



## Emanuel's Lutheran Church A Tour of Our Stained Glass

## Celebrating 150 years of Mission & Ministry!

In 2016, Mrs. Jeanne Palmer compiled this incredible resource as a way of telling the story our glorious stained glass windows. She drew together the descriptions and biblical stories provided by the original artists and Emanuel's Pastor, Dr. E.J. Braulik to aid in a visual tour of the sanctuary. These stories are not just of the colorful light that fills the sanctuary at every hour of the day, but are visual devotions on the biblical narrative come alive in each symbol. In 1956, Emanuel's dedicated this third sanctuary and education wing that comprise the main campus today and these windows remain testaments to Emanuel's history, as well as its continued mission and ministry in Seguin and within the wider church.

Emanuel's hoped to celebrate its 150th Anniversary in 2020, but the global COVID-19 pandemic shifted those festivities to the weekend of October 31, 2021. It is my hope that you will find this booklet as a way to experience the incredible power of faith made visible in art. Take a moment, take a deep breath, open your heart and your mind, turn to the first page, and let the Spirit guide you. What do you see in the colors? What you hear in the symbols? What do you feel as you sit among the great cloud of witnesses who have taken moments of prayer and worship in these pews, among these windows?

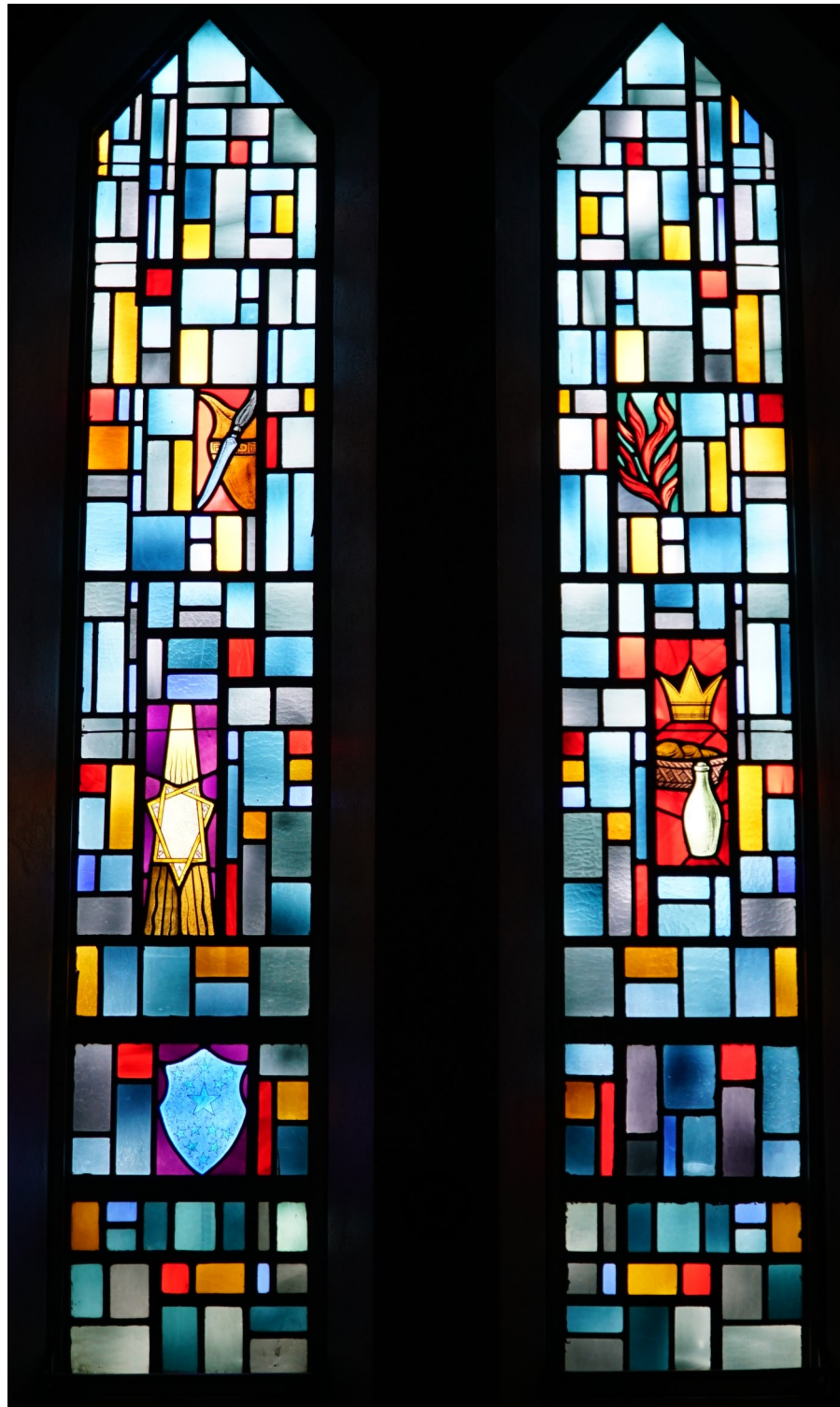
I am grateful to God that you are among us today. It is my prayer that you will find your time with us full of the grace, hope, and love of God pouring out through our community of faith and worship.

In God's grip,

Pastor Marcus Bigott

Senior Pastor, Emanuel's Lutheran Church





## ABRAHAM WINDOWS

Top: The Sacrificial Knife: Gen. 22:6-10 — The Sacrifice of Isaac

Middle: The 7-Pointed Star: Symbolic of the 7 gifts of the Spirit

Bottom: Blue Shield & Stars: God's call and promise to Abraham, Gen. 15:1-6

Top: 7-Tongued Flames: Symbolic of the 7 gifts of the Spirit

Middle: Bread, Wine, & Crown: Symbolic of Abraham's encounter with Melchizedek, Gen. 14:17-20

Bottom: Bundle of Wood and Brazier of Fire: Gen. 22:7 — The Sacrifice of Isaac.



# ABRAHAM WINDOWS

## The Biblical Stories

### The Sacrificial Knife: Genesis 22:6-10 (NRSV)

Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid it on his son Isaac, and he himself carried the fire and the knife. So the two of them walked on together. Isaac said to his father Abraham, "Father!" And he said, "Here I am, my son." He said, "The fire and the wood are here, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?" Abraham said, "God himself will provide the lamb for a burnt offering, my son." So the two of them walked on together. When they came to the place that God had shown him, Abraham built an altar there and laid the wood in order. He bound his son Isaac, and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. Then Abraham reached out his hand and took the knife to kill his son.

### Bundle of Wood & Brazier of Fire: Genesis 22:7 (NRSV)

Isaac said to his father Abraham, "Father!" And he said, "Here I am, my son." He said, "The fire and the wood are here, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?"

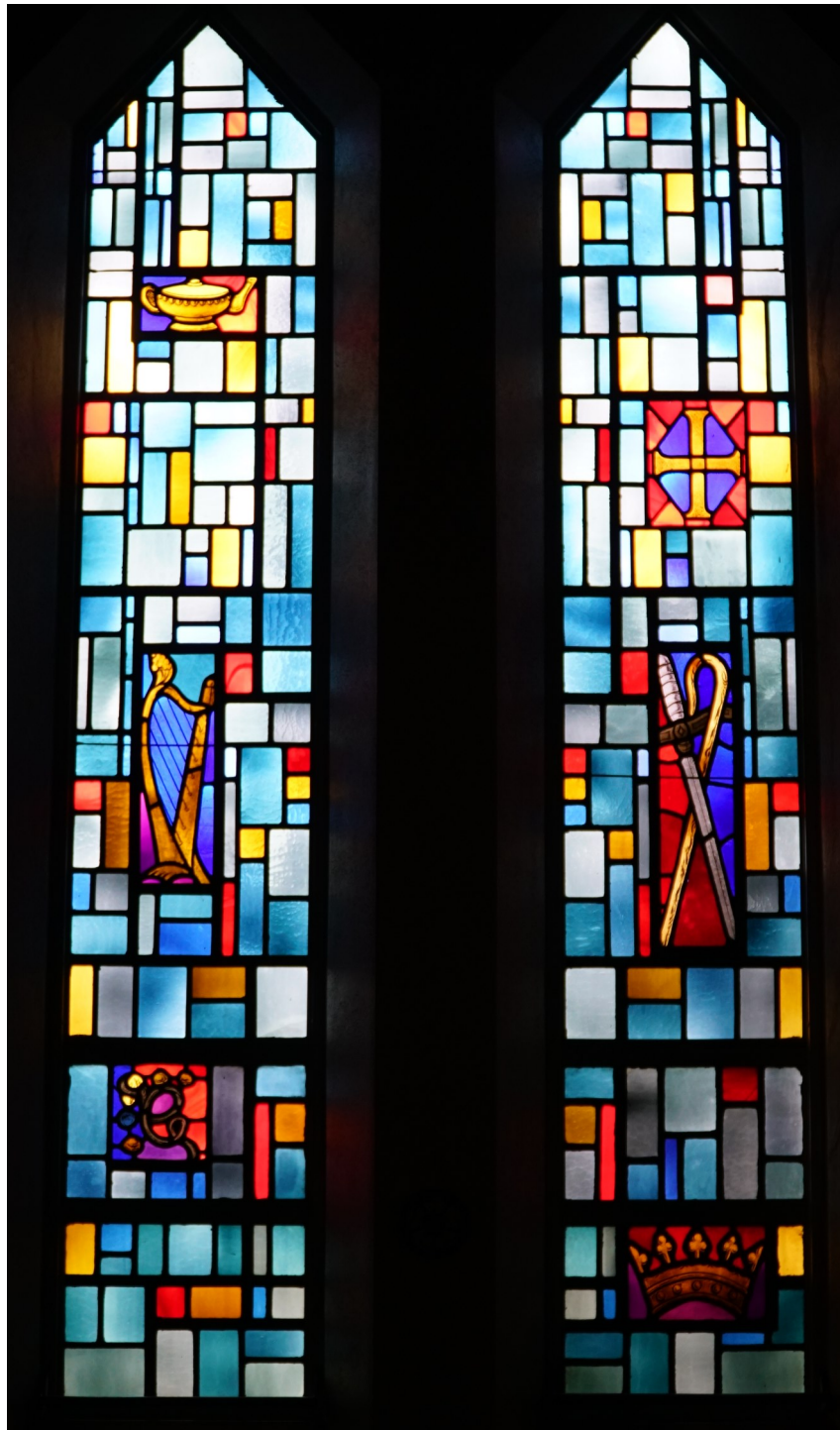
### Bread, Wine, & Crown: Genesis 14:17-20 (NRSV)

After his return from the defeat of Chedorlaomer and the kings who were with him, the king of Sodom went out to meet him at the Valley of Shaveh (that is, the King's Valley). And King Melchizedek of Salem brought out bread and wine; he was priest of God Most High. He blessed him and said, "Blessed be Abram by God Most High, maker of heaven and earth; and blessed be God Most High, who has delivered your enemies into your hand!" And Abram gave him one tenth of everything.

### Blue Shield & Stars: Genesis 15:1-6 (NRSV)

After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, "Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great." But Abram said, "O Lord GOD, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?" And Abram said, "You have given me no offspring, and so a slave born in my house is to be my heir." But the word of the LORD came to him, "This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir." He brought him outside and said, "Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them." Then he said to him, "So shall your descendants be." And he believed the LORD; and the LORD reckoned it to him as righteousness.





## DAVID WINDOWS

Top: The Cruse of Oil: Prophets, Priests, and Kings were anointed with oil as they were selected for office.

Middle: The Harp: Joy, Gladness, The Music of David, the Psalms of David.

Bottom: The Sling & 5 Stones: 1 Sam. 17:40 — Symbolic of David's victory over Goliath.

Top: The Jerusalem Cross: Symbolic of the Savior's Power to help and heal because of its resemblance to an ancient crutch

Middle: The Sword & Staff: The care of a Shepherd

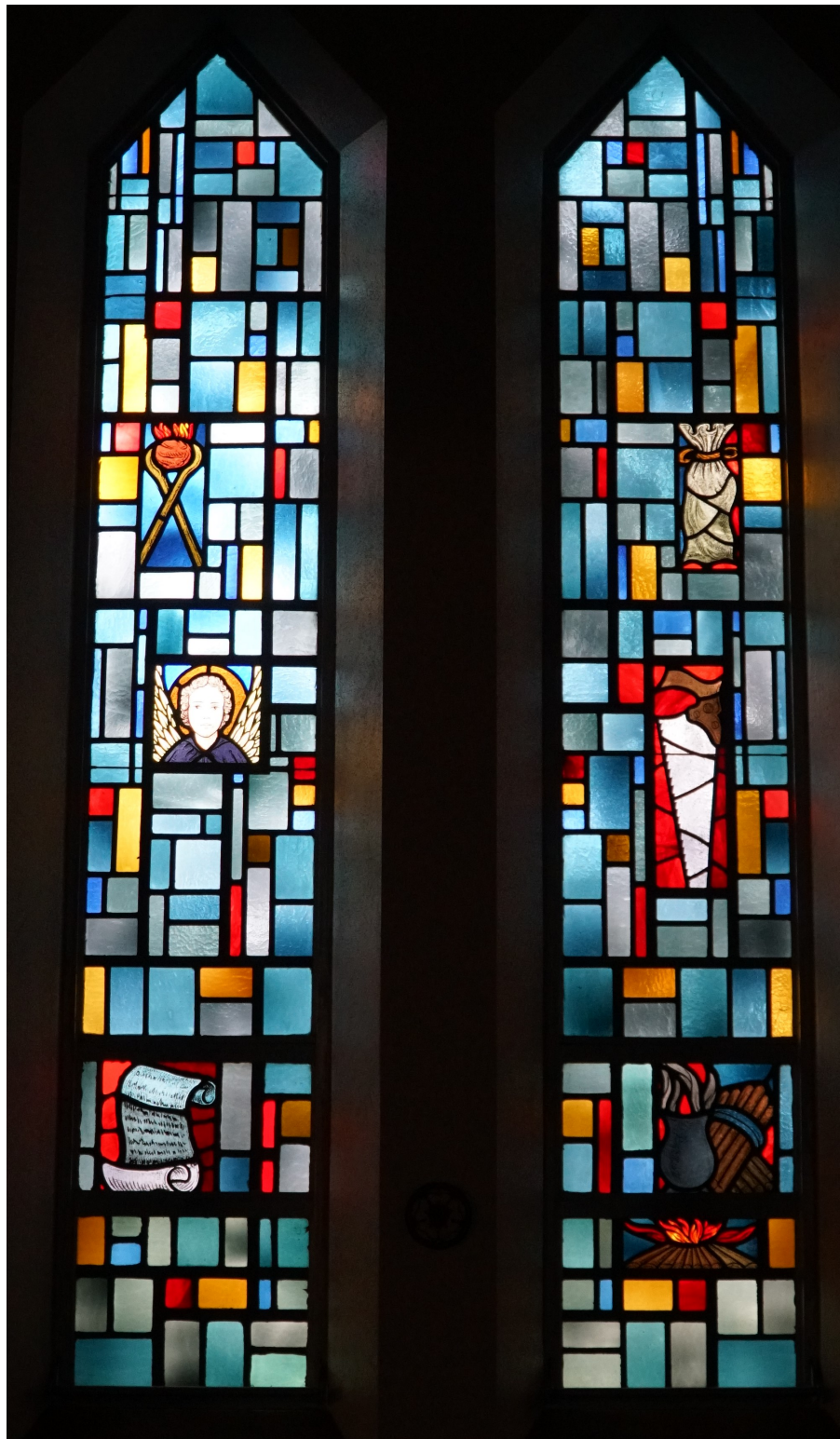
Bottom: The Crown: Kingship, Royalty

# DAVID WINDOWS

## The Biblical Stories

### The Sling & 5 Stones: 1 Samuel 17:40 (NRSV)

Then he took his staff in his hand, and chose five smooth stones from the wadi, and put them in his shepherd's bag, in the pouch; his sling was in his hand, and he drew near to the Philistine.



## ISAIAH WINDOWS

Top: The Tongs & Live Coal: Is. 6:2 — Symbolic of Isaiah the Prophet.

Middle: The Seraphim: Is. 6:6

Bottom: The Scroll: Symbolic of his book of Prophecy.

Top: The Sack: Relates to his martyrdom

Middle: The Saw: Relates to his martyrdom, as it is said that "he was sawn asunder."

Bottom: The Burning Bundles: Signifies his martyrdom; the burning of his body



# ISAIAH WINDOWS

## The Biblical Stories

### The Tongs & Live Coal: Isaiah 6:2 (NRSV)

Seraphs were in attendance above him; each had six wings: with two they covered their faces, and with two they covered their feet, and with two they flew.

### The Seraphim: Isaiah 6:6 (NRSV)

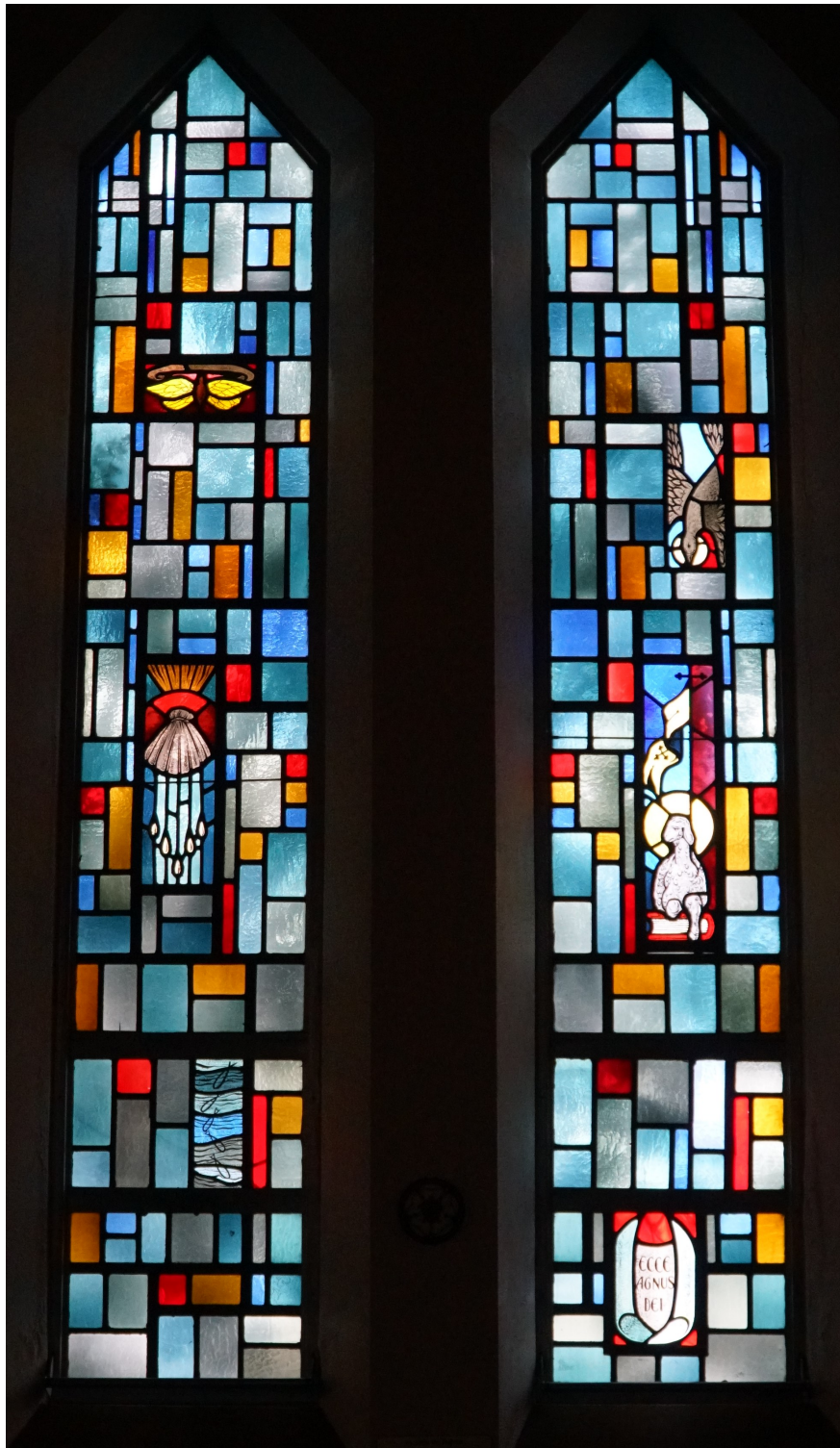
Then one of the seraphs flew to me, holding a live coal that had been taken from the altar with a pair of tongs.

### The Ascension of Isaiah (The Martyrdom of Isaiah):

A pseudepigraphal work surviving intact only in a 5th–7th-century-AD Ethiopic edition. Fragments exist in Greek, Coptic, Latin, and Old Slavonic. Three separate works comprise the total book, the final version by a Christian editor, which appeared in the 2nd century AD. The first section is entitled “The Martyrdom of Isaiah,” a Midrash on the Manasseh story in II Kings 21, possibly written originally in Hebrew or Aramaic in the early 1st century AD. It includes a legendary martyr motif and extensive passages on demonology. The second is the “Testament of Hezekiah,” a Christian work, dating from the late 1st century AD, that contains a concept of Antichrist as a spirit dwelling in the Roman emperor Nero (AD 54–68), whose persecution of Christians in 64–65 was thought to be the chaos preceding the advent of the messianic age. The third work is called the “Ascension (or Vision) of Isaiah,” also written by a Christian at the beginning of the 2nd century. It contains a description of the seven tiers of heaven paralleling that found in the *Second Book of Enoch* and in the New Testament. Both of the Christian sections are apocalypses, although they contain certain historical details on the state of the church at the end of the 1st century that coincide with descriptions given in the Second Letter of Peter, Second Letter of Paul to Timothy, and the letters of Clement of Rome. The martyr legend in the Jewish section has been linked with the tradition of royal persecutors associated with Antiochus IV Epiphanes of Syria (175–164/163 BC), although the details of Isaiah’s martyrdom may represent the incorporation into Judaism of the myth of Adonis, the Near Eastern (later Greek) god. It has also been suggested that *The Martyrdom of Isaiah* was written by a member of the Qumrān sect of Essene Jews, who saw Isaiah as a type figure of their leader, the Teacher of Righteousness.

(From: <https://www.britannica.com/topic/Ascension-of-Isaiah-pseudepigraphal-work>)

Full text is available at: <http://www.earlychristianwritings.com/text/ascension.html>



## ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST WINDOWS

Top: The Locust & Girdle: Matt. 3:4 — Symbolic of his life.

Middle: The Shell & 5 Drops of Water: The Baptism of Jesus by John.

Bottom: The River Jordan: The Baptism of Jesus by John.

Top: The Descending Dove: Matt. 3:16 — The Spirit descending on Jesus at His Baptism.

Middle: The Nimbed Lamb: John 1:29 — “Behold the Lamb of God.”

Bottom: The Scroll Inscribed: “ECCE AGNUS DEI:”  
“Behold the Lamb of God.”

# ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST WINDOWS

## The Biblical Stories

### The Locust & Girdle: Matthew 3:4 (NRSV)

Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey.

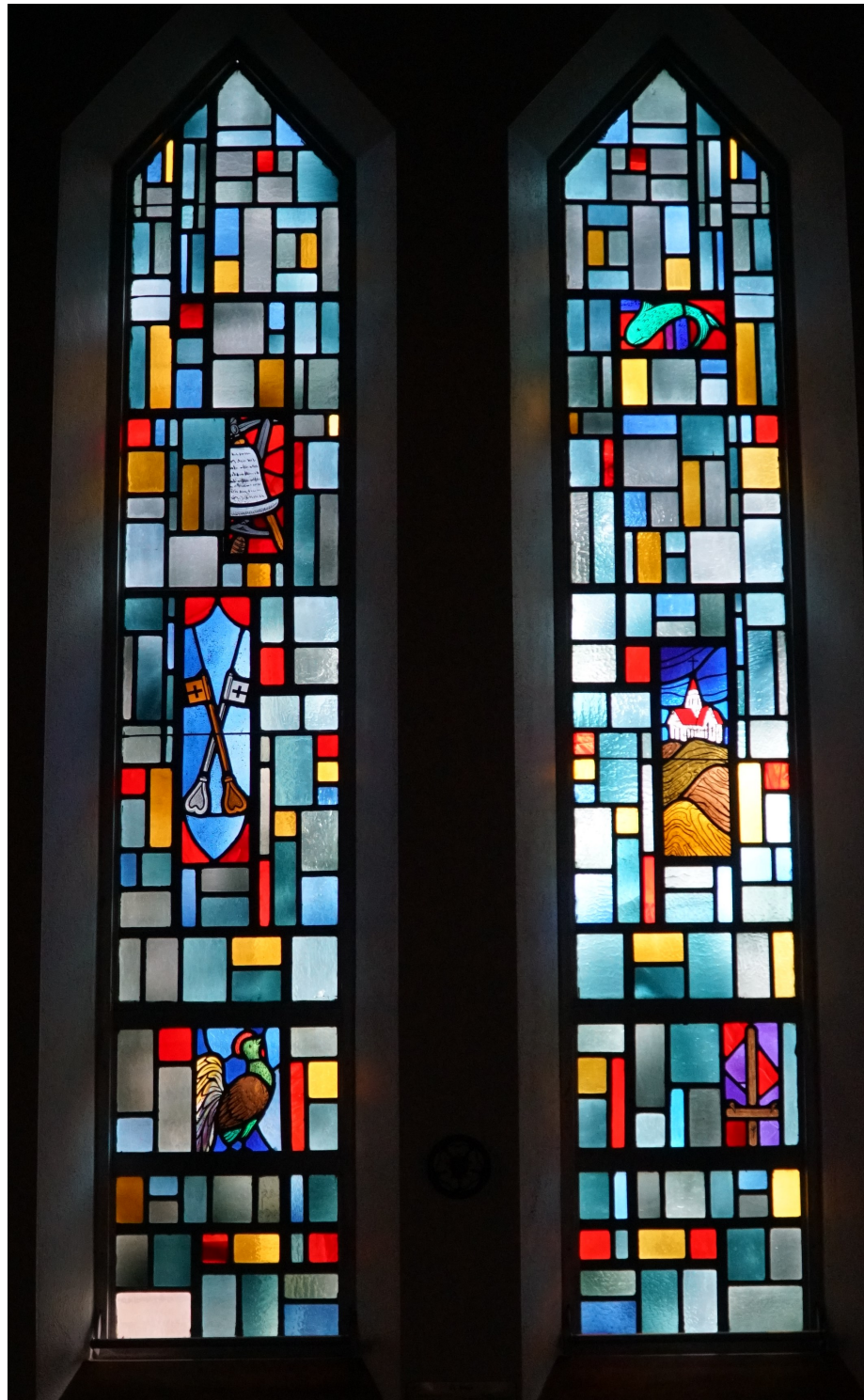
### The Descending Dove: Matthew 3:16 (NRSV)

And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him.

### The Nimbed (Haloed) Lamb: John 1:29 (NRSV)

The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him and declared, "Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!"





## ST. PETER WINDOWS

Top: The Two Swords & Scroll: Luke 22:38

Middle: The Keys: Matt. 16:19 — The Office of the Keys; Confession; Absolution.

Bottom: The Rooster: Watchfulness; Vigilance; Peter's denial

Top: The Fish: Each letter of the Greek word for fish is the first letter of each word in: "Jesus Christ, Son of God, Savior."

Middle: The Church On A Rock: Matt. 16:18

Bottom: The Inverted Cross: Symbolic of Peter's martyrdom by crucifixion on an inverted cross.

# ST. PETER WINDOWS

## The Biblical Stories

### The Two Swords & Scroll: Luke 22:38 (NRSV)

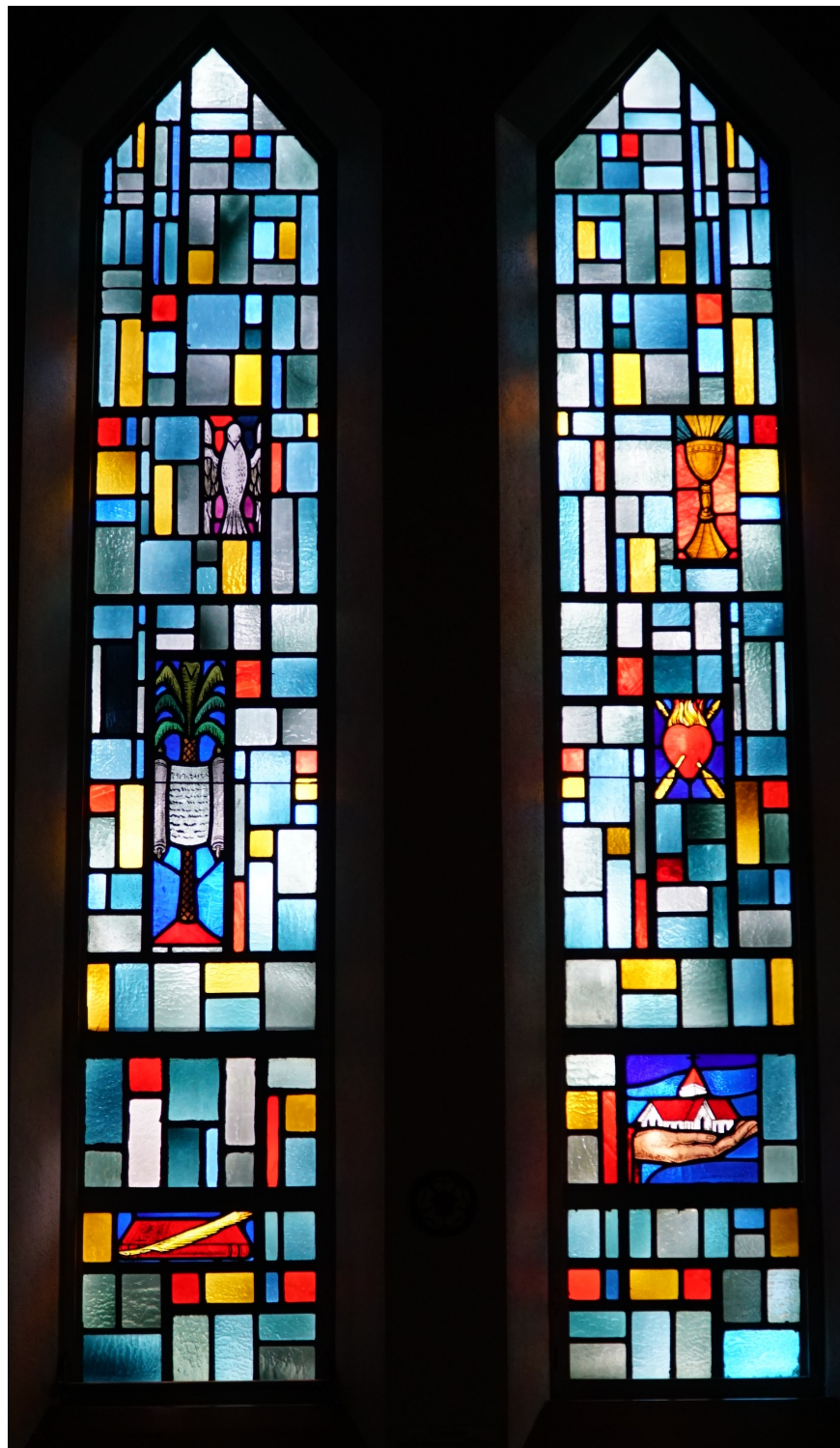
They said, "Lord, look, here are two swords." He replied, "It is enough."

### The Keys: Matthew 16:19 (NRSV)

I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven."

### The Church On A Rock: Matthew 16:18 (NRSV)

And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it.



## ST. AUGUSTINE WINDOWS

Top: The Dove: Recalls his defense of the doctrine of Divine Inspiration of the Bible.

Middle: The Psalm & Scroll: The palm symbolizes his origin in Africa. The scroll his defense of the Church.

Bottom: The Pen & Book: Symbolic of St. Augustine as one of the great theologians of the early Church.

Top: The Chalice: Symbolizes his faithfulness to the Word and the Sacrament.

Middle: The Flaming Heart: Pictures his zeal for the Church. The arrows signify his sorrow for the sins of his youth.

Bottom: The Church-in-Hand: Symbolic of St. Augustine as a Defender of the Church.





## ST. PAUL WINDOWS

Top: The Phoenix: Symbolic of the resurrection as set forth in 1 Cor. 15

Middle: The Book & Sword: "Spiritus Gladius," Latin for "The Sword of the Spirit." Symbolic of God's Word

Bottom: The Lamps: Rom. 10:17—Symbolic of God's Word.

Top: The Three Fountains: 1 Cor. 13:13—Faith; Hope; Love.

Middle: The Figure of a Blind Man: Saul's conversion on the road to Damascus

Bottom: The Ship: Symbolic of the Church carrying pilgrims through life.

# ST. PAUL WINDOWS

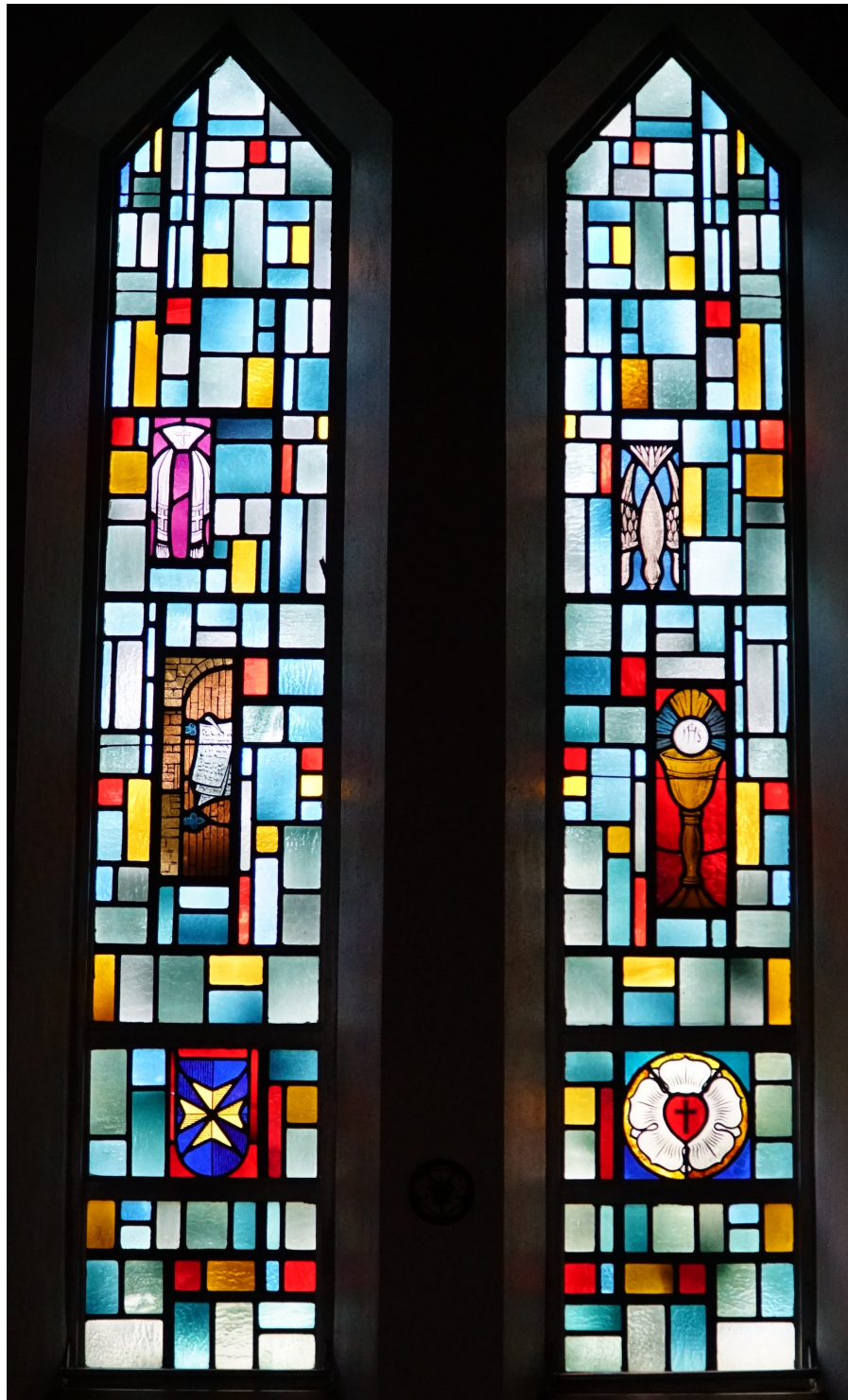
## The Biblical Stories

### The Lamp: Romans 10:17 (NRSV)

So faith comes from what is heard, and what is heard comes through the word of Christ.

### The Three Fountains: 1 Corinthians 13:13 (NRSV)

And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.



## MARTIN LUTHER WINDOWS

Top: The Stole: A vestment symbolic of the yoke of humanity's sin born by our Lord.

Middle: The 95 Thesis: Symbolic of Luther's 95 Thesis nailed to the door of the Church of Wittenberg.

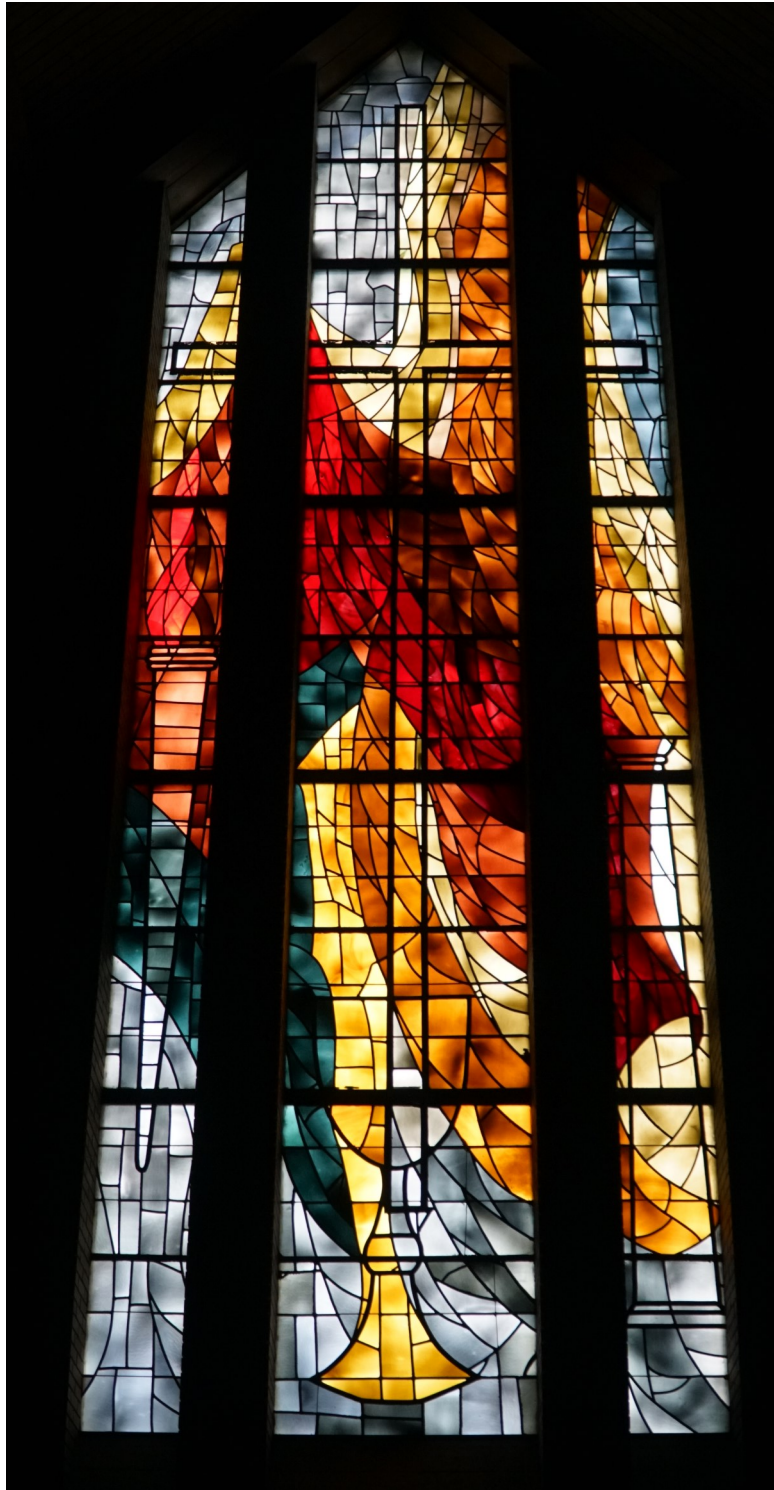
Bottom: The Fitched Cross: Originated during the Crusades when crosses were carried and thrust into the ground at the time for regular daily devotions.

Top: The Descending Dove: Symbolic of the Holy Spirit; used here to symbolize Confirmation.

Middle: The Chalice: Symbolic of Word and Sacraments.

Bottom: The Lutheran Emblem: Luther's Coat of Arms.





## THE PASSION OF OUR LORD WINDOW

Left Side: The Burning Torch: John 18:3 — The capture and arrest in Gethsemane.

Top Center: The Great Cross: Good Friday's emblem of "suffering and shame."

Bottom Center: The institution of the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper.

Right Side: The Column: Symbolic of the scourging of the Lord after His trial before Pilate in the judgement hall.

\*The symbols of the Passion Window are shrouded in the colors of the passion season.

# THE PASSION OF OUR LORD WINDOW

The Altar Window, by Rev. Dr. E.J. Braulick

“The window which down upon the Altar of the Church symbolizes the Passion of our Lord and Savior Cross—is the Communion Cup which reminds us of Maundy Thursday—the institution and celebration of Holy Communion. In the left panel—facing the picture—is a long burning torch, reminiscent of the capture of the Savior in the Garden of Gethsemane by the soldier and leader of the people. In the panel at the right we see the temple pillar where, in the presence of Pilate, Jesus was scourged after His trial before the governor. The center panel carries a long cross—Good Friday’s emblem of suffering, shame, and death, now the glory of Christians everywhere. The four symbols are shrouded in colors of the Lenten season, red, charcoal gray, and orange, reminding us of the Bible truth that the dying Savior who shed His blood (red) on the Cross may now be approached and received in the Spirit of penitential meditation (gray) and awaking hope (orange), because a new day has dawned.”

## The Biblical Stories

The Burning Torch: John 18:3 (NRSV)

So Judas brought a detachment of soldiers together with police from the chief priests and the Pharisees, and they came there with lanterns and torches and weapons.

# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Mrs. Kristen Bigott

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Back Cover Photo: Choir Transept Window

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