

THE STAINED GLASS
WINDOWS OF ST.
PAUL LUTHERAN
CHURCH

History

- ❖ In 1966, St. Paul Lutheran Church began the design process for the construction of a new Sanctuary building. Victor Lundy, AIA, was chosen as the architect.
- ❖ An agreement with The Willet Stained Glass Studios, located in Philadelphia, PA, was signed in July of 1968.
- ❖ The Willet Stained Glass Studios was commissioned to design and install 12 stained glass windows in the Sanctuary.

Window Design

In order to harmonize with the contemporary architecture of the church, the Willet Stained Glass Studios designed and executed the windows in one of their new techniques. This consists of brilliantly colored glass about an inch-thick cut to desired size. The inner surface of certain pieces is then chipped or faceted conchoidally to enhance the design and add a jewel-like quality. Epoxy is poured around the carefully arranged pieces of glass, holding them in place to form a structural unit of greatest strength. It is the thickness of the glass which assures the breathtaking radiance and complete purity of color which are the outstanding characteristics of the medium.

The designs are in the abstract symbolism. The chronology alternates from the west side to the east side of the church, starting at the rear of the sanctuary. Thus in an abstract way is told the story from the Creation of the World to Christ's Ascension and reign over all.

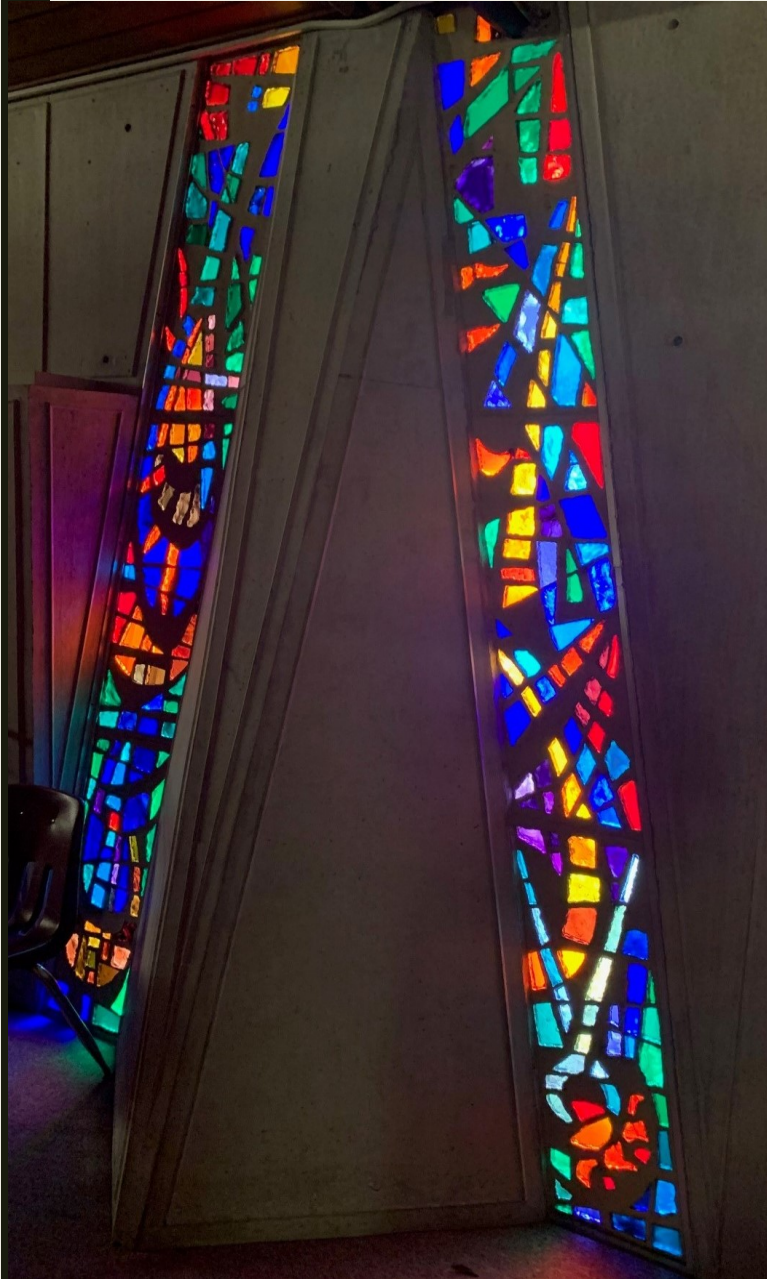
Window Titles

East Side

- Prophecy
- Childhood
- Healing
- Last Supper
- Great Commission
- Ascension

West Side

- Creation
- Incarnation
- Christ's Ministry
- Christ's Sacrifice on the Cross
- Resurrection
- Immortality



Prophecy – East Side

Quite clearly seen at the lower right are the tongs holding a flaming coal with which Isaiah's lips were sealed to enable him to prophesy. The abstract shapes are those of wings. Near the top the cross is dimly seen presaging the crucifixion.

Childhood – East Side

Christ's presentation in the temple is represented at the lower right by a basket of doves given for ransom. The lamp of knowledge recalls his association with the teachers in the temple at the age of twelve, and a saw, his work in the carpenter's shop.



Healing – East Side

On the right is the early form of the caduceus, the medical symbol. This is Moses' staff with the brazen serpent lifted in the wilderness for the healing of the Israelites. Above on the right is the blind eye and, on the left, Christ's hand extended toward it.





The Last Supper – East Side

The institution of the sacrament is recalled by a table across the bottom. Above is a plate of bread and a chalice of wine.

Great Commission – East Side

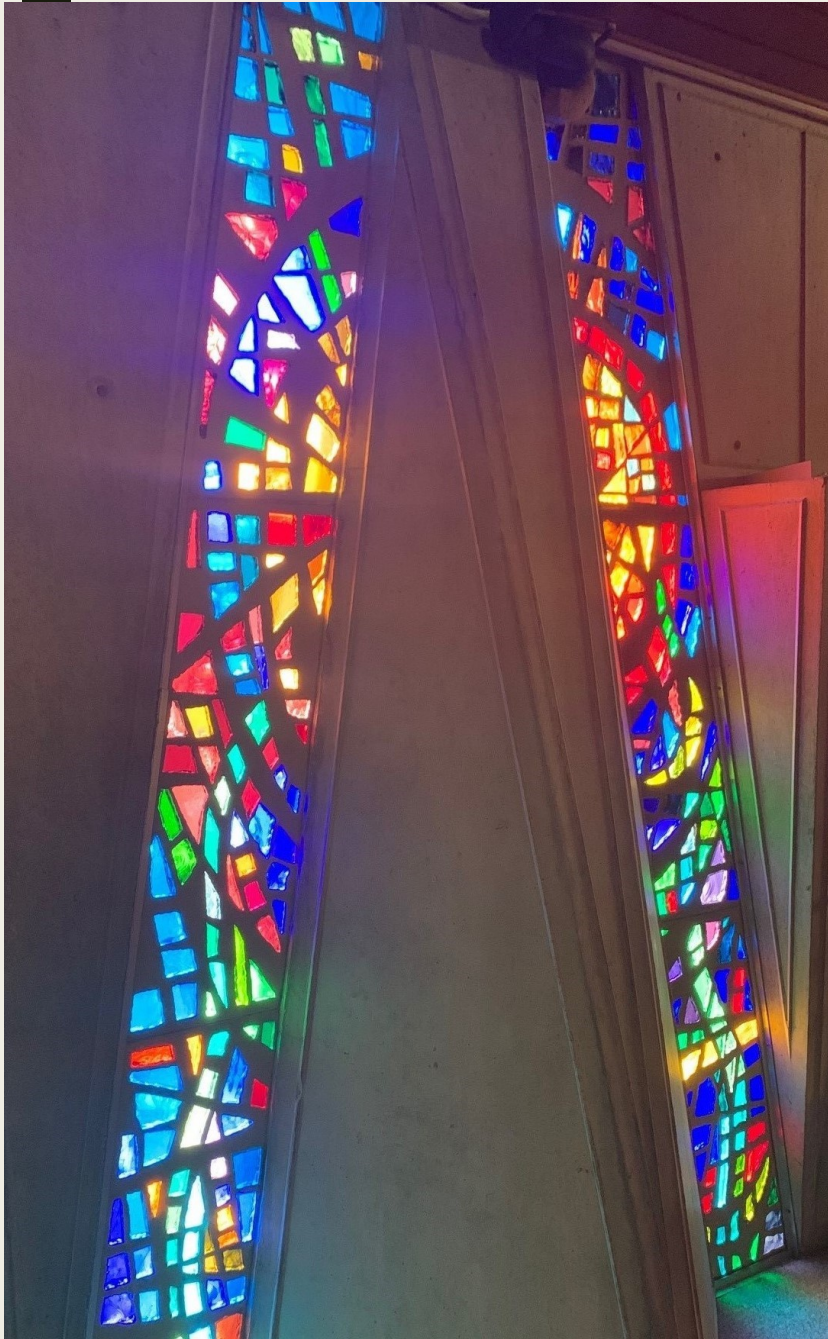


This window is dominated by a large dove of the Holy Spirit. Flowing down are drops of the water of baptism. Below, right and left, are small ships, those of many missionary journeys carrying the Gospel throughout the world.



Ascension – East Side

The eagle flies up towards the clouds at the top, symbolizing Christ's ascension. The alpha and omega, the beginning and the end, are surmounted by a cross. This is combined with the cross topped orb carried by crowned monarchs signifying the triumph of Christianity over the world. Christ reigns into eternity.



Creation – West Side

The whirling shapes are intended to give an impression of the light separating from the dark and the water drawing back from the dry land. The window contains no symbols as such. From the warm colored mass, which may be the sun, source of all life, green spreads earth-ward.

Incarnation – West Side

The son of God come to earth is indicated by the downward plummeting arrow shapes which emerge from a whirlpool and pierce the surrounding darkness.



Christ's Ministry – West Side

Links of chain extend downward – the bonds of hate, evil and hypocrisy which were loosed by the new dispensation, indicated by the scroll at the top.





Christ's Sacrifice on the Cross – West Side

Dimly seen at the top is the crown of thorns. The lines are crooked and tortured. The predominant lines are purple, the color of sacrifice and penance. The drops of blood shed for the sins of the world fall to earth.

Resurrection – West Side

In this window the movement is upward not down. The gold color symbolizes the joy of Christ's resurrection. At the top is the white banner with the red cross, the banner of the victory of life over sin and death.



Immortality – West Side

Here the blue shapes are calm and convey the feeling of peace, not midnight and turmoil. Tongues of flames suggest the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

