

Our Savior's Lutheran Church



The Message of
the Windows
in Stained Glass

This booklet highlights the 7 stained glass windows
at Our Savior's Lutheran Church.

Each page includes an image of a window along
with a message, some thoughts and reasoning for
what can be seen in that window.

The images in the booklet may not do it justice
compared to looking at the windows in person.
So please feel free to walk around the church before
or after service to get a better, closer experience.

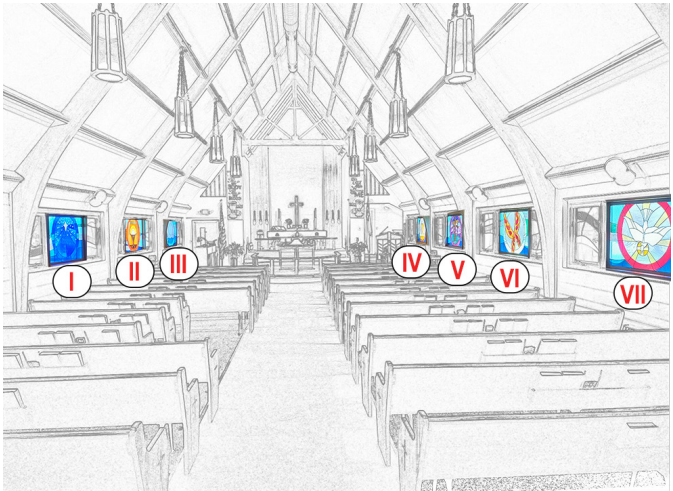
Stained Glass Window Milestones

Windows designed and created by
Frank Riehl
Eden Studios
Iowa City, Iowa

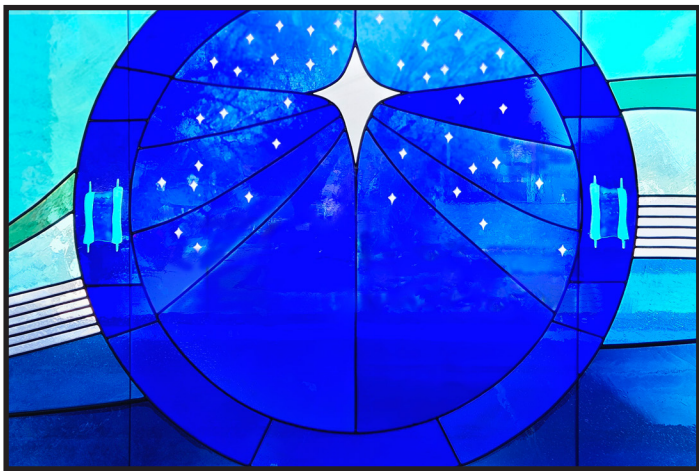
Originally Dedicated
to the Glory of God
April 27, 1986

40th Anniversary Celebration
April 26, 2026

This diagram show the location of the stained glass windows at Our Saviors Lutheran Church. The windows are identified by roman numerals throughout his book.

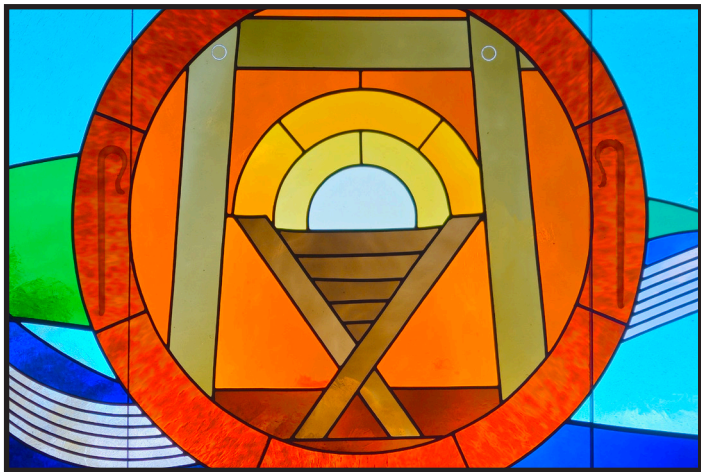


Window I: Prophecy — God's Promise



A night sky filled with stars reminds us of God's promise to Abraham in Genesis 15 that his descendants would number as the stars. The forty stars in the Prophecy window hearken back to the significance the ancient Hebrews attached to certain numbers, when forty was a simple way to indicate "a great many." The brilliant star emerging from the many was foreseen by the old prophet in the Book of Numbers. "A star shall come forth out of Jacob, a comet arise from Israel." The scrolls are an Old Testament symbol for the Law and remind us that Jesus came first to the Jews. We recognize that our Christianity has its roots deep in the Jewish faith of the Old Testament.

Window II: Nativity — God With Us



The Christmas or Nativity window points to the humble setting into which the Son of God was born. The light from the manger reflects on the rafters of the stable and begins to reach into the shadows of a dark world. The staffs symbolize the shepherds who followed the star to kneel before the manger. Our Lord came for everyone, even ordinary people like shepherds ... and us.

Window III: Baptism & Calling — God Among Us



Jesus' own baptism is symbolized in the next window by the shell, three drops of water, and the waves below. The net with fish caught in it represents the calling of the disciples and the succeeding ministry. Jesus said, "Come, and I will make you fishers of men."

Window IV: The Table — God For Us



Across the room the message continues with reminders of the final week. The chalice and wafer, of course, are symbolic of the Last Supper on Holy Thursday. IHS, a monogram for Christ, customarily appears on the wafer in this symbol. Grapes and wheat represent wine and bread, the elements of communion.

Window V: The Cross — God With Us in Suffering



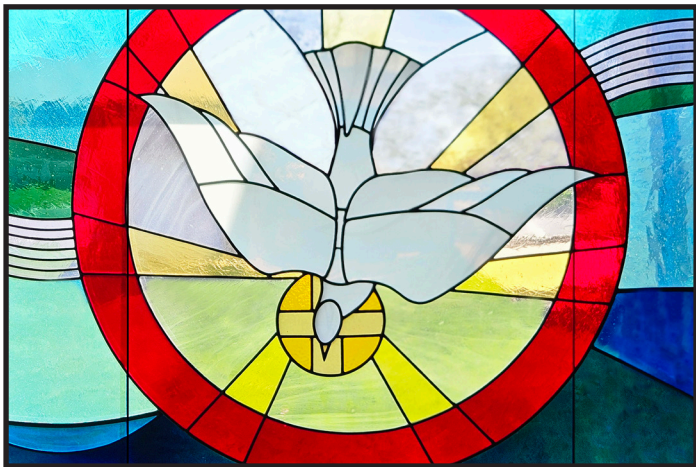
The three crosses on Golgotha need no commentary. The artist has chosen somber colors and a stormy sky to convey the strange, sad darkness of Good Friday.

Window VI: Resurrection — God's Life Prevails



Victory! The contrast of this window with the preceding Good Friday is itself symbolic. The bright and beautiful butterfly, having recently emerged from its cocoon “grave,” symbolizes our resurrected Lord. The butterfly appears against a background of soft green, suggesting the world in spring. Lilies, familiar symbols for Easter, appear in the design. The wings of the butterfly extend beyond the perimeter of the encircling border to illustrate the triumph of the Risen Christ, breaking earthly bounds to achieve Eternal Life.

Window VII: Pentecost — God at Work Through Us



Red is the color of Pentecost! It reminds us of the tongues of fire that appeared among the disciples with the arrival of the Holy Spirit on that dramatic day. Red is the symbolic color for religious fervor, zeal, excitement! The Holy Spirit is represented also by the descending dove. The three-rayed nimbus behind the head of the dove signifies its identity as one of the Three Persons of the Trinity. The seven large rays in the design tell us of the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit.

Pentecost marks not the end of the message, but the beginning of the Church. We are the Church -- and so the message goes on. Pentecost symbolism reminds us that we are the hands and feet and voice and heart of Jesus, empowered by the Holy Spirit to carry on his life and ministry.

Note: the window descriptions are from the original 1986 dedication bulletin.



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