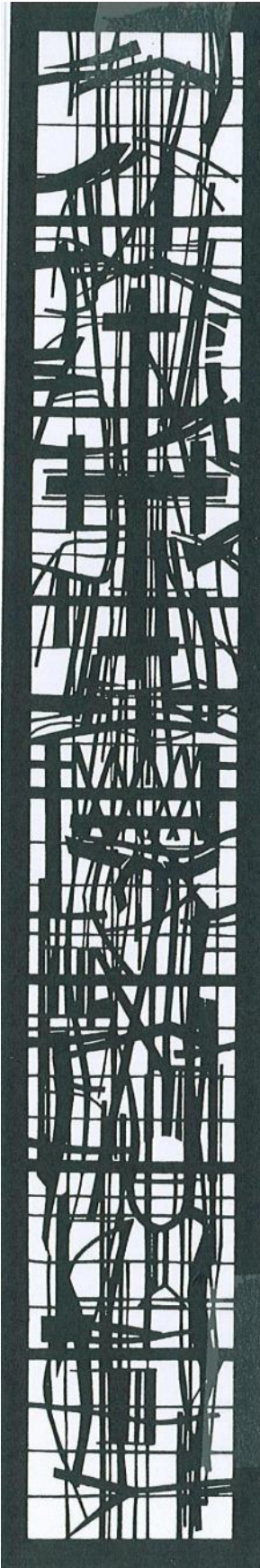
Christmas: The symbol in the Christmas window is the CHI RHO (XP), a sacred monogram for Jesus Christ – "Christ the King" – under a contemporary star-shape. The CHI (X) is so drawn as to suggest the manger.



Advent Window



Christmas Window



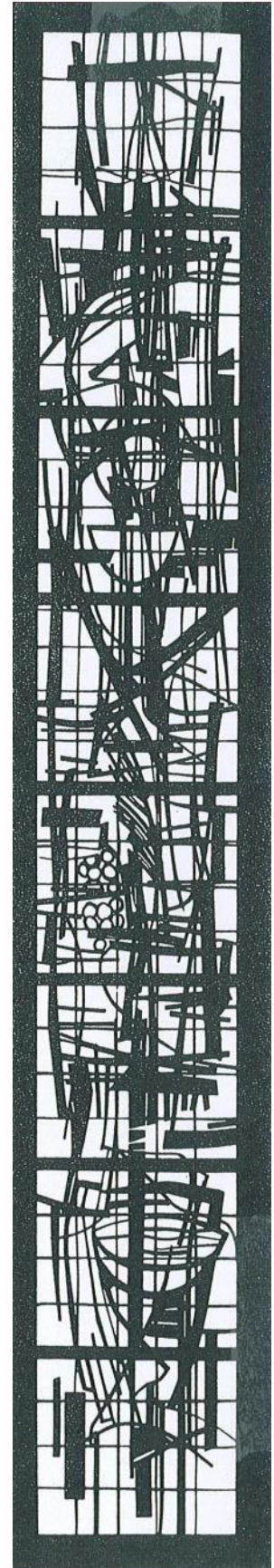
Epiphany Window

Epiphany: The window near the rear of the Nave on the Gospel side contains the Epiphany Cross, made up of four small crosses joined together as one. This expresses the manifestation of Christ to the Gentiles and the resultant spreading of the Kingdom of God into the four directions of the compass.

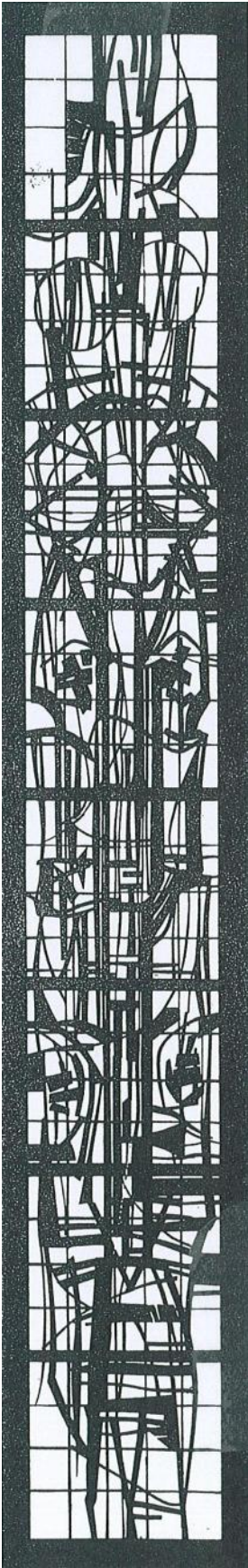
Epiphany also speaks of the gifts of the Three Kings – cf. – Matthew 2:1-11. These gifts also represent Christ's Three-fold Mission: gold (the crown) speaks of Christ's Kingly office; incense (small cubicle) speaks of his Priestly mission; and myrrh (the chalice) speaks of his mission of Suffering.

On the Epistle side of the Nave (right as one faces the Altar) – The windows depict Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter.

Maundy Thursday: Near the top, on a table-like form is to be seen in glorious simplicity and dignity a chalice (cup) and host (round wafer above chalice), the bread and wine of the Last Supper which was instituted "on the night in which he was betrayed" – also included farther down are grapes and wheat. These represent the earthly elements of the Holy Sacrament which are many, yet so inter-mingled as to become one – bread and wine. Taken together with chalice and host this symbolism speaks of the great mystery of the Christian congregation. Near the bottom of this window one may see a basin for water and a towel draped about it. This reminds us of our Lord's significant action reported in John 13:12-14 which included the command to the disciples "So if I, your Lord and teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet".



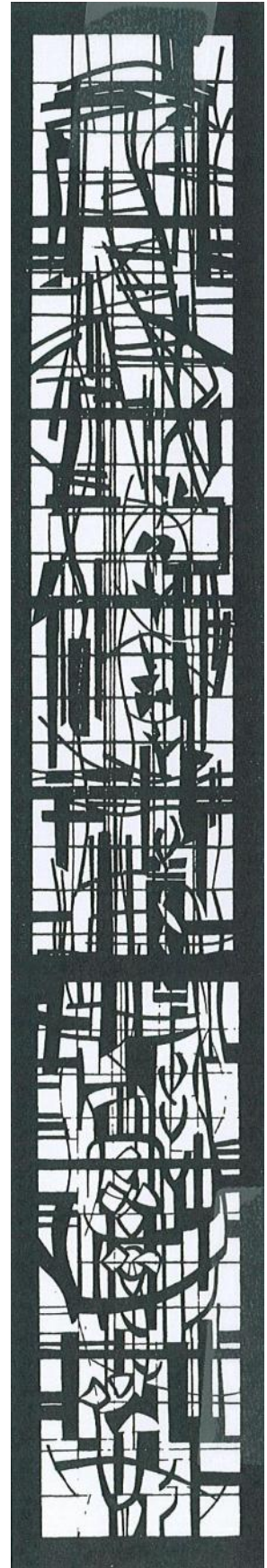
Maundy Thursday Window



Good Friday Window

Good Friday: The crucifixion of Christ on Good Friday is shown by the cross with its spiked point thrust into the earth. His five wounds appear red with nails black in the matrix. Above the cross near the top one may observe the crown of thorns with its pointed spears directed inward – all of which speaks of the cruelty of man and the burden of man's sin which our Lord endured for our salvation.

Easter: The single symbol for the Resurrection window is a triumphant cross in very light-hued glasses around which may be seen shapes of flowers and green leaves in both matrix and glass. Lilies at the base of the window and a vine ascending the cross symbolize new life originating with the resurrected Christ. Note also that it is the cross without corpus which signifies Christ's victory over death and the grave.



Easter Window

Side Rooms

In the corridors on either side of the Chancel are two Psalms and Christ's significant statement of love and the Ascension Window.

Psalm 41 and Psalm 94: In the left-hand corridor these psalms are the point of departure. The windows do not refer to any specific verse or phrase but in each of the Psalms the mercy of God is stressed. A stream of light runs through each window from top to bottom. Humanity stretching upward toward the light, seeking to know God, may be found in the shapes of the matrix. These windows contain no symbols, old or new. They simply remind one of God's mercy "in streams never ceasing".

Ascension: The first window in the right-hand corridor is intended to symbolize Christ's ascending into heaven. It contains non-representational color patterns indicating a rising into the golden glory of heaven at the top which is in keeping with the intangible character of the event.

Love: The second window in the right corridor is intended to convey the message of love, originating with the eternal, triune God which results in loving our neighbor also.



Ascension Window