

Gloria Dei Lutheran

Church Window Project



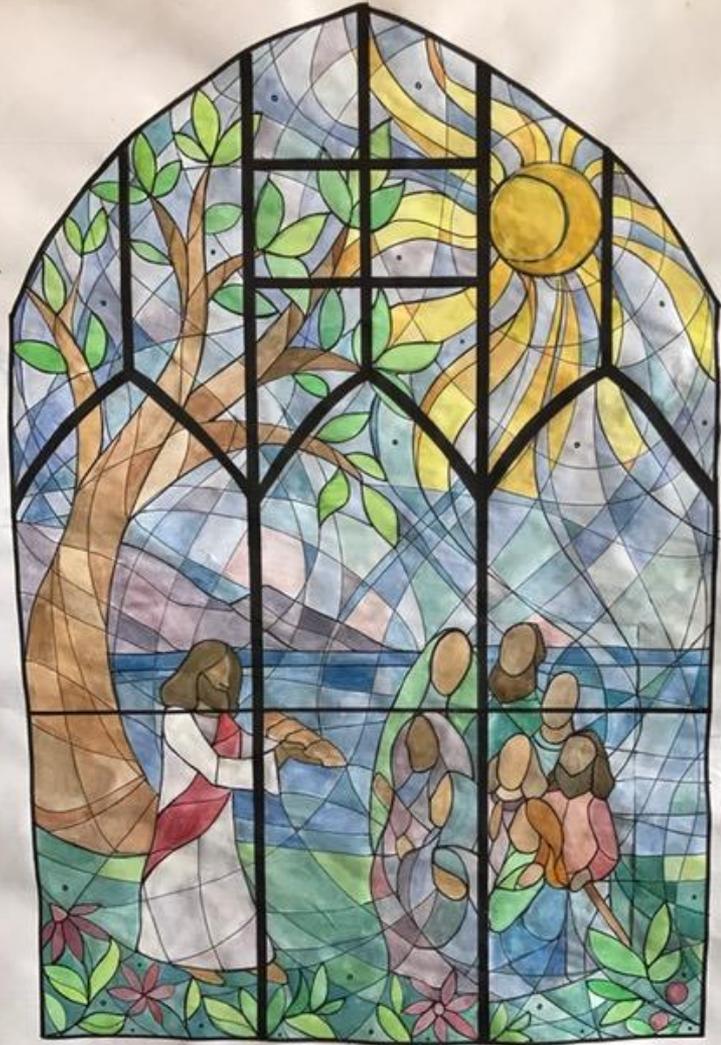
The butterfly is an ancient symbol of the resurrection. It emerges from a chrysalis that appears dead. Our window depicts a monarch butterfly (in its stages of caterpillar, chrysalis, and adult) and the milkweed plant (where eggs are laid and which provides food). These images also reference Gloria Dei's Monarch Waystation and our commitment to creation care.

RESURRECTION WINDOW



Alpha and Omega are the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet; the beginning and the end. The Bible, inspired by the Holy Spirit (depicted in the upward flames), speaks of God, especially as revealed in Jesus, as the beginning and end of all things. (Genesis 1:1; Isaiah 44:6; John 1:1-2; Revelation 22:13)

WORD WINDOW



The East Window - Lakeside shows the morning sun. It references Jesus' feeding of the 5000, an event told in all four gospels (Matthew 14:13-21; Mark 6:-30-44; Luke 9:10-17; John 6:1-13). It can also suggest Jesus' cooking breakfast for his disciples after his resurrection (John 21:4ff) and, more broadly, the heavenly banquet God provides for all people (Isaiah 22:6). The figures are designed to represent a variety of ages, genders, and cultures. Gloria Dei continues "feeding" through our free neighborhood breakfast and collections for local food banks. The tree can be seen as a reference to the tree of life (Genesis and Revelation) with its leaves for the healing of the nations.

EAST WINDOW - LAKESIDE



The Sacrament of Holy Baptism is represented by the basin (or font) and water. Baptism is in the name of the Triune God (suggested by the three waves and the three drops of water). Biblical accounts of Jesus' baptism (Matthew 3:13-17; Mark 1:9-11; Luke 3:21-22; John 1:31-14) tell of the heavens opening and the Holy Spirit descending in the form of a dove.

BAPTISM WINDOW



The Luther Window depicts Martin Luther's personal "seal," the Luther Rose. In the center is a black cross, symbolizing trust in the crucified Jesus who saves us. It is placed in a red heart, as the cross sustains life. The white rose represents consolation and peace; the blue background, confident hope of our future with God; the gold ring unending joy in God's presence. This window is visible only from the outside of the church. It will be lighted whenever lights are turned on in the sanctuary.

LUTHER WINDOW



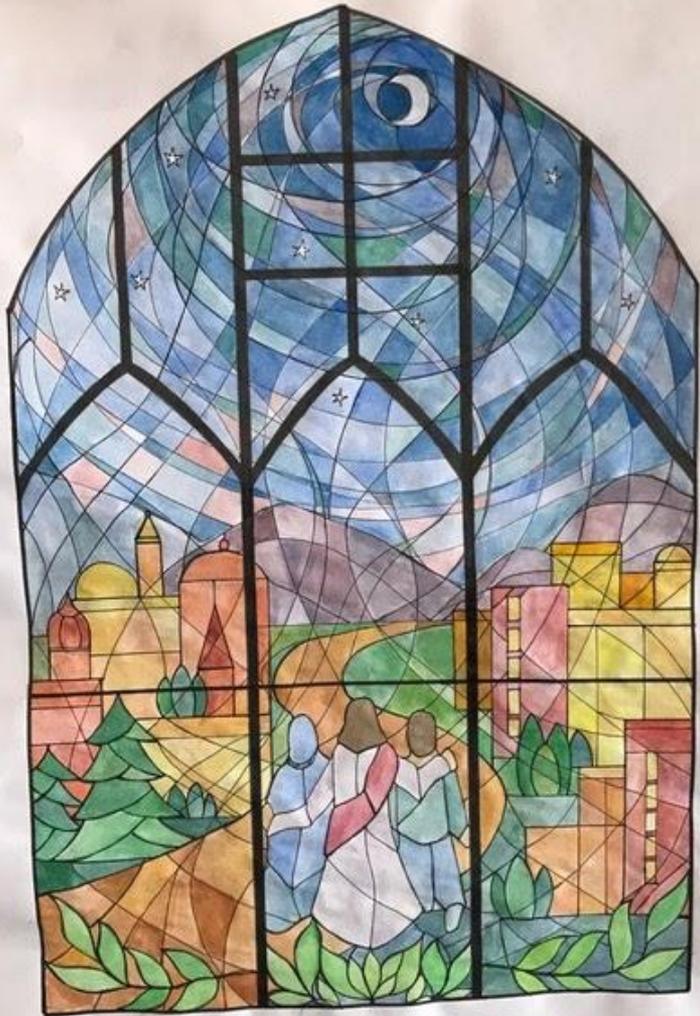
Gloria Dei's commitment to service extends beyond our neighborhood to companion relationships with churches in Tanzania, India, Russia, and Honduras. The rainbow is a sign of God's covenant with the earth and all its peoples (Genesis 9:8ff). It also is a sign of our ministry with and on behalf of the GLBTQ community. This window is visible only from the outside of the church.

SERVICE WINDOW



Through the Sacrament of Holy Communion God nourishes faith, forgives sin, and calls us to be witnesses to the Gospel. At Gloria Dei, all are welcome at the Lord's Table. The window depicts the bread and chalice, as well as the wheat and grapes they come from.

COMMUNION WINDOW



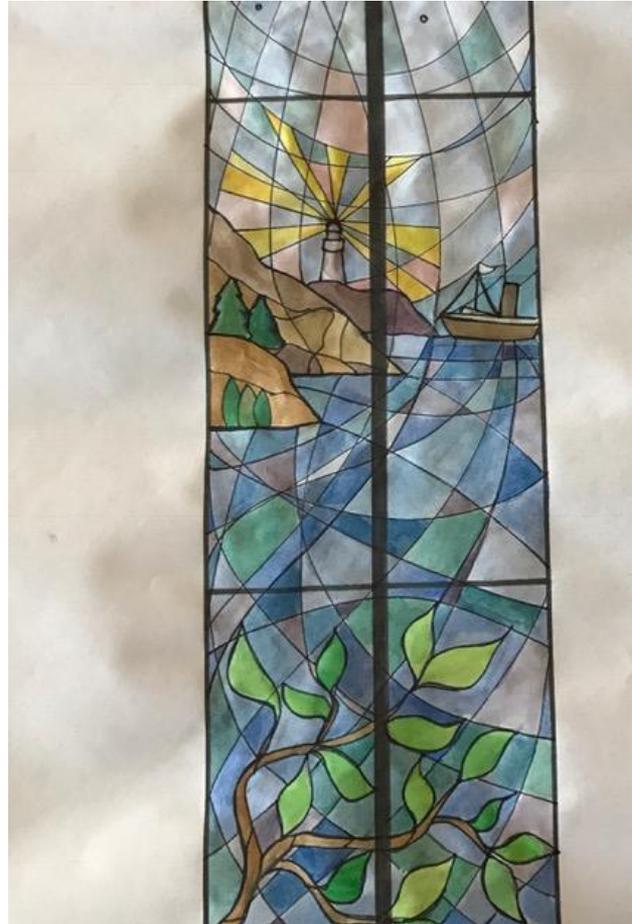
The West Window - Hillside shows the moon and stars of evening. The cityscapes suggest both Duluth and our global companions, as well as historic and modern times. The Biblical story of Jesus and two companions on the road to Emmaus on Easter evening (Luke 24:13ff). It is an image of accompaniment on the journey of carrying the gospel into the world. It is a visual reminder that wherever we are on our journey, Gloria Dei is a community of welcome.

WEST WINDOW - HILLSIDE



The Nativity Window depicts the stable and the manger, with a reference to the Holy Infant in yellow -- a halo spinning from the Star above the stable. Other stars in the sky are a reminder of the news given to the shepherds as they watched their flocks by night.

NATIVITY WINDOW



As branches of the vine that is Jesus, (John 15) we are connected to people of faith of all times and places. Jesus Christ, the light of the world, guided our immigrant ancestors from Sweden to Duluth and will continue to light our way into the future God has for us.

FAITH WINDOW