



**EAGLE HILLS**  
CHURCH

The stories within our  
**STAINED GLASS  
WINDOWS**



## MISSION WINDOW

This stained glass window represents the mission work of EAGLE HILLS CHURCH. It features the words *"Here I am Lord"*, words spoken by Abraham, Jacob, Moses, Samuel and Isaiah. These words were quoted by early Methodist missionaries and circuit riders. They indicate a readiness to serve and obey the call of the Lord.

The flaming torch reminds us that Jesus called His disciples to be *"the light of the world."* (Matthew 5:14) We are to take the light of Christ to all the earth.

The blue background of the window is the earth featuring the continents of Africa and South America.

In the center of the transom window are a towel and basin, reminders of how our Lord washed the disciples feet at the Last Supper and how He called all of us to follow His example in service to our neighbor.

*Special thanks to Karin Lokensgard Smith who designed the window, Cheri Lindley of Lindley Glass Studio who built the window and our donor.*





## OLIVE

This window features olive branches, and a cruet of olive oil, a balsam cone, and the cross. The olive and the balsam together symbolize the human and divine nature of Jesus Christ. Olive oil, used to soothe pain and restore the body, represents Jesus who ministered to the sick, the tired and the needy. Balsam, valued for its healing power, points to the Christ who by his life and death heals the broken relationship between God and us.

Olive oil represents the presence of God (The Holy Spirit). The kings and priests of Israel were always anointed. When the Hebrew people went into exile and there was no longer a Son of David who sat upon the throne, a hope began to arise for a messiah (anointed one) who would restore God's people. The cross in this window represents Jesus, our Messiah, as well as the forgiveness of God, which brings healing.

The cruet reminds us of a ritual we often perform in our church. We anoint with oil, as the Bible tells us to do, because God's presence brings wholeness, healing, and comfort.

The olive branch symbolizes peace and goodwill and reminds us that we are called to be peace-makers. The dove in the upper center circle is a symbol not only of peace, but also of the Holy Spirit who descended to anoint Jesus at his baptism.

*Special thanks to Jean Ah Fohg who designed the window, Cheri Lindley of Lindley Glass Studio who built the window and our donor.*





## TREE OF LIFE

This window reminds us of the tree of life which grew in the Garden of Eden. It points as well to (Psalm 1), which tells us that when we study God's word, we become like a tree planted by streams of water (literally irrigation ditches) which yield fruit in their season.

The hanging fruit reminds us of Jesus' call that His disciples should bear fruit, and specifically the nine fruit call to mind (Galatians 5:22-23) where Paul speaks of the fruit of the Spirit.

Finally, we are reminded of the prophecy given in Revelation. In the Kingdom of God we find the tree of life, whose leaves are for the healing of the nations, planted by the river of life.

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John the Baptist called Jesus "the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world." (John 1:29) The figure of the lamb as a symbol of Christ our sacrifice for atonement echoes the sacrifice of the Passover lamb in the Old Testament. The lamb, with its three rayed nimbus indicating divinity, is on a banner with a cross for a flagstaff. The banner tells us of Jesus' victory over sin and death.

## LAMB OF GOD TRANSOM

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## FISHER OF MEN

The Greek word for fish is "ichthus" which is an acrostic for the Greek phrase "Iesous Christos, Theou Uios, Soter" (Jesus Christ, God's Son, Savior). The fish was an ancient symbol for Christian believers. Due to persecution, early Christians would identify each other by beginning to draw a fish and then letting other believers complete the drawing.

The fish also reminds us of the many Bible stories that depict the disciples fishing. Our window features a net which is meant to remind us of Jesus' words to the disciples when he said, "Come, follow me and I will make you fishers of men." (Mark 1:17)

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## CALMING THE STORM

The ship with its cross-like mast is an ancient symbol for the church. The church, like the ark, offers shelter and salvation. This window reminds us of the many Bible stories where Jesus and the disciples sailed on the Sea of Galilee. The ship in our window is tossed on the waves of a storm, but the sun is breaking through. It reminds us in particular of the miracle of the stilling of the storm. (Mark 4:35-41) In the midst of the tempests of life, there is a peace that passes all understanding that comes from Jesus.

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## GIFTS OF THE MAGI

This Christmas- themed window reminds us of the great gift God gave us in Jesus Christ.

It features the Christmas star whose light led the first Gentiles to worship the Savior.

The three boxes remind us of the gifts the Magi gave in gold, the gift for a king, frankincense, used in temple worship, the gift for a priest, and myrrh, a resin used in embalming– even at His birth.

Even at his birth, we are pointed to Jesus' saving death. (Matthew 3:11)

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## THE BURNING BUSH

From a distance, Moses saw a bush which burned but was not consumed. Upon approaching the bush, Moses heard a voice that told him to "Take off your sandals, for the place you are standing is holy ground." (Exodus 3:5)

It was here that Yahweh, the holy name of God, was revealed. Fire is used throughout the Bible to represent the presence of God which is always with us.

The sandals remind us of our need to rid ourselves of sin when we seek to enter into the presence of God.

The inset in the transom reminds us of the presence of God which in Exodus was a cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night.

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## THE CENTER WINDOWS

Please note that the center windows each have a cross within them and are meant as a group to remind us of the three crosses that were present at Jesus' crucifixion. Like the thieves on either side of Jesus, we have a choice to make.



Right Center Window



THE VINE

The vineyard was an ancient symbol or Israel. In the Old Testament it was always a negative symbol. (*Isaiah 5:1-2, Jeremiah 2:21*) God had planted a good vineyard, but it had grown wild, failing to produce the fruit of repentance and the fruit of the kingdom.

In the New Testament Jesus said, "I am the vine and you are the branches." (*John 15:5*), indicating that if we are in Christ we can have eternal life and the fruit of the spirit. The crown in the window lifts up our need to accept Jesus as our Lord.

Left Center Window



BIBLE AND CANDLE

This window reminds us of the importance of scripture and specifically reminds us that "the word of God is a lamp unto our feet and light unto our path." (*Psalms 119:105*) It also reminds us of the fact that Jesus is the light that shines in the darkness which the darkness cannot overcome." (*John 1:5*)

•The upper part of the window shows the sun, one of the most ancient symbols of the trinity. It also reminds us of God's good creation and of the fact that, "God is light, in Him there is no darkness at all." (*1 John 1:5*) The dove in the window reminds us of the Holy Spirit.



THE SUN

•The flame of the Holy Spirit, the presence of God which fills the life of every believer. The flames merge into the waters of baptism which cleanse us from sin and remind us of Jesus' promise, "but whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water springing up to eternal life." (*John 4:1-14*)

- There are symbols of Jesus' death on Calvary. The purple and the white remind us of the temple veil that was torn in two, letting us know that we no longer need a temple, for the Spirit of God is available to believers everywhere. The crown of thorns reminds us of the suffering Jesus endured for our sins and the staff capped by a cross reminds us of how Christ's death and suffering qualifies Him to rule over our lives.
- The cup and bread remind us of the Last Supper and the sacrament of Holy Communion given us there, the body and blood of Christ.
- The stars remind us of God's creative power and of Christmas, but above all they remind us of the promise God gave to Abraham when he said, "I will surely bless you and make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky." (*Genesis 22:17*) Our faith in Jesus is built on the promises given in the Old Testament by a faithful God.





## THE HAND OF GOD

For the first 1,000 years of Christianity the hand from the clouds was the most commonly used symbol for God.

The window shows God's mighty act of creation (Genesis 1) and especially lifts up God's creation of the sun and stars, the seas, and dry land.

By adding the alpha and omega symbols, we are reminded that God is the first and the last.

The window also points to when God will redeem His creation at the end of time, creating new heaven and a new earth. (Revelation 21)

*Special thanks to Christy Jordan who designed the window with the help of Karin Lokensgard Smith, Cheri Lindley of Lindley Glass Studio who built the window and our donor.*





## SIN AND GRACE

This window's theme is Sin and Grace.

The thorns and thistles represent the spread of evil and the pain it causes.

The broken shovel represents the effect sin has on our work and achievements.

The snake reminds us of the lure of temptation and the power of Satan.

Towering over all of the negatives, is the cross of Jesus topped by the crown of thorns, symbolizing how God's grace has triumphed over sin. The crown of thorns is made of barbed wire, telling us of the pain our sin causes God.

*Special thanks to Karin Lokensgard Smith who designed the window, Cheri Lindley of Lindley Glass Studio who built the window and our donor.*





## THE POTTER'S HANDS

This window reflects several Biblical passages where God is referred to as a potter. First there is the image of God our creator, when God makes man out of the dust of the earth (Genesis 2:7), shaping us from the clay. Next are the passages in (Jeremiah 18-19) where Jeremiah prophesies that God is sovereign and that we need to allow ourselves to be shaped by the potter's hands. Those who rigidly reject God's reshaping of their lives will be shattered like an old pot. These passages are commemorated in a favorite hymn by Adelaide Pollard "Have Thine Own Way, Lord":

*"Have thine own way, Lord"  
Have thy own way!  
Thou art the potter; I am the clay.  
Mold me and make me after thy will,  
While I am waiting, yielded and still."*

In the New Testament the image of God as a potter is continued in the idea that we are a new creation in Christ (2 Corinthians 5:17) and this idea is also reflected in Jesus' healing of the blind man in (John 9:5-6). The transom window shows a pot but to make the connection crystal clear, it contains the figure of a man as a part of the pot. Obviously we are not talking about pots, they are metaphors for our lives.

The Laurel wreath encircling the pot symbolizes the victory the new creation has in Jesus.

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## ALL CREATION SINGS

This window has as its theme the idea that all creation is singing the praises of God, a message contained in numerous Psalms, but especially in (Psalms 19, 96, 103 & 148). Because the Psalms talk about creation singing the praises of God, it has a music subtheme reflected in the use of a lyre and musical clef in the upper inset to the window. The window depicts creation with waterfalls, eagles, thunder and lightning, wind in the forest and geese.

*Special thanks to Cheri Lindley of Lindley Glass Studio who designed and built the window and our donor.*



# HOPE

In the story of Noah after the rains ceased, he sent out a dove to determine whether the flood waters had subsided. When the dove returned, bearing an olive branch he knew the bird had discovered dry land. Hope for a new beginning.

Of course the dove often symbolizes the Holy Spirit particularly in the story Jesus' baptism where the spirit descended upon Him like a dove. (Matthew 3:16)

The flames surrounding the dove pick up on the theme of the dove as the Holy Spirit.

While the blue waters beneath the dove remind us of the Noah story, they also take us back to Genesis 1 and the story of creation when the Spirit of God moved upon the waters. (Genesis 1:2)

*Clarence Saunders was retired when he became a Christian. He always had an interest in art and he took a class on stained glass. Inspired by his new faith and working with Pastor Larry (Carl) Martin he designed, paid for and made these two windows. Just a few years later he passed away.*





## THE COVENANT

Our God desires to be in a relationship with us. The Lord describes and defines this relationship in a series of covenants. These covenants are a blessing to us, His people and all of them are marked by a sign. They offer us:

Life  
Security  
Salvation  
Hope

The very first covenant recorded in the Bible was the one God made with Noah and all creation, promising that He would never again flood all the earth. It is a promise of hope, of God's good care for His creation, and it is marked with the sign of the rainbow.  
(Genesis 9:9-17)

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## KINGDOM OF GOD

Through Jesus we have the promise of eternal life. The Bible only offers hints as to what heaven will look like, because it will be above and beyond our imagination. The scriptures use images from nature describing heaven as a second and greater Eden. There is a river of life, trees that bear fruit for all seasons with leaves for the healing of the nations. It will be a place without tears where we will be reunited with family and friends. It will be a place of light, of pearly gates and streets of gold. Above all it will be a place where we will live in the very presence of the living God. This window shows the gates of heaven opening with light streaming out. We see angels, the messengers of God, ready to shepherd believers into the kingdom. There is a path into the Kingdom, representing the narrow way and in the background we see the river of life and the holy mountain of God. The browns in the foreground represent this life and are meant to contrast with the glorious light of the life to come. The transom window has scales representing the judgment of God when all things will be set right. The scales surround the throne of God. The throne has jewels on the armrest to represent the abundance of the Kingdom, and a cross embedded in the back of the throne along with a burgundy sash to symbolize the authority and rule of God.

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