

*We Have Seen
His Star And
Are Come To
Worship Him."*

MATT. 2:2



*Through Baptism
we become
children of God
and members of
Christ's body*

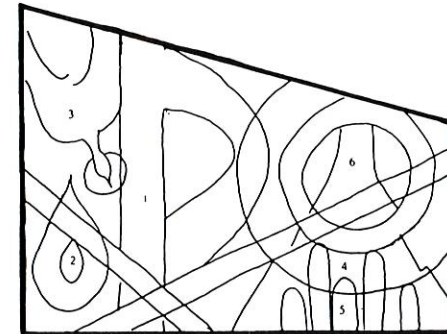
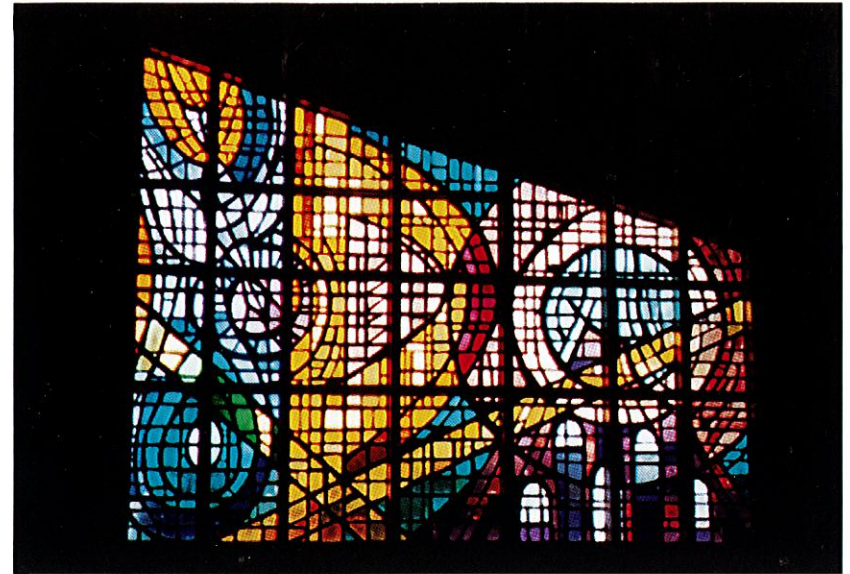
Inside the church the congregation gathers around the altar as the body of Christ, recalling His great sacrifice. The altar, made of wood to remind us of the warm love of Christ, is the table where Christ, the Inviting Host, is present and from which we receive His body and blood to eat and drink.

The strong message of the chancel is brought out in the east wall by the Bethlehem Star which represents Christ's birth, the altar reminding us of His sacrificial death, and the Christus recalling the glorious fact of His resurrection and continual presence among His people.

The reredos from which the Christ figure is suspended is made of open vertical members so that the Christ figure is centered upon the cross-shaped Bethlehem star. At the same time the reredos provides opportunity for variety from Sunday to Sunday as the panels are changed to convey the central thought of the festival or time of the church year through color symbolism. Through special panels that can be inserted into the reredos the congregation will have opportunity to highlight and to express the special meaning of particular events in its life and that of its members; such as baptism, confirmation, marriage and death.

The Baptismal Font by its position brings out the importance and centrality of Christian Baptism. Set among the worshipers and in the center aisle before the altar, it proclaims that through Baptism we become children of God and members of Christ's body. It serves as a continual reminder of the daily "death" of sin and "resurrection" of a new life that takes place in the Christian. It becomes most meaningful when confirmands and wedding couples stand near the font and are reminded of their covenant with the Lord. At a funeral service when the body of a baptized believer in Christ lies beside the font, we praise God that **"whoever believes and is baptized shall be saved."** The circle form of the baptismal bowl conveys the truth that the gift of eternal life is begun through the water of Holy Baptism. The triangular shape of the font reminds us that the water of baptism is applied in the name of the Triune God.

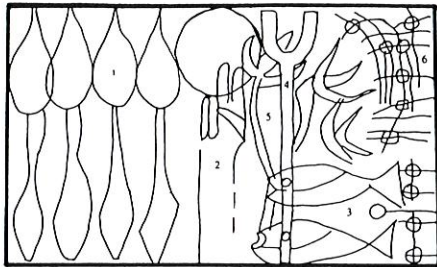
"The Glory of Christ"



The windows in the nave portray, on the left, the life of Christ, and on the right, the life of the Church.

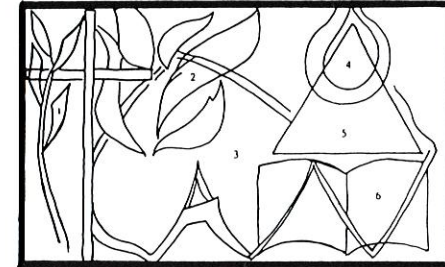
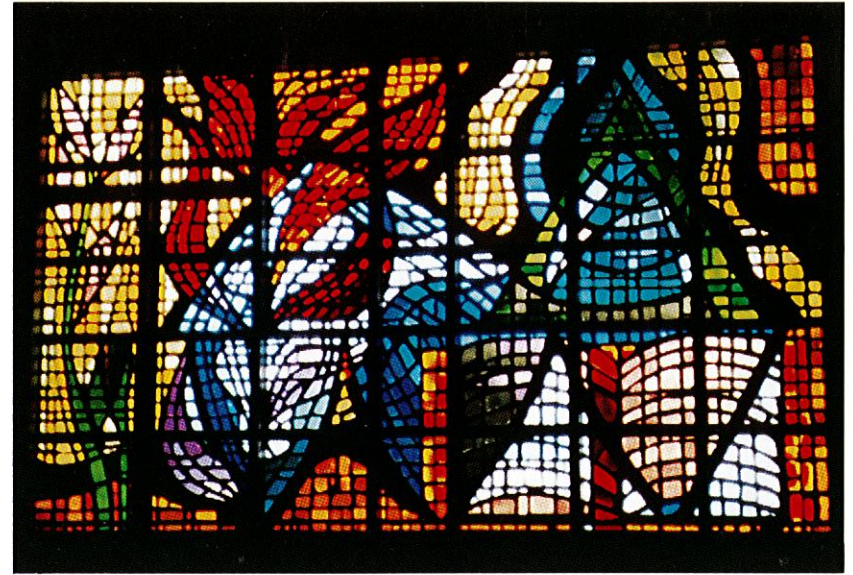
The first window on the left proclaims the "Glory of Christ." The large Chi Rho symbol (1), speaks of the Christ as the Anointed One, our Lord and God. The water (2) and dove (3) symbolize the baptism of Christ when He, as the Chosen Servant and beloved Son of God, was anointed of the Holy Spirit. The Transfiguration Mount (4) holds before us His glory and His majesty. The spaces on the mountain (5) represent Moses and Elijah who spoke with Him of the glory of His death and Peter, James and John who were eye witnesses of His majesty. The large circle (6) illustrates that Christ Jesus is the eternal God, without beginning or end.

"Christ as Servant"



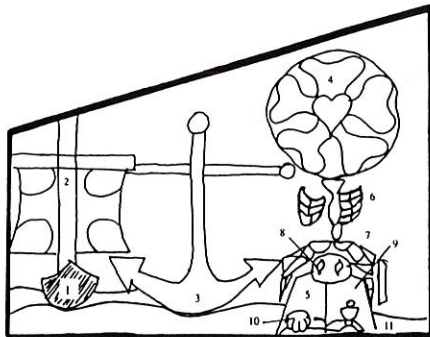
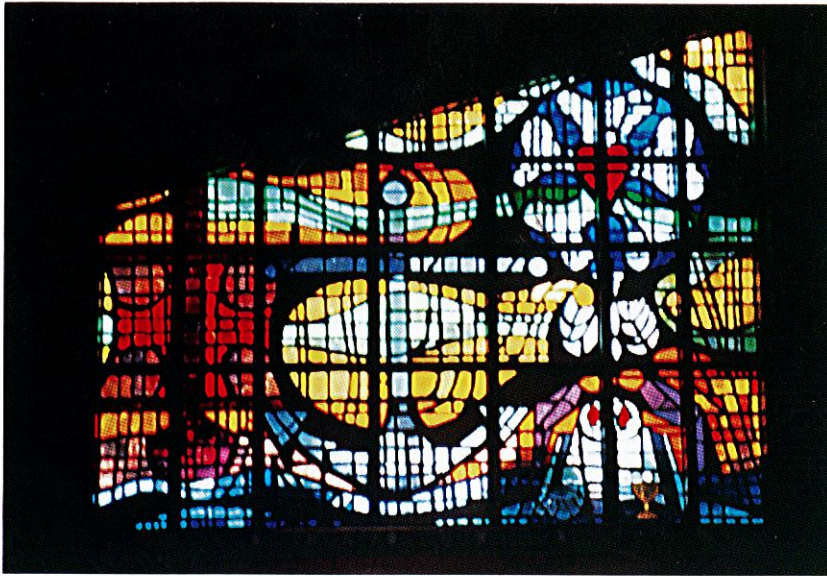
The front window on the left depicts **"Christ as Servant"** and various aspects of His ministry. The blue color(1) to the left of the Hand of Blessing(2) changing to purple shades recalls Jesus' miracle of changing water into wine and His constant miracles in our lives. The five loaves and two fishes(3) remind us of the Savior's feeding of the five thousand and of His feeding us with the Bread of Life. Jesus' healing ministry is depicted by the brown crutch (4). The lilies and birds(5), of which Jesus spoke in His Sermon on the Mount, symbolize His teaching ministry. The fishing net in the upper right(6) illustrates Jesus' call to us to be fishers of men and His ministry to seek and to save the lost.

"The Great Commission"



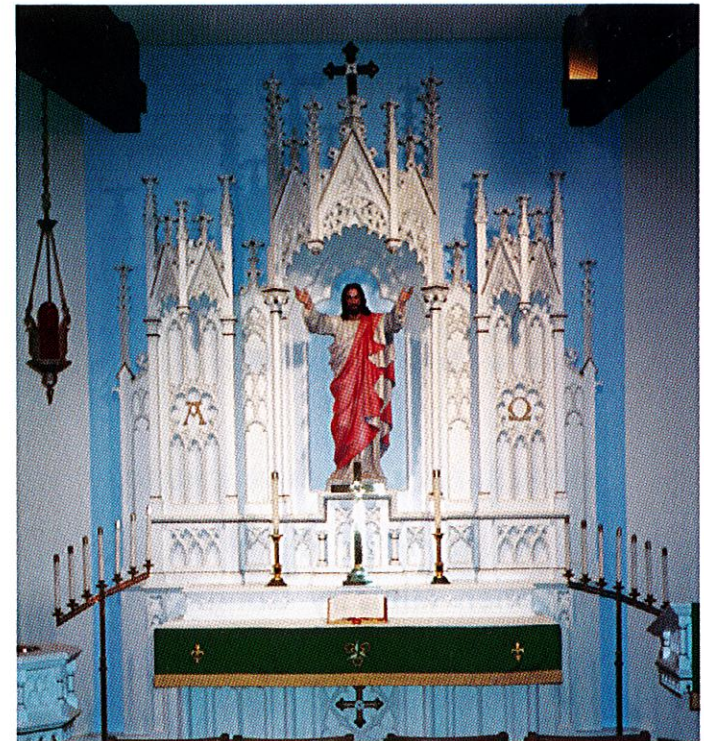
The front window on the right is that of the **"Great Commission."** The stalk of wheat(1) is the symbol of Christ's resurrection and the adjacent flames(2) picture the gift of the Holy Spirit which Christ poured on His Church at Pentecost and still gives to empower His disciples. The geodesic globe(3) conveys the scope of the Great Commission...**"Go ye into all the world."** **"Make disciples of all nations."** His Great commission is to be carried out by baptizing the nations in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit as the symbols of the water(4) and triangle(5) remind us. The open book(6) recalls for us that such baptizing is to be followed by **"teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you."**

"Church of Jesus Christ"



The rear window on the right completes the message of the beautiful windows that encircle the worshippers. The message speaks to us of our function, and privilege as the **"Church of Jesus Christ."** The church, depicted by the sail-ship (1) carries the cross of Christ (2), into the world through the proclamations of the Gospel and Hope portrayed by the anchor (3). The image of Luther's Seal (4), illustrates that God's people of the Lutheran faith share in the task of evangelizing the world as they emphasize that men are justified by God's grace through faith alone. Specifically, it is our privilege as Bethlehem Evangelical Lutheran Church, as symbolized by the congregation's logo in the lower right hand corner. The logo (5), states that through the Holy Spirit, the dove (6) and with the Father's blessings the open hands (7), we bring Christ, true God and true man, the two candle flames (8), to the world through the means of grace, the Word and Sacraments the open book (9), and the Baptismal shell (10), and Communion Chalice (11).

"Our Chapel"



Our Chapel reflects our rich heritage, and is used to the glory of God for private Baptism's, small weddings, Bible classes, meditations and shutin services.

The chapel was moved from our original house of worship on Oak and Hermansau Streets.

WE ARE A SINGING CHURCH

We at Bethlehem have been blessed by God in proclaiming the love of Christ through music. The sounds of our carillon bells, organ, choir, instruments, and the singing of prayerful hymns give us opportunity to worship and praise our Lord.

Our Day School, kindergarten through 8th grade, and Sunday School, are the precious tools for our young to hear and be trained in God's Word daily, with the promise of ***"Train up a child in the way he should go, and he will not depart from it..."***

Our lives as Lutheran Christians, is to also share Christ. We do this through our Evangelism and Stephen's Ministries and to the world at large through Missions.