

Life of Christ in Windows

The Windows of Lutheran Church in the Foothills

The 120 windows in the Nave of the Sanctuary are made of faceted stained glass. Forty-eight of these tell the life of Christ in symbols. The sequence in the symbols follows the general time in the life of Christ from prophecy—Son of David—to Ascension and the Great Commission for His Church.

The window sequence begins on the West wall nearest the pulpit and continues completely around the Sanctuary ending at the front of the East wall near the Lectern.

Stained Glass by the Judson Studios

William Lees Judson, a prominent painter who came to the area in 1893, founded the first school of fine art in Southern California, the Los Angeles College of Fine Arts. The college became part of the University of Southern California in 1897. The original building was erected on this site in 1901 and designed by Judson. Destroyed by fire in 1910, the architectural firm of Train and Williams was commissioned to design the existing building, which is an interesting interpretation of the Craftsman style. Many of the handcrafted details were produced by the art students themselves. Earlier this year, this property was placed on the National Register - Garvanza's first listing.

The school and its founder attracted many artists and Garvanza became known as the bohemian arts colony of the Arroyo Seco. The building also served as the guild hall for the Arroyo Guild of Fellow Craftsman, a group of artisans and craftspersons inspired by Judson and George Wharton James. In October 1909, James published the "Arroyo Craftsman" through the Arroyo Guild Press (celebrating its 90th anniversary this year.) The logo of the Arroyo Guild, an arm and hammer, appears in terra cotta above the entrance. Its motto "We Can" is a variation of Gustav Stickley's "If We Can."

In 1920, Judson retired and the USC consolidated operations to its current site. The building then became a stained glass studio, The Judson Studios, operated by Judson's sons. Started in 1897 in the old plaza area of Los Angeles, The Judson Studios today is internationally recognized as the oldest, family-run, fine art glass company in the world.



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West Wall

Son of David—Matthew 1:6



Like certain words, symbols may have several meanings. Two interwoven triangles are a symbol with several meanings. The triangle is a symbol of the Holy Trinity. The three angles represent the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. The sides are equal, the angles are equal, and the three parts unite to make one unity. God is one, revealed in three person: Creator, Redeemer, and Presence. Two interwoven triangles form a hexagon looking like a six-pointed star. This star represents the star of creation. In six days God created the heavens and the earth. The creation star is also called the shield of David. This symbol was used in the temple and sometimes designates Jewish connections.

The Annunciation—Luke 1:26

The angel came to Mary and announced the birth. The word “angel” comes from the word meaning “messenger”. That which makes angels important is whom they speak for and what they say. They come from God. They speak His revelation. The divine messenger came to Mary and told her that she would be the mother of the Messiah.



Virgin Mary—Luke 1:26



The fleur-de-lis is a symbol for the Mother of our Lord. The French words mean “flower of lily” and the flower symbolized is the iris. The lily is a symbol for purity and virginity. Mary was devoted to God and was able to be used for the miraculous birth of Jesus. It was God’s messenger who indicated Mary’s significant place: “The Lord is with you...you have found favor with God.” Mary loved her son Jesus, and the religion of her people. She knew God’s Word and taught it to Jesus. She believed in her Son and stood by Him, even at the cross.

Nativity Star—Matthew 22

There are many types of stars used in Christian symbolism. The five-pointed star is usually called the Epiphany Star and is the one usually associated with the story of the wise men. The six-pointed star is the Creator’s Star, who made heaven and earth. The mystic star has seven points which remind us of the gifts of the Holy Spirit. Other stars have up to twelve points. The four-pointed star is the “cross” star. It connects the story of the birth of Jesus with His passion, which was the most important reason for his coming. The star was the divine sign given to lead the wise men. They believed that God



was leading them and, when they found the baby Jesus, they knelt down before Him and offered Him their finest gifts.

Jesus’ Name in Greek—Matthew 1:21



The CHI RHO symbol is an abbreviation of the word “Christ.” In Greek capital letters the full name is XPISTOS. The first letter is Chi, the second is Rho and looks like the English “P”. The Greek is pronounced “Christos”. The word Christos comes from the word “anointed”. The angel told Mary to name the boy “Jesus” and that He would save people from their sins. Jesus was God’s anointed.

Shepherds—Luke 2:8

The shepherds were the first people to hear the good news that the Son of God was born. A staff is a symbol of a shepherd guiding and protecting the sheep. The baby born in Bethlehem will be the “Good Shepherd” who will save the people from their sins. Shepherds were common people, often considered outcasts, and thus unusual people to receive the angelic announcement that the Prince of Peace was born.



Wise Men—Matthew 2:1



Three crowns are symbols of the Wise Men. These men from the East are also called Magi. They were astrologers and philosophers who were known for wisdom in their own countries. The Wise Men were sensitive to the Spirit. They were seekers. They wanted truth and were willing to follow where it led, even a great distance. They shared their best gifts with the One whom they found as their answer. The magi were happy when they found Jesus. They worshipped Him and left in joy, praising God.

Flight into Egypt—Matthew 2:13

The palm tree and the pyramid tells that this is Egypt. The holy family were refugees. Since Herod was not able to discover Jesus through the Wise Men, he was determined to destroy Him in any way. He decreed that every male child under two should be slain. But Herod did not succeed. God spoke to Joseph and told him to take Mary and Jesus and flee into Egypt. Joseph obeyed. A safe home was found there until Herod died. Then the angel spoke again and directed their return.



In the Temple—Luke 2:41



At the age of 12 years, Mary and Joseph took Jesus on a very exciting journey. To go to Jerusalem was a very important event. The symbols in this window remind us of the great temple in Jerusalem, built by Herod. The massive stone pillars, the steps leading to the altar, the flame of the ever-burning lamps and the flames consuming the sacrifices—all these surrounded Jesus. Jesus listened to the scholars, but he discussed what the temple really meant. Jesus loved the house of God. He learned and taught there, cleansed it, and said it as a house of prayer for all people. To Jesus, the whole world became a temple of God, and all that he did was sacrifice of love to his Father and humankind.

The Carpenter—Matthew 2:23

It was common for a son to follow the vocation of his father. Joseph was a carpenter. It is very likely that Jesus spent much time in carpentry. Joseph was an excellent example for Jesus. From scripture we know that he was fair, kind, firm, obedient to God, and faithful in love of God and family. Jesus' childhood and youth gave him an excellent foundation as a builder of life and spirit. Jesus loved nothing more than to build strong foundations through knowledge of truth. Jesus built a fellowship which will never cease—the Kingdom of God.



John the Baptizer—Matthew 3:1



The white triangular hammer on a long staff bearing a cross is the symbol of John the Baptist. It is often seen with a lamb. The message that John the Baptist preached all over Judea was, "Behold, the lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world." John the Baptist had a purpose. He was the finger of God for it was John who pointed to Jesus as the Messiah. John was a rough and vigorous man. He called on people to repent and change. That message cost John his life, but John would not hesitate to speak. John's strength lay in his complete dedication to Jesus. John never called attention to himself—he pointed to Jesus and the banner which is his emblem bears the cross of the Christ.

The Baptism of Jesus—Matthew 3:13

The shell with dripping water reminds us of the baptism of Jesus. Our Lord was baptized by John the Baptist in the river Jordan. This symbol represents the earthly elements in baptism, but there is something far more important. The important part in baptism is God's action. A sacrament is



something that God does. It flows from God to people. In Jesus' baptism the heavens opened and God's Spirit descended upon Jesus, along with a voice declaring that "Jesus is His son". Baptism also reminds us of the cleansing power of God's grace. This baptismal gift washes away sin and the power of sin by God's forgiveness. Baptism begins a life with God and the relationship continues through each day. Baptism is a gift that assures our eternal relationship with God.

Temptations of Jesus—Matthew 4:1



This is the only window which has Arabic numbers. Here is the figure 40 shown on a mountain top. In scripture there seems to be important significance to the number 40. God told Noah that there would be 40 days and nights of rain. When Israel rebelled against God, the whole nation spent 40 years wandering in Sinai before it could enter the promised land. Moses spent 40 days and nights on Mt. Sinai before God completed the covenant with Israel. David was King of Israel for 40 years as was his son Solomon. After the resurrection, Jesus spent 40 days of critical exposure to his adversary, Satan. It came at a time when Jesus had just committed his whole ministry to action—to do the Father's will just after his baptism. In the wilderness, being tempted by the evil one, Jesus refused to accept any way except the way the Father wanted Him to go. This was Jesus' choice and the temptation proved that nothing could turn Jesus from God's will.

The Lamb of God—John 1:29

One of the most ancient symbols for Jesus is the lamb. Here Jesus is pictured as the victorious Lamb with the Book of the Lamb containing the names of his followers who participate in eternal life which he gives. It was John the Baptist who identified Jesus as the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. There is a red drop of blood falling from the book in the window. This reminds us of the blood of the lamb which was given for our freedom from death. Blood means life, so new life is Christ's gift to his followers.



Calling Disciples—John 1:35



This window leads in the active ministry of Jesus. This gives the expression of his nature and purpose. As Jesus set out upon his ministry, he invited men to be involved with him. Jesus chose disciples by saying, "Follow Me." They did follow, giving up jobs, homes, family, and friends. "Follow Me" is an action term that means to go right behind another—in the same path, way, steps. "Follow Me" involves learning, and the disciples learned all about

West Wall (continued)

God in following Jesus. The “following” involved three years of learning, studying, listening, and growing. The disciples matured when they saw the fulfillment in the resurrection. Jesus further encouraged them when he declared, “As the Father has sent me, so I send you.” Jesus still calls for followers. Apostles are still being sent out to work in his ministry, and Jesus still leads them and goes with them.

First Miracle—John 2:1

A full jug pouring into an empty one—nothing unusual about that. But this time the water was poured into jug and wine poured out—Jesus made the difference. This first miracle took place in Cana in Galilee. It was a wedding and Jesus performed this miracle at that feast. Jesus worked miracles because he loved. Jesus’ miracles include the power to change human life and hope. His presence crushes evil, overcomes barriers, brings life from death. Jesus still works miracles in people.



Cleansing the Temple—John 2:13



Jesus had a very great interest in the temple. Jesus began his public ministry in the temple. Jesus was again in the temple on the Monday of his final week, just before his crucifixion and resurrection. He drove out those who corrupted the temple and repeated the Father’s historic purpose, “My house shall be called a house of prayer for all nations.”

Healing the Nobleman’s Son—John 4:46

Symbols in this window tell a story. The columns and roof of a stately portico are from a house owned by a high official—but he had a problem. His son was critically ill and expected to die. The father couldn’t solve the problem. He had heard that Jesus had divine power, so he traveled a great distance to get to Jesus. The official begged Jesus to go to his sick son. Jesus declined to go, but he did say, “Go back, your son will live.” The father would learn later that his son was cured, exactly at the moment Jesus said the boy would live. There are two other symbols at this house in Capernaum. The Roman number VII represents the hour “7”, when Jesus spoke. In the doorway is a cross—the symbol of Jesus’ presence and power.



Great Catch of Fish—Luke 5:1



The symbol is the fish. The fishermen fished all night and did not catch a thing. The One on the shore told them to cast their nets on the other side of the boat and the catch was so big they could hardly drag it in. The fishermen were amazed and impressed, and they decided to follow

Jesus. Jesus actually invited them to fish only they were to catch something far more valuable than fish—they were to become four disciples bringing people to Jesus. Jesus was a miracle worker. His greatest miracle was love. It drew people to him.

Call of Matthew—Matthew 9:9

When Jesus said to Matthew, “Follow me,” Matthew got right up and followed. The coins and money bag remind us that Matthew had been a tax collector. He was wealthy and influential. Matthew was completely committed to Jesus as a faithful disciple. He never turned back. Matthew had found something more satisfying than gathering money.



The Sabbath and the Pool of Bethesda—John 5:1



The symbols of splashing water and a stone walk tell us that this is a pool. The unfolding scroll reminds us of the reading of the prophets for this was what took place on the Sabbath in the synagogue. These together remind us of a miraculous healing of a paralyzed man at the pool of Bethesda on the Sabbath. Jesus went to the frustrated paralyzed man who had waited in vain for so long. Jesus felt this man’s helplessness and futility. Jesus recognized his longing for healing and his faith that someday he would be healed. It did not matter that it was on the Sabbath. The healing of the man was God’s design for Sabbath. Jesus put people first.

Sermon on the Mount—Matthew 5-7

This symbol is for the name of Christ and a mountain. The CHI RHO is the abbreviation of the word “Christ”. The Greek pronunciation of the name is “Christos”. The sermon on the mount is outstanding because it was given by God’s own chosen teacher. Many people hear this sermon even today and are impressed by its wise teachings. The disciples know not only the teachings but the “teacher”. The disciples are the most fortunate.



Prayer—Matthew 6:9

A censer is a small vessel used to hold fire and incense. When people enter a room with the common odor they know they are gathered in prayer. As the smoke rises, so do their prayers ascend to God. Censers were used by God's chosen people when they worshipped in a tent in the wilderness.

The great temple had a special altar of incense. The symbol of the censer in our church reminds us of our prayers and adoration which we lift to Christ. Prayer is an opportunity which Jesus gave and he promises to hear and answer.

The Sower and Soil—Mark 4:3

Jesus was skilled teacher. Many times he used parables—short and simple stories with pointed lessons. In this story, a sower casts seeds in many places. The seeds fall on hard ground, stony ground, sidewalks, and good soil. Jesus said that people are



like the soil. He teaches all who will hear—so there are some who are not interested, who care for other things, who crowd God out. Then there are people who listen, consider, believe, and obey. Those who bear fruit are pleasing to God.

East Wall

The Power of Faith—Matthew 17:20

This symbol of a heart that is aflame with the red of fire is a common symbol for the heart, considered to be the place of one's emotions. Feelings come from the heart. This flaming heart speaks of a "burning or intense feeling for something". In the story of the epileptic boy, Jesus responds to a

heart aflame with love and trust in him.

Feeding of the 5000—Mark 6:33

No one really expected Jesus to feed 5000 people. The disciples suggested that Jesus send the people home to eat, but Jesus said to his disciples, "You give them something to eat." The small boy had come prepared. He at least had five pieces of bread and two fish but what was that with such a large crowd. Jesus took what was on hand and, after praying, it multiplied until the crowd was fed. Jesus took what was available and made it enough, including a surplus! Jesus is concerned about people, many or few. He wants to meet their needs. He wants to give. He can take a little given in love and make it enough. We can trust in His love and power.

**Christ, the Bread of Life—John 6:35**

The people were impressed when Jesus fed 5000 people. They came after him, and Jesus knew they were looking because he had fed them. However, Jesus said, "I did not come primarily to feed bodies. I am the bread of heaven." By that, Jesus meant he brought inner spiritual nourishment and satisfaction. Jesus is the bread of life—eternal life. He is more than enough to satisfy people's longing to know and belong to God.

The Reward of a Great Faith—Matthew 15:21

The symbol of a butterfly represents resurrection. A cocoon looks like a dead thing. Outwardly it seems dead. Inwardly there is developing life. So on Jesus' journey a mother with faith was rewarded by Christ's blessing. Her daughter was blessed by health. A follower of Christ is promised the blessing of eternal life. All leads to Jesus proclaiming, "This is the will of my Father, that every one who sees the son and believes in him should have eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day."



East Wall (continued)

The Transfiguration—Mark 9:2



This symbol makes us think of Jesus. The HIS, in Greek letters, is his name. Jesus was on the mountain and above his name is a thrust of golden glow. Jesus changed in appearance on the mountain. His face shone with inner light. His garments were dazzling. The glory and power inherent within Jesus, showed forth for a brilliant moment. A voice from heaven spoke, “This is my Son.”

Christ, the Light of the World—John 8:12

This is a symbol of the mission Jesus takes for himself. Below is the orb of the earth and, shining above, is a burning light. Light, for Jesus, comes from beyond himself. God made Jesus to be man’s spiritual light. Jesus shines as the brightness of God to light the way. He is truth which we may safely follow. As Jesus says, “He who follows me shall not walk in darkness.”



The Good Shepherd—John 10:11



This is the second time a shepherd’s staff appears. The first time had to do with shepherds. Jesus was a shepherd at heart in his ministry. The greatest literature written about a shepherd is the 23rd Psalm. It speaks in loving, secure terms which we understand in Jesus.

The Unjust Judge—Luke 18:1

Here are hands in prayer. They represent the hands of a woman praying to a judge for satisfaction in her legal case. A woman felt she had been wronged and she kept pleading to the judge for justice. The judge became so tired of seeing and hearing this woman that he gave in and made a judgment in her favor. Jesus uses this as an example of faith. The woman prevailed because she was determined. Jesus teaches that God’s children should not only have a cause but should stick with it.



Blessing the Children—Mark 10:13



This flower represents the beauty and innocence of childhood. In New Testament times, children were not at all important. The disciples thought Jesus was certainly too busy for children. When a group of mothers brought children to Jesus for his blessing, the disciples tried to send them away. Here Jesus rebuked his disciples. Jesus’ response was, “Let the children come unto me, don’t keep them away—the kingdom of heaven is made of

such as these.” There is a place for everyone in Jesus’ concerns and home. No one is to be left out.

Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem—Matthew 21:1

There is a place in the wall of Jerusalem, overlooking the Kidron Valley and the Mount of Olive, called the Golden Gate. Once it was an imposing entrance into the Holy City. Through the Golden Gate Jesus entered Jerusalem as he began the week of Passion. The palm reminds us of the demonstration of welcome given to Jesus. The word that rang through Jerusalem on that Palm Sunday was “Hosanna” meaning “save us, Lord”.



Parable of Ten Virgins—Matthew 25:1



The story of the ten young women tells about preparation and failure. Lamps were lit and lamps went out. In the symbol, one lamp is burning because there was foresight of need and preparation for it. The flameless lamp tells of disappointment and embarrassment. Jesus used the parable to say that he was coming back to gather mankind. There would be many who would not be ready to greet him. Those who greet him in preparation by faith and life would be welcomed and received at the festival of God’s eternal kingdom. It is important to be ready when Christ comes.

I Am the Way—John 14:6

This symbol is a picture of a road leading upward. The book may be the map and description of the road. A wise planner of a journey gets dependable guides. Jesus told his disciples that he was the way, the truth, and the life. Jesus is saying, “Follow me, stay with me, depend on me because I am the way.”



The Vine and the Branches—John 15:1



Jesus tells his disciples that he is the vine and they are the branches. In other words, they live through staying with him. Just as a branch quickly dies when cut from the branch, so Christian faith is dead without union with Jesus. Jesus is the source of life. The Christian lives in Christ by daily faith, by holding to Christ, and living in Him. If it’s life you want, the only source is Christ Jesus.

The Last Supper—Matthew 26:17

The symbols of the bread and the cup remind us of the Lord’s Supper. Jesus instituted this meal with his disciples for them to remember him, to be reminded they are loved and forgiven, and as an invitation to all the followers to come. Jesus gave himself in this sacrament. The



divine Jesus said, “My body and My blood given for you.”

Gethsemane—Mark 14:32



The cup in the previous window was the cup which Jesus gave to his disciples. It was full of his living presence—a cup of life. The cup in this window is dramatically different. It is a cup of death. Jesus did not hand this cup to another. He claimed it for himself—he drank it. What Jesus’ cup contained was the sins of the world. Jesus knew exactly what his divine mission involved. Jesus drank this cup on Good Friday because he loved us so much.

The Trial—Mark 14:53 & 15:1

These symbols remind us of the trial of Jesus. Pilate used the water pitcher and basin to try to wash his hands of Jesus. Pilate was forced to make a decision about Jesus and he didn’t want to make it. He thought he could get away with letting the mob have their way. It would be very easy if we could wash our hands of responsibility when a hard decision is to be made. We have to decide every day between Jesus’ way and the way of an evil world. We face serious decisions about right and wrong. We need to keep our eyes on Jesus to choose correctly.



Peter’s Denial—Mark 14:66



The rooster is loudly proclaiming his cry that Peter denied his Lord. Jesus had predicted to Peter that he would deny Him. So Peter, warming his hands by the fire of Jesus’ enemies and being pointed out as a disciple, blurts out his denial not once but three times. Then the rooster crowed and

Peter was so ashamed.

Crown of Thorns—Matthew 27:29

Palestinian thorns were nearly as hard as nails and sharp as needles. It was painful to have those heavy, sharp thorns on one’s head. Jesus did suffer pain and excruciating agony during His trial. We cannot imagine the awful agony of His hurt. Jesus was willing to take the pain because he loved the people so much. Remembering the physical suffering of Jesus, the disciple should remember that he was willing to do that for us.



The Crucifixion—Mark 15:24



Every Christian knows what the cross means. Perhaps no other symbol in history is as well known and identified. They crucified Jesus and yet Jesus overcame the crucifixion. Jesus said, “I have overcome the world.” Jesus offers to share this victory

with those who follow Him. Through faith in Jesus Christ, Christians crucify their rebellion against God’s will and give themselves to the new, eternal life in Christ.

Resurrection—Mark 16:1

One normally thinks of a tomb as a place of absolute stillness and inactivity. Christ’s tomb illustrates that this is not so. This symbol represents Christ’s entombment. There are three marks in the center which represent the three days. One of the two arrows reminds us that He went to be with the Father and the other arrow reminds us of another mission of Jesus. We confess this second arrow as a victory proclamation when we state that “He descended into hell.” Jesus did go into hell and conquered it. Not even death interrupts life with God.



Empty Tomb—John 30:4



This window is a picture of a new day. The sun is rising. Its bright rays reveal a ‘burst’ tomb. It’s the third day after the crucifixion—the tomb could not contain the Savior Jesus. In the resurrection of Jesus, God revealed for the first time the power of the new life He gives. It could not be crushed by what people called death. Jesus, in resurrection, pushed back the physical restraints that hold people captive. Death could not hold Jesus and death cannot hold us.

Catch of Fish—John 21:4

What was Jesus like after His resurrection? A spirit? A body? He was both. The disciples recognized Jesus after His resurrection—their only difficulty was believing what they actually saw. The disciples lived with the risen Jesus for 40 days. They walked with Him, slept near Him, and ate with Him. He even prepared a breakfast for them by cooking fish. There was never a doubt that this was Jesus.



Ascension—Luke 24:50



The Ascension is fulfillment and promise. It is the fulfillment of all that God intended to show and give in His Son, Jesus Christ. It opened the way for reconciliation between God and mankind and made it possible for people to be given eternal life. The Ascension is also promise in that personal fulfillment for many Christians lies in the future. The promise of eternal life will be fulfilled for all who follow Jesus.

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“Our vision is for us to have a dynamic relationship with God, to share this relationship with other believers, and to invite others to join us in making Jesus known.”

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East Wall (continued)

Great Commission—Matthew 28:16

The work of Jesus for the world was completed at His Ascension. Jesus told those who had followed Him, learned to walk with Him, trust Him, and shared His life to share this experience with others. This “sharing Christ” was to be the main purpose of Jesus’ disciples in the world. In this window, the cross stands out over the world. Jesus’ followers are to hold up Jesus so that others can see and know Him. The cross is rooted in the world in which we live. The best summary of all that the church believes, teaches, and hopes for is in John 3:16: “For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, so that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.”



LCIF at a glance

Sunday Worship Services
at 10 AM

Holy Communion is
celebrated each week.

**Children’s Church &
Children’s Choir**
Practice during the
10 AM Worship Service

Fellowship/Coffee Hour
after the 10 AM service

Christian Education for
Adults and Youth at
9 AM

Our schedule may vary on
holidays and during the
summer, so please call to
confirm worship days and
times.

Church Office Hours:
9 am to 2 pm
Monday through Friday



Pastor Scott Peterson

"I want you woven into a tapestry of love, in touch with everything there is to know of God." - Col. 2:2 (The Message)

Pastor Scott began ministry in 1997 in Montana, serving three rural congregations nestled among the wheat fields. Ministry continued with a move to Canada, where he served a congregation in Calgary. He now joins LCIF in exploring what it means to live and love as God's people in the world today.

In addition to being a pastor, Pastor Scott is a certified Life Coach and NLP practitioner. He is also a black belt in Tae Kwon Do, an avid yoga practitioner, and a fan of developmental psychology and quantum physics.