

THE WINDOWS OF

ST. PETER EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Sturgeon Bay, Wisconsin

CHANCEL WINDOWS

1	2	3
A	B	C
4	5	6

1 - 6: The Six Chief Parts of Luther's Catechism

- 1: The Ten Commandments - two tablets of stone which Moses received from the LORD on Mt. Sinai
- 2: The Apostles' Creed - a globe and cross on a book, showing that the universal church confesses the faith that is centered in Christ and drawn from Scripture
- 3: The Lord's Prayer - Folded hands with a cross above and a cross between the hands and the incense burner beneath, showing that prayers ascend to the true God only by faith in Jesus Christ
- 4: The Sacrament of Holy Baptism - a triangle, a shell and the font on which is found chi rho, the first two letters of the name "Christ," showing that the triune God receives us into his family as we are "baptized into Christ" (Galatians 3:27)
- 5: The Use of the Keys - two keys with a cross above, showing that using the gospel unlocks the door to heaven, which is the ministry Christ has given to his church
- 6: The Sacrament of Holy Communion - a chalice, a wafer with cross, wheat and grapes all show that Christ's body and blood come to us in, with and under the bread and wine

A - C: The Incarnation, Humiliation and Exaltation of Christ

- A: Christ's Incarnation - the flower with chi rho, manger and star with alpha & omega, showing that Jesus is the Christ promised to David's line, the unchanging God, the beginning and the end who assumed human flesh
- B: Christ's Humiliation - the Son of God on Calvary's cross
- C: Christ's Exaltation - the throne, the first three Greek letters of Jesus' name (iota, eta, sigma), a crown and crosses on either side of the throne, showing that Jesus is exalted to glory after going to the cross to pay for human sin

BALCONY WINDOW - "Rose Window" (so called because of its shape)

The Lamb in the center - Jesus, the Lamb of God, poured out his blood as the payment for sin

Doves in rose petals - the message of Christ brings us God's Spirit (symbolized by the dove), and the eight petals are said to symbolize the eight Beatitudes of Matthew 5:3-10, which describe the Spirit-worked Christian life

SIDE WINDOWS - Twelve windows represent the twelve apostles

East (right) side, front to back -

- 1: Paul - Spiritus gladius on Bible, reminding us of Paul's words in Ephesians 6:17 "Take . . . the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God."
- 2: Simon the Zealot - Fish on Bible, showing that besides being a zealot he was also a "fisher of men"
- 3: Thaddaeus - a ship to symbolize the mission voyages which tradition says to made
- 4: Matthew - two money bags to symbolize his profession as a tax collector before called to be an apostle
- 5: James, son of Alphaeus - tower and saw blades to symbolize tradition's story that he was martyred for Christ by being thrown from the temple and his body sawed into pieces
- 6: Thomas - the builder's square to symbolize tradition's story that the "doubter," firm in his convictions, traveled to India and built a church with his own hands (the arrows remain a mystery)

West (left) side, front to back -

- 1: Peter - church on a rock, reminding us of Jesus' words to the apostle, "On this rock (his confession of Christ as Son of God) I will build my church" (Matthew 16:18)
- 2: James, son of Zebedee - three scallops, which were used to drink water, to symbolize tradition's story that he traveled much to preach the Word
- 3: John - eagle over flaming bowl, reminding us of John's words in Revelation 4 & 5, where the face of one of the four living creatures around heaven's throne is an eagle (said to represent John) and where the prayers of the saints are represented by a golden bowl of incense
- 4: Andrew - cross in shape of an X to symbolize tradition's story that he was crucified on such a cross
- 5: Philip - a basket to symbolize Philip's role in the feeding of the 5000 (John 6:5-7)
- 6: Bartholomew - knife and Bible to symbolize tradition's story that he was martyred for preaching the gospel by being skinned alive

Given to the glory of God to assist God's people in the worship of the Savior