

The Wonder of Our Savior Depicted in Stained Glass

A wonderful hymn about our Savior evokes heartfelt praise to the Son of God:

Beautiful Savior, King of creation, Son of God and Son of Man!
Truly I'd love Thee, Truly I'd serve Thee, Light of my soul, my joy my crown.

The third stanza of that hymn declares:

Fair is the sunshine, Fair is the moonlight, Bright the sparking stars on high;
Jesus shines brighter, Jesus shines purer than all the angels in the sky.

Jesus is the beautiful, saving, Light of the world. His birth, life, sufferings, death, resurrection and ascension to the right hand of God, the Father, brings us the Light of God's grace and salvation.

The wonder of our Savior is beautifully depicted in the stained-glass windows found in our church facilities here at St. Paul's. When light shines through the colored glass, the glory of all that Christ has done for us is recounted in these windows as you move from one window to the next.

The confirmation class of 1974 researched the imagery of the windows and a booklet explaining the Biblical imagery was produced. This booklet is still available in our church office for anyone who would like one. Our stained-glass windows can be used as wonderful tools for teaching the faith.

Before World War II, the nation of Latvia was one of the most Christian nations on earth. Over 90% of her population had been baptized into Christ. After World War II, the nation came under communist control by the Soviets. Persecution broke out against Christians. Some church buildings were destroyed. Other church buildings were turned into offices and museums. For the buildings that remained, they did not destroy the stained-glass works of art.

As Bibles were in quite short supply, many Christian families taught their children the Christian faith by taking them to these converted church buildings. Quietly they would talk to their children about the many different stories of the faith found in these windows. Christianity and the Christian faith could not be destroyed by the atheist teachings of the communist authorities.

We should regularly thank God for our Christian freedom in these United States of America. Yet, more importantly, we should rejoice in our beautiful Savior and take the time to teach our own children of His glorious birth, life, teachings, suffering, death, and resurrection as depicted in our own stained-glass windows here at St. Paul's

St. Paul's Stained Glass Windows



**The Growing Kingdoms
of Grace and Glory**



The Nativity of Our Lord



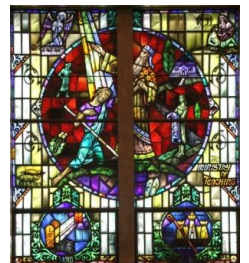
**Christ Leaves, but
the Spirit Comes**



The Baptism of Jesus



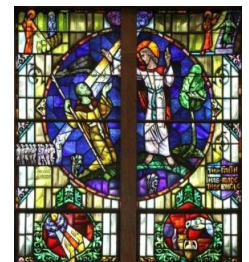
**Resurrection—
Blessed Victory**



**The Ministry of
Teaching**



**The Crucifixion— A
Sacrifice That Saves**



**Miracles: Christ's
Ministry of Concern**



The Last Supper



Jesus—Truly God

THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD



Main Picture: The Birth of Jesus

Bible Reference: Luke 2

When Jesus was born in a stable, the shepherds came to worship him. In the rays of the Star of Bethlehem, the baby Jesus was honored as the glory of the Lord shown on him.

Upper Right : Mary's Song

Bible Reference: Luke 1:39-54

The upper right picture depicts the visit of Mary to her cousin Elizabeth, the mother of John the Baptist. It is here that Mary offers her song of praise, the Magnificat.

Lower Left: First Sin in the World

Bible reference: Genesis 3:1 -19

The lower left picture shows the devil, who had the whole world wrapped up in sin before Jesus came to free us. The Annunciation shield shows the "Fleur de les", a symbol of Mary, mother of our Redeemer.

Lower Right: Emmanuel

Bible Reference: Isaiah 11:10

The word, "EMMANUEL" meaning "God with us", is located in the lower right. The four crowns represent the four Gospels that tell of the life of Jesus. This picture also shows that Jesus came from Jesse's Root.

THEME: "PROMISE OF A SAVIOR FULFILLED"

THE BAPTISM OF JESUS



Main Picture: The Baptism of Jesus

Bible Reference: Matthew 3:13-17

The main picture shows Jesus being baptized at the Jordan River. Above him is the Holy Spirit and a cloud with the heavenly words, "This is my beloved Son". John the Baptist holds the shell and the staff with the banner, "Behold the Lamb of God".

Upper Right: Jesus Tempted by Satan

Bible Reference: Matthew 4:1-11

The upper right picture shows the temptation of Jesus in the wilderness.

Lower Left: Temptation of Adam

Bible Reference: Genesis: 3:1-24

The lower left picture is a depiction of the first sin—the temptation of Adam with the forbidden fruit in the Garden of Eden.

Lower Right: The Flood

Bible Reference: Genesis 8:11

The Old Testament symbols at the bottom of the window include Noah's ark with a dove bringing back an olive leaf twig after the flood.

THEME: "GOD SAVES THE WORLD THROUGH JESUS"

The entire theme of the picture shows how God saved the world; first Adam, with the promise of a Messiah; next, Noah and his family from the flood; but most important, all of us from our sins, by Jesus overcoming the Devil and dying on the cross.

JESUS' MINISTRY OF TEACHING



Main Picture: The Prodigal Son

Bible Reference: Luke 15:10

Jesus, the Master Teacher, taught many of God's truth through parables. The prodigal son wasted his father's inheritance, but was accepted by his father when he realized his sin and returned. It shows that if we wander out of God's protecting love and grace, he is willing to take us back because he loves us.

Upper Right: Parable of the Good Samaritan

Bible Reference: Luke 10:30-37

The upper right picture emphasizes how we, too, should show love and mercy like the Good Samaritan.

Lower Left: Giving of the Ten Commandments

Bible Reference: Exodus 20

The lower left picture is a depiction of the Law given on Mount Sinai in the form of the ten commandments.

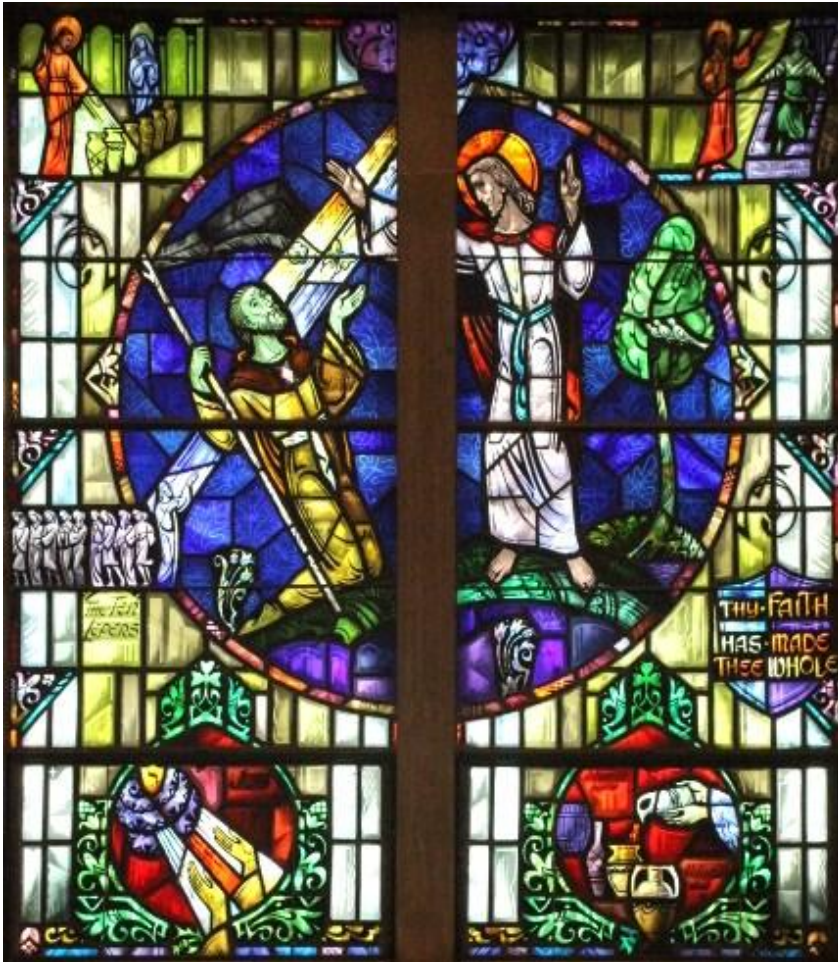
Lower Right: Psalm 23 - The Good Shepherd

Bible Reference: Psalm 23

The fortress of God, the Shepherd's staff, and the still water, all showing God's protecting care as presented in Psalm 23.

THEME: JESUS' MINISTRY OF TEACHING

MIRACLES: CHRIST'S MINISTRY OF CONCERN



Main Picture: Healing of the Ten Lepers

Bible References: John 9:1-41 & Luke 17:11-16

Jesus' love for mankind showed itself in the miracles he performed. The main picture shows our Lord Jesus healing the blind Bartimeus (John 9:1-41). Closely at its left side is the healing of ten lepers, only one of which returned to thank Jesus (Luke 17:11-16).

Upper Left: Wedding at Cana

Bible Reference: John 2:1-11

The picture in the upper left hand corner refers to Jesus' first miracle—changing water into wine at the wedding at Cana.

Lower Left: Job's Afflictions

Bible Reference: Job 2

The picture in the lower left shows the sores on the hands of Job—yet still praising God! Job was put through many tests, but remained faithful to God.

Lower Right: Elijah and the Widow

Bible Reference: 1 Kings 17:8-16

The oil jar at the middle right reminds us of the widow Elijah helped after three years without rain. With God's help he told the widow there would always be enough oil for food in her jars till rain came and food could be grown again.

THEME: MIRACLES SHOW GOD'S CONCERN

The entire window shows how God miraculously helps his true believers.

JESUS – TRULY GOD



Main Picture: Transfiguration of Christ

Bible Reference: Matthew 17:1-12

Christ's transfiguration on the mountain showed that he was true God. Jesus took Peter, James and John up on a high mountain. Here they saw Jesus become as bright as the sun, standing with Moses and Elijah who wore glorious robes. God the Father's voice proclaimed, "This is my beloved Son." showing that Jesus was God.

Lower Right: A Donkey for the King

Bible References: Zechariah 9:9 & Matthew 21:1-9

The window's lower right picture refers to a prophecy in Zechariah 9:9 telling that Jesus of great glory will come on a donkey. This was fulfilled when Jesus entered Jerusalem on Palm Sunday.

Lower Left: Angels Singing

Bible Reference: Isaiah 6:1-3

The lower left picture shows angels singing the "Three Hobbies" depicting the three persons in the Trinity.

THEME: THE GODHEAD OF JESUS

The entire window shows Christ as one of the three members of the God-head—sent down to earth to suffer for our sins.

THE LAST SUPPER



Main Picture: Institution of the Lord's Supper

Bible Reference: Luke 22:1-20

On Maundy Thursday Jesus met with his twelve disciples in an upper room to celebrate the Passover. After this meal Jesus instituted the greatest spiritual meal—The Lord's Supper. In offering bread and wine to his followers, he also gave them his true body and blood as a seal of the forgiveness of their sins.

Lower Right: The Brass Serpent

Bible Reference: Numbers 21

God also provided the brass serpent on a pole; those who looked toward it did not die from the snake bites.

Lower Left: Manna and Quail in the Wilderness

Bible Reference: Exodus 16:14-18

God always provides. He has never let his followers down. Even when the children of Israel were in the desert after leaving Egypt, he provided them with manna and quail daily.

THEME: GOD PROVIDES SPIRITUAL & PHYSICAL HELP

If we need help, all we have to do is call on our Lord God and he will answer our prayers according to his will.

The Lord's Supper is "given and shed for you". Attend often and receive the spiritual benefits.

THE CRUCIFIXION ~ A SACRIFICE THAT SAVES



Main Picture: Led to the Crucifixion

Bible Reference: Luke 23:26-43

The main picture shows Jesus being led to be nailed to the cross. While carrying the cross, women who knew him wept for him. Crowned with thorns, bowed beneath the weight of his rough cross, Jesus is led to Golgotha, a willing sacrifice for our sins.

Upper Right: Suffering on the Cross

Bible Reference: Luke 22:32-44

The upper right picture shows Christ's final suffering on the cross.

Lower Left: Sacrifice of Isaac

Bible Reference: Genesis 22:1-14

God had requested Old Testament sacrifices which foreshadowed

Christ's sacrifice on the cross. At the lower left, the sacrifice of Isaac shows Abraham's perfect obedience to God's will.

Lower Right: Passover in Egypt

Bible Reference: Exodus 12:1-13

At the lower right is a symbol of the Passover reminding us of the sacrifice which spared the faithful from the angel of death.

THEME: GOD'S SACRIFICE FOR ALL MANKIND

RESURRECTION – BLESSED VICTORY



Main Picture: Jesus Appears to Mary Magdalene

Bible Reference: Luke 24:1-12

Easter morning spells victory over sin, death and the devil for all believers. Though crucified, Jesus rose on the third day—the miracle of miracles. The angel who rolled the stone away told Mary, "Fear not, for he is risen!" She later mistook Jesus to be a gardener, but rejoiced when she saw that it was Jesus.

Upper Right: Rebuilding the Temple in Three Days

Bible Reference: John 2:19-21

The temple at the top right recalls Jesus' prediction to rebuild his bodily temple in three days.

Lower Left: Jonah in the Huge Fish

Bible Reference: Jonah 1 & 2

The Old Testament reference to Jonah's imprisonment inside a huge fish for three days reminds us of Christ's entombment.

Lower Right: Daniel and the Lion's Den

Biblical Reference: Daniel 6

Daniel's stay in the lion's den, even though he was worshipping the true God, reminds us of Jesus' death penalty, even though he had not sinned.

THEME: ENTOMBMENT TO VICTORY!

*The cross and crown are our victory sign!
Christ's death is our assurance of eternal life
guaranteed by the miraculous resurrection.*

CHRIST LEAVES, BUT THE SPIRIT COMES



Main Picture: Ascension & Pentecost

Bible Reference: Acts 1-2

The main window combines Jesus' ascension and the Holy Spirit's coming on Pentecost—events that took place ten days apart. Forty days after his resurrection, Jesus gathered the eleven on a mountain for final instructions. He then ascended into heaven while his disciples watched. Ten days later the Holy Spirit, whom Jesus had promised, came in the form of tongues of fire dancing upon their heads.

Upper Right: Rebuilding the Temple in Three Days

Bible Reference: John 2:19-21

The temple at the top right recalls Jesus' prediction to rebuild his bodily temple in three days.

Lower Left: The Cloud and Pillar of Fire

Bible Reference: Exodus 13:17-22

The lower left picture is an Old Testament reference which reminds us that the Holy Spirit was with his people even before Christ was on earth. The Israelites in the desert were led by a cloud during the day and by a pillar of fire at night.

Lower Right: The Burning Bush

Bible Reference: Exodus 3:2

Moses was called by God from a burning bush to lead the Israelites out of Egyptian slavery.

THEME: GOD DIRECTS HIS PEOPLE

God's Word is the power that we should obey.

THE GROWING KINGDOMS OF GRACE & GLORY



Main Picture: Stephan: First Martyr

Bible Reference: Acts 7:51-60

Stephan, the first martyr is honored for having been willing to give his life to witness for Christ. He pleaded for those who stoned him, "Father, forgive them."

Top: Crown of Everlasting Life

Bible Reference: Revelations 2

We pray daily "Thy Kingdom Come"—we hope that our mission efforts will bring many souls to believe in Christ and that all of us will be together in eternity.

Bottom: Jacob's Ladder

Bible Reference: Genesis 28:10-14

At the bottom we see angels ascending Jacob's ladder praising God for his grace and mercy. The anchor, a symbol of hope for believers, completes the base.

THEME: OUR CHRISTIAN HOPE: HEAVEN

This window shows Christ looking happily down upon his followers, ready to give them the "Crown of Life"—heaven.

SOLI DEO GLORIA

Footnotes:

- The stained glass window artist was A.J. Timler who grew up in West Allis. You can find his name on the window depicting the Lord's Supper.
- The work was done in the studios of City Glass Specialty, Inc. of Fort Wayne, Indiana.
- The first two of the stained glass windows, nearest to the front of the nave, were installed in December of 1965:
 - The "Incarnation" window, 1st window on the north side, was made possible through many gifts made in memory of former pastor, Dr. G. Christian Barth.
 - The "Hope" window, 1st window on the south side, depicting the stoning of Stephan and his reception into glory by the exalted Christ, was made possible through many memorials and gifts to the stained glass window fund.
- The second window on the south side depicting the Ascension-Pentecost story and its emphasis on mission work was donated by the Ladies Aid.
- The remaining windows were made possible through other memorials and gifts.
- The cost of each double window in 1965 was approximately \$2400.
- The original windows had a diamond pattern like the ones currently in the narthex. When the original windows were removed, some or all of them were sent to Camp LUWISIMO at Wild Rose, WI to make a huge cross shaped window in their chapel.