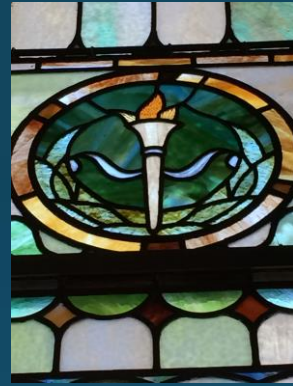




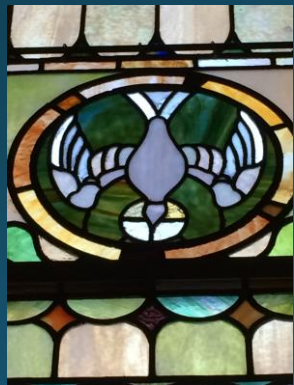
The Windows of St. Peter's
Evangelical Lutheran Church
North Wales, PA

A Colorful History



The colorful stained glass windows surrounding the sanctuary of St. Peter's are rich in history, and reflective of the diverse congregation which worships in the light cast through their vibrant panes of praise.

Each of the windows tells a story. Each is symbolic of a dynamic aspect of our Faith.



The following is a brief background on the meaning of each window. As you enter Church, perhaps you will now be able to appreciate the purpose behind each one, and reflect on how they will enhance your own spiritual journey.



From the outside

The purpose of stained glass in a Church is to capture the fact that from the outside we are lifeless and without form and purpose. But from the inside, backlit and illuminated by the Sun and Light of God, we see how we too are comprised of irregular shapes, sizes and numerous dazzling, vivid colors to comprise a story and picture in His image.

It reminds us that without faith, we too are like stained glass windows in the dark. But even in the darkest of times, things can be transformed if handed over to the redemptive power of God.

The Lutheran Rose

- The Coat of Arms of Martin Luther dates back to 1520 and is the symbol of the Lutheran Church.
- The Cross is cast upon a red heart from which extend golden rays, placed upon a 5 petaled white rose, representing the 5 wounds of Christ.
- The red heart represents the faith of the believers, which produces joy, comfort and peace indicated by the white rose.
- The field of blue background represents the beginnings of Heavenly joy, all surrounded by the golden ring of eternity showing that salvation lasts forever.



The Scallop Shell

- The seashell has been the symbol of Baptism since the first Century, and is frequently found on, or are the shape of, Baptismal fonts. It signifies that in Baptism, Christ calls us to discipleship, even as He called the first disciples by the seashore.
- In ancient times, people would use the seashell as a symbol of eternal life, as well as the manner by which water was poured onto people being baptized.
- The history of the shell also reflects pilgrimages and as an emblem for saints known for their travels.
- The window depicts the seashell on the seashore and the waters behind representing the gift of God's grace poured out for – and upon us – in the cleansing Holy water of Baptism.
- The faint red color in the middle scallop represents the Holy Spirit as the integral component in every Baptism.



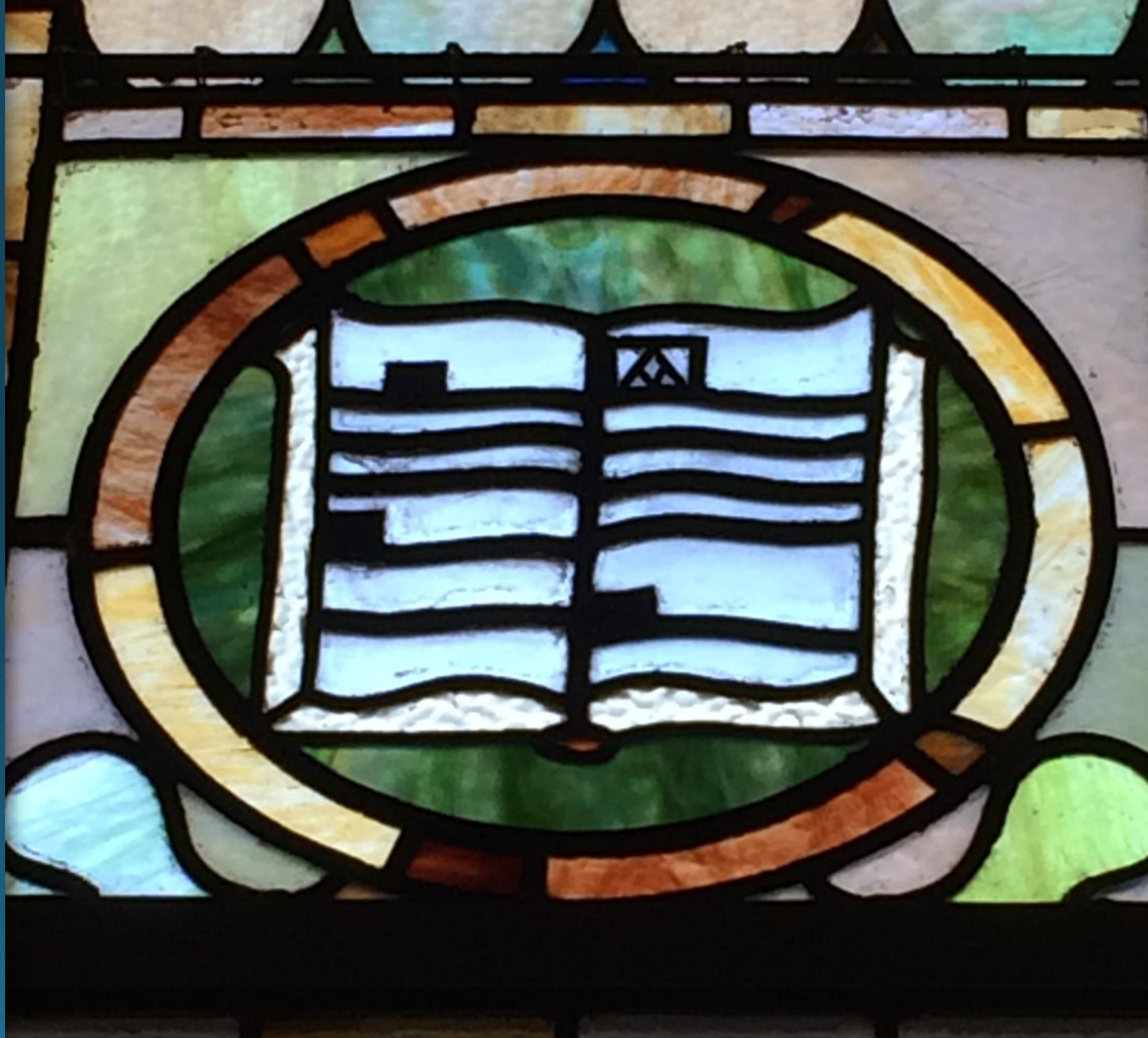
Anchored in Love

- The anchor is the symbol of hope. Since the Church is a ship, it needs an anchor, which will hold the ship firm in the high waves and heavy winds of the storm.
- During the time of the persecution, Christians used the anchor as a “disguised” cross. The enemy saw only the anchor, but the Christians focused only on the cross.
- The window symbolizes that Christ is our “anchor of hope” to hold us firm in our faith, and is based on Hebrews 6:19.
- *We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure.*



The Holy Bible

- The Holy Bible is a reminder of God's Word. The window depicts the open Bible as the symbol of the Word of God that endures forever.
- The symbol on the right page in the upper left corner are the first and last letter of the Greek alphabet: the Alpha and the Omega. They remind us that Christ is the beginning and the end of life. Revelations 1:8.
- *"I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, "who is, and who was, and who is to come, the Almighty.*



The Sign of the Dove

- The Sign of the Dove is a prearranged sign by which John the Baptist would recognize the Messiah.
- In the window, the dove is descending with an olive branch in its beak representing love and peace.
- The Four Gospels each record an account of the sign of the dove: Matthew 3:16; Mark 1:10; Luke 3:22; and John 1:32:
 - *And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightaway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him.*
- In Christianity, the dove symbolizes love, grace, promise, devotion, divinity, holiness, sacrifice, purification, messenger and hopefulness.



The Torch

- The Torch is a symbol for the Gospel, and enlightenment. It serves as a reminder that God has given light to illuminate the world, and to the Church He has given the Gospel to be spread to all other people.
- The 3 flames on top of the torch represent the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
- The 9 single panes of glass beneath the torch symbolize the 9 fruits of the Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.



The 7-Branded Candlestick

- Similar to the Torch, The 7-branded candlestick represents the Holy Spirit, and symbolizes the force of light we receive from God to illuminate the path he has selected for us.
- However, rather than 3 lights, here there are 7; representing the 7 gifts of the Holy Spirit: blessing, glory, wisdom, thanksgiving, honor, power and might. Revelation 7:12.
- The window reminds us of Jesus' words: *I am the Light of the World.* John 8:12.



The Eucharist

- The golden chalice and wafer are symbolic of the body and blood of Christ.
- The wafer is symbolic of the unleavened bread prepared by the people of Israel in anticipation of their flight as slaves from Egypt and into the green and abundant pastures of the Promised Land.



The Ascending Dove

- The left side entrance window pane to the sanctuary doors at St. Peter's depicts an ascending white dove.
- The white dove is a symbol of the Holy Spirit representing peace and purity. When a believer receives the Holy Spirit and is born again, they have the peace of God on them (Rom 5:1) and are then at peace with God.
- In this window, the dove reminds us that in faith, our souls will all ascend to eternal life with the Father in Heaven.



The Crown

- The right side entrance window pane into the sanctuary depicts a crown.
- The crown is a symbol of royal authority, and is often used for Christ, the King of Kings. It may also be used as a "crown of life," the eternal reward of the faithful.
- The window depicts a purple crown to depict God the Father. It is also believed that Christ wore purple before his crucifixion, so the color has also come to represent suffering and endurance.
- As St. Peter said: *And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that will never fade away.* 1 Peter 5:4.



Please come and worship with us, and find a renewed appreciation for the windows of worship that further illuminate our faith.

St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church

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Phone: 215-699-4604

www.stpetersnorthwales.org

Sunday worship at 8:30am and 10:00am

Summer Service: 9:30am