



HOLY GHOST LUTHERAN CHURCH

"The Story in Stained Glass"



109 E. San Antonio, Fredericksburg, TX 78624 holyghost@austin.twcbc.com
830-997-2288 www.holyghostfbg.org

Holy Ghost Lutheran Church is blessed to have thirty-nine stained glass windows that adorn the sanctuary. This historic collection of decorative glass was rededicated in 2007 after having been restored and resurfaced with new protective exterior coverings and is valued at \$268K.

Installed at various times during the history of the church, the oldest known date for the placement of stained glass windows is 1919-20 with others being added in '26, '38 and '49. The 150th anniversary edition of the church history reads, "additional stained glass windows were added in 1919 to the original church sanctuary," inferring that there were stained glass windows prior to 1919 which were not dated or are "colored glass" as in the windows in the bell tower.





The window above the entrance door reads,
“Holy Ghost Evangelical Protestant Church.”

The Holy Ghost (Heilige Geist) Congregation traces its origin from the first Protestant services held in Fredericksburg by the Rev. Henry Basse in 1846 at the old Vereins Kirche until the current site was donated and construction began in 1888 and was completed in 1893.

The word “Evangelical” in Germany was associated with
being Lutheran.

The one hundred twenty-five foot tall bell tower houses three of the most controversial windows in the entire collection as people often ask:

"What is the Jewish Star of David doing in a Christian Church?"

The answer is twofold:

1- Christianity grew out of Old Testament Judaism, so the Jewish faith is part of our Christian heritage; and 2- this window is also known as the Creation Star with the six points representing the six days of creation.



Of the six smaller windows facing San Antonio Street, two plain windows were given by the congregation; two by the “SonntagSchule” (Sunday School); one by Mrs. Otto Kolmeier; and one in memory of August Jost, Jr. by his parents Mr. & Mrs. August Jost, a reminder of God's love in Jesus for all who have lost children. These six are dated 1938.



Located in Sanctuary Restroom



The window in the room to the right of the sanctuary doors honors the seventy-six sons of this congregation who served the Fatherland during WWI, 1917-18.

The window contains a Bible in the upper portion that is covered from the inside by the balcony.



Ahrens, Herman
 Alberthal, Emil J.
 Alberthal, Frederick
 Alberthal, Harry
 Alberthal, Otto
 Baag, Benno

Basse, Frank
 Basse, Gus.
 Barsch, Ernst
 Bernhardt, Albert
 Bernhardt, Emil
 Bernhardt, Henry

Bonn, Harry
 Braentigan, Felix
 Braentigan, Fritz
 Braentigan, Max H.
 Burrer, Waller
 Cordes, Chester

Crenwelge, Edmund
 Fenge, Emil C.
 Sellsman, Rheinhold C.
 Gorwe, John A.
 Groua, Otto H.
 Habenicht, Wm.

Hahne, Max
 Hann, Emil
 Heiman, Walter
 Henke, Albert A.
 Henke, Alex W.
 Henke, Guenther F.
 Henke, Hilma H.

Henke, Walter R.
 Hilker, Louis F.
 Hilker, Paul
 Jordan, Gilbert
 Jung, Felix
 Klaerner, Eddie
 Klaerner, Elgin

Koch, Henry
 Kott, August
 Kott, Geo. F.
 Krauskopf, Edward
 Kusenberger, Alfred
 Land, August H.
 Land, Harry A. O.
 Langerhaus, Walter

Lochte, Harry L.
 Mangelberger, Hugo
 Marschall, Harry
 Mueller, Alfred W.
 Ochs, Eddie
 Pfister, Benno

Raute, Wm.
 Reichnau, Walter
 Schneider, Adolph L.
 Schneider, Henry
 Schlueter, Adolph
 Schneer, David

Schneer, Henry C.
 Seelig, Albert M.
 Seelig, Felix
 Usener, Harry
 Usener, Tanzo
 Wahrmond, Egon

Wahrmond, Kurt
 Wehmeyer, Adolph G.
 Wehmeyer, Willie
 Weirich, Alex W.
 Weirich, Arwin O.
 Weirich, Emil A.

Weirich, Herman A.
 Weirich, Hilmar F.
 Weirich, Hugo
 Wilke, Felix F.
 Wilke, Ira W.
 Wilke, Harry



The window in the room to the left of the sanctuary doors was given by the congregation in 1938. It too contains a Bible in the upper portion that is covered from the inside by the balcony.



Two identical, beautifully-decorated windows are set just inside the sanctuary proper behind the double doors.





"Descending Dove"

A clear leaded-glass window
stands above the double doors to the
sanctuary entrance reading,

"In memory of all Departed Officers of this Church
Dedicated by the Congregation."

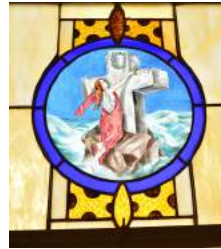
This window embodies the namesake of the church in the form of the
descending dove, recalling Jesus' sending of the Holy Ghost on the
day of Pentecost as well as to all believers of all time!



"Cross on the Rock in the Sea"

This window, given in memory of Henry Basse by his wife Bertha in 1938, points to Psalm 18:2 which says, *"The Lord is my rock, my fortress, and my deliverer, my God, my rock in whom I take refuge, my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold."*

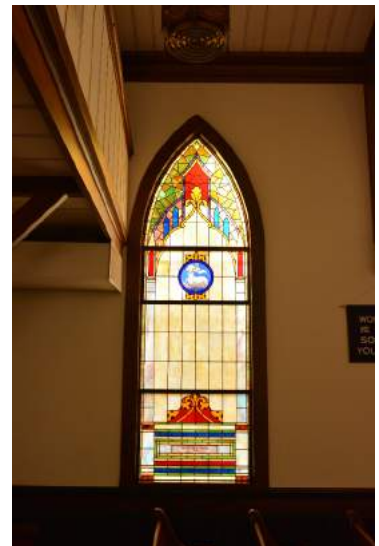
Zum Gedächtnis an Herrn Henry Basse, geboren am 14 August 1876,
gestorben am 8. Dezember 1936, Gestiftet von seiner Gattin
Frau Bertha Basse. 1938



"Victory Lamb"

This window, given by the congregation in 1938, symbolizes Christ as the Lamb of God who was sacrificed for human sin, but by whose resurrection holds the banner of triumph as Revelation 5:12 pronounces: *"Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, who receives power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!"*

Gestiftet von der Gemeinde.
1938



"Mary & Martha"

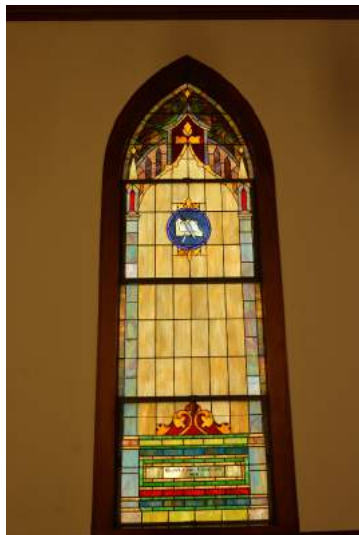
The story of Jesus' visiting Mary and Martha from Luke 10 captures Mary being attentive to the Lord's teaching while Martha is distracted with the details of life; given by the Women of the Church in 1938.





"Jesus Standing at the Door Knocking"

This window, given by the youth group in 1938, is inspired by Revelation 3:20 where Christ invites each of us to answer His invitation.



"Bible and the Sword"

This window recalls the words of Hebrews 4:12, *"The word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing until it divides soul from spirit, joints from marrow; it is able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart."* It was given by the Women of the Church in 1926.



"Alpha & Omega"

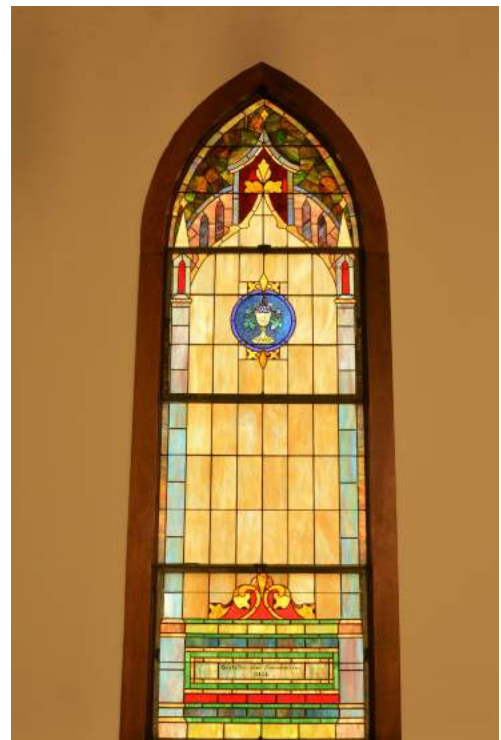
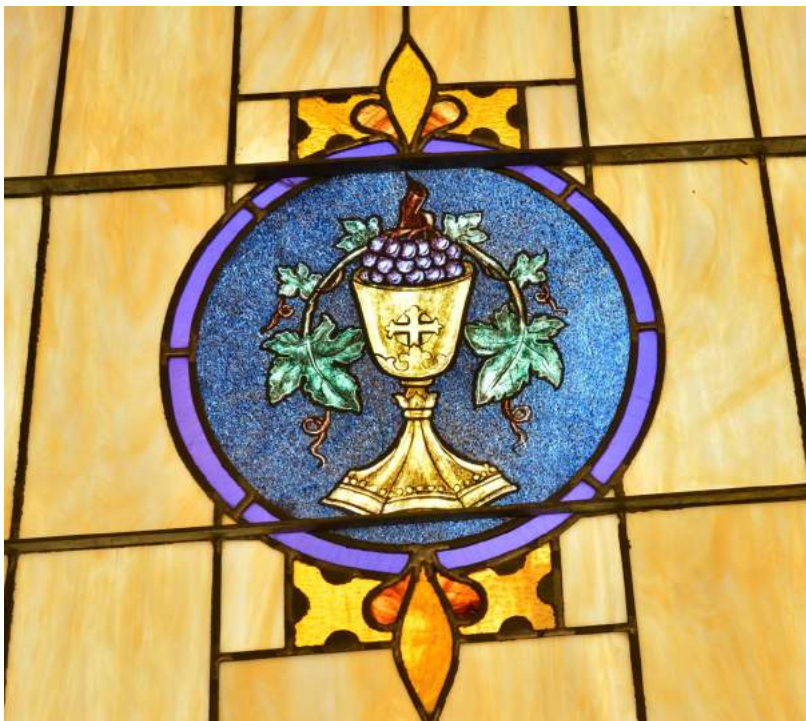
This window depicts the Greek letters for A and Z and captures the words of Revelation 1:8 where Jesus says, *"I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, "who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty."* It was given by the Women of the Church in 1926.





Two windows celebrate the two sacraments of the Lutheran Church,
Holy Baptism and Holy Communion.

These windows were both given by the Women of the Church in 1926.





"The Good Samaritan"

The Good Samaritan story from Luke 10 is told in picture form and was given in remembrance of Dr. Wilhelm Keidel, the first doctor in Fredericksburg, and his son, Dr. Albert Keidel; gifted from his son, Dr. Victor Keidel, in 1920.

"The Good Shepherd"

The Good Shepherd story from Luke 15 depicts Jesus as the One who leaves the ninety-nine in search of the one lost sheep. It was given in remembrance of Henry S.W. Basse, the first pastor in Fredericksburg, and his son, Adolph Basse; gifted from his widow, Mrs. Lina Basse in 1920.

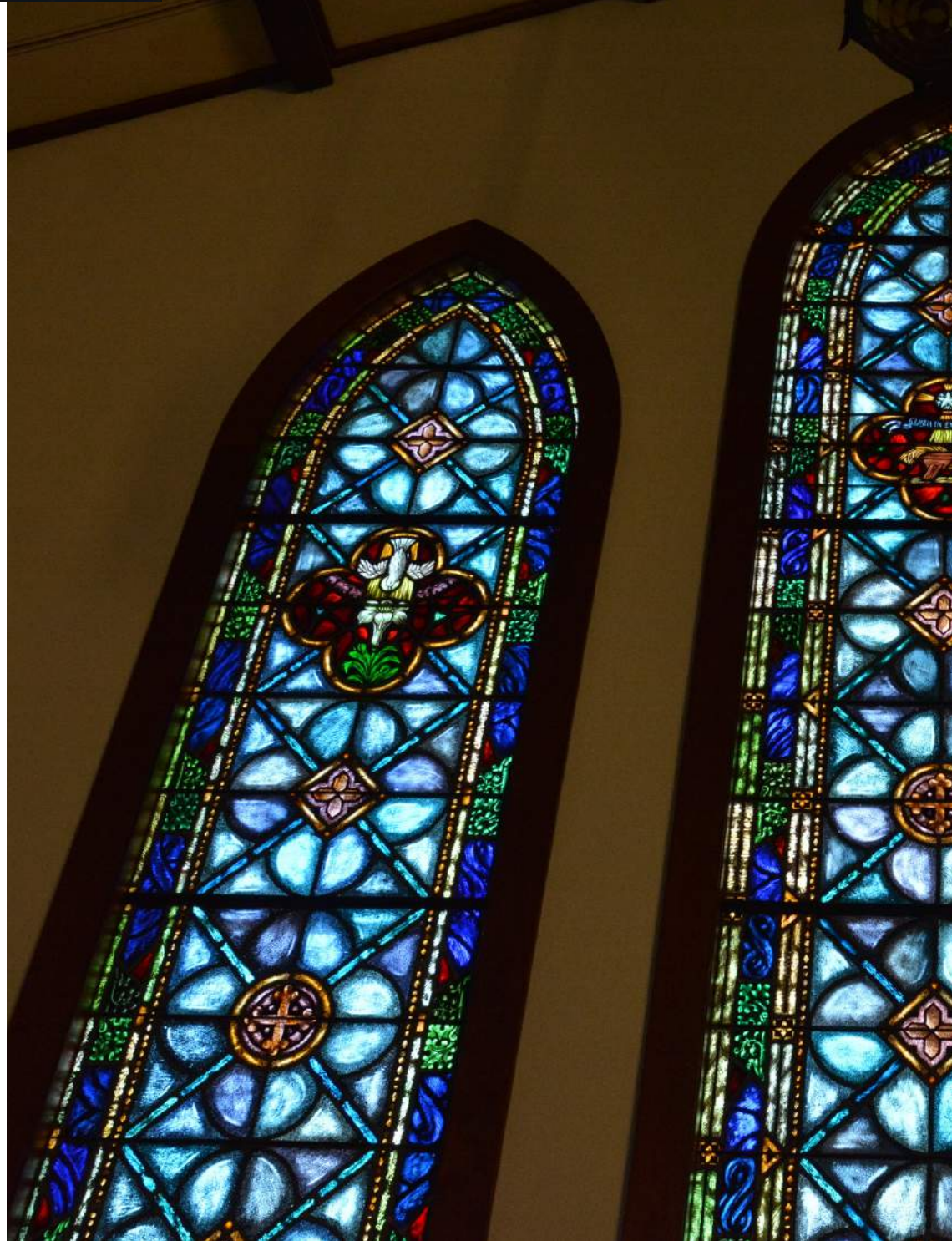




Three windows in the west transept share the common theme of the Incarnation.



The far-left window celebrates the Annunciation of God's divine plan of salvation in sending His only begotten Son, who is born into this world by the power of the Holy Spirit descending upon the Virgin Mary (flower).





These windows were placed in 1949 during the church addition.



The center window represents the birth of Christ. The star which led the wisemen and came to rest on Bethlehem points to our Savior's manger.

The words of the angels' chorus from Luke 2 are written, "Gloria in Excelsis Deo" which means:

"Glory to God in the highest!"

This window was donated by the Tabea Ladies Aid Society, which is short for the New Testament name Tabitha.



The far-right window depicts that not long after Jesus' birth, King Herod attempted to assassinate the newborn King. Joseph, being warned in a dream, fled with the family to Egypt, represented by the Sphynx. The three birds represent the holy family's flight to Egypt.





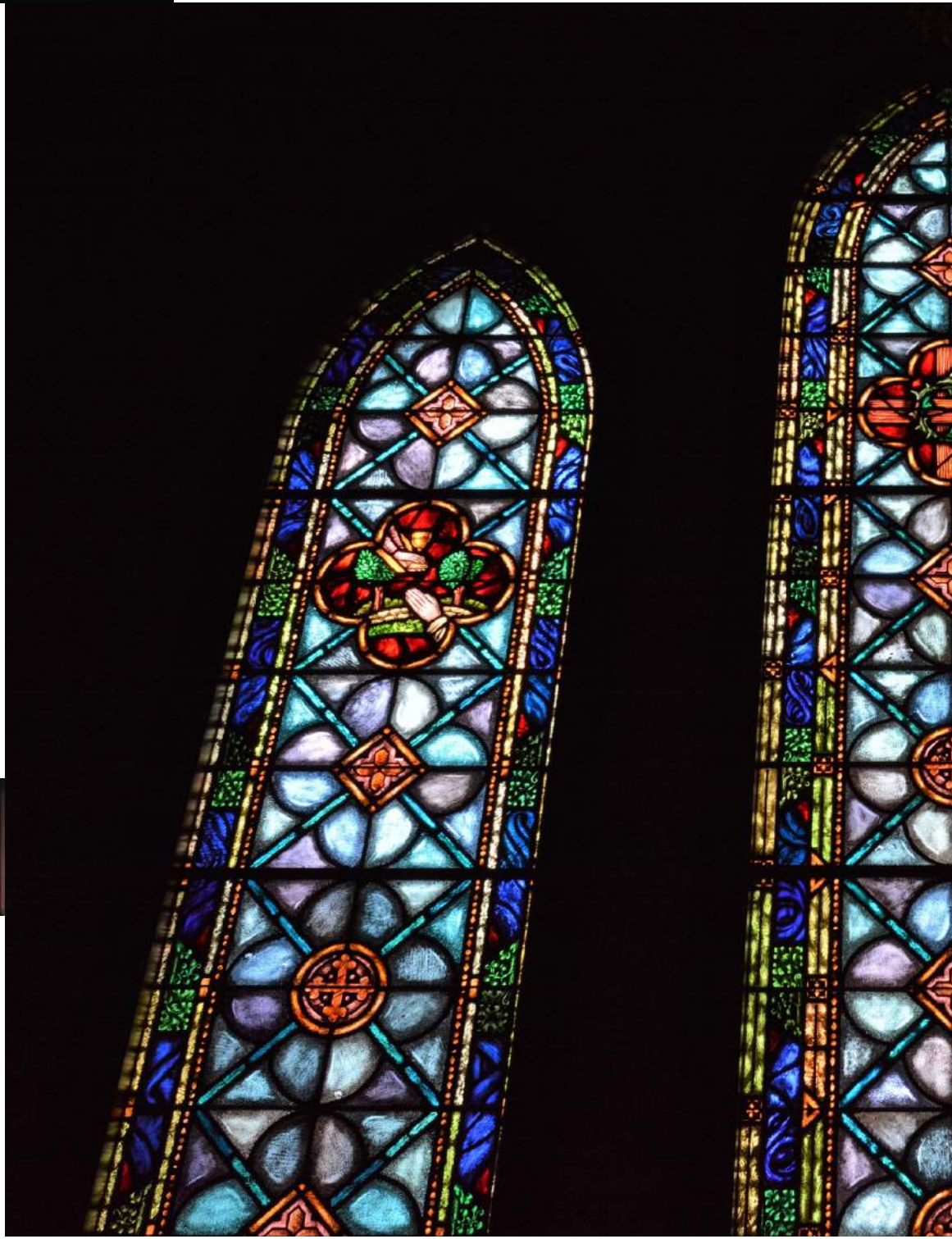
Three windows in the east transept uplift the common theme of Christ's ultimate purpose.



The far-left window pictures Gethsemane as two hands come together, one reaching down from Heaven (God) and the other (sinners) reaching up from earth in faith to receive Jesus.

What bridges the two is the extended cup of Christ's blood given and shed for sinners on that night in which He was betrayed on Maundy Thursday.

This window was given in 1949 in remembrance of the parents of Mr. & Mrs. Robert Arhelger.





These were placed during the 1949 church addition.



The center window contains the cross and crown of thorns of Good Friday reminding us that it is only through the cross of Christ's suffering and death that sinners have hope. It was given in 1949 by the Veterans of WWII in memory of those who sacrificed their lives for their country.

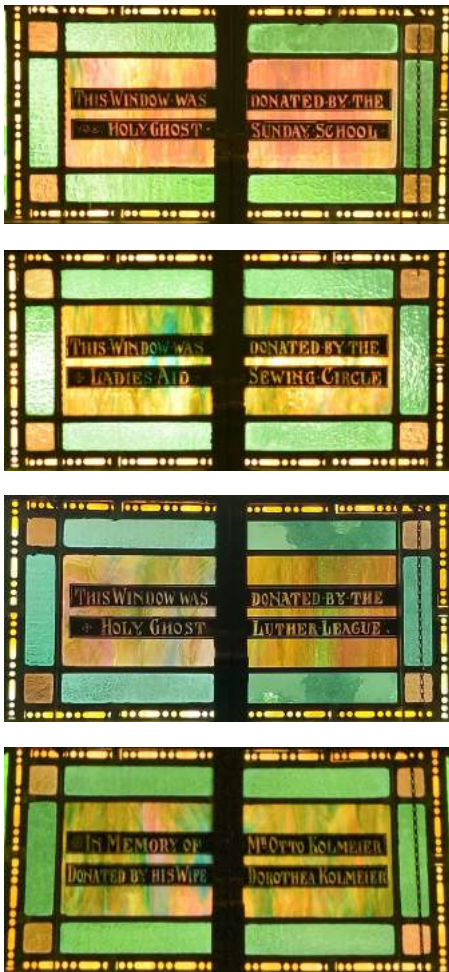


The far-right window uplifts the Ascension of Christ, victorious over Satan and risen from the dead, who claims His glory and is seated at the right hand of the Father in Heaven.

This window was given by the congregation in memory of the five men of the church who gave their lives serving this country during World War II.



The four stairwells are each home to a window that shares the same glass pattern but was given by different groups: Sunday School (west back); Youth Luther League (west front); Ladies Aid Sewing Circle (east back); and in memory of Otto Kolmeier by his wife Dortehea (east front). These were placed during the 1949 church addition.



Each stairwell also contains a small stained glass window, bringing the total stained glass window count to thirty-nine.





The church's treasure of these stained glass windows continues to be dedicated to the glory of God in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. As beautiful as Holy Ghost Lutheran Church is on the outside, the true beauty is only experienced on the inside where, through the generations, God's people have heard the story of Jesus and His love and have been called to "Be and Make Disciples in Jesus' Name!"