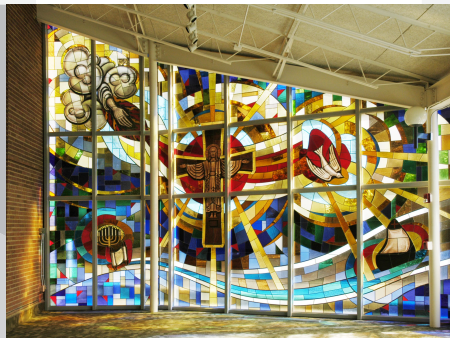


Details of the Windows Pieces of Glass, Colors, Etc.

GLORIA DEI & MISSIO DEI stained glass windows

1. Two windows approx. 55 feet long by 11 feet high (up to 19 ft. high)
2. Two windows consist of 48 panels
3. Over 3,100 individual pieces of glass
4. Approx. 70 different colors of glass from multiple suppliers
5. Approx. 2,570 feet of lead channel
6. Approx. 570 feet of zinc binder around panel perimeters
7. 30 lbs. of solder
8. 200 hrs. of drawing full-size cartoons and patterning
9. Approx. 250 hrs. of glass cutting
10. Approx. 370 hrs. of glass painting
11. Approx. 350 hrs. of glazing the panels (leading and soldering)
12. Over 1,000 feet of aluminum channel being used for the installation
13. Approx. 1,000 screws

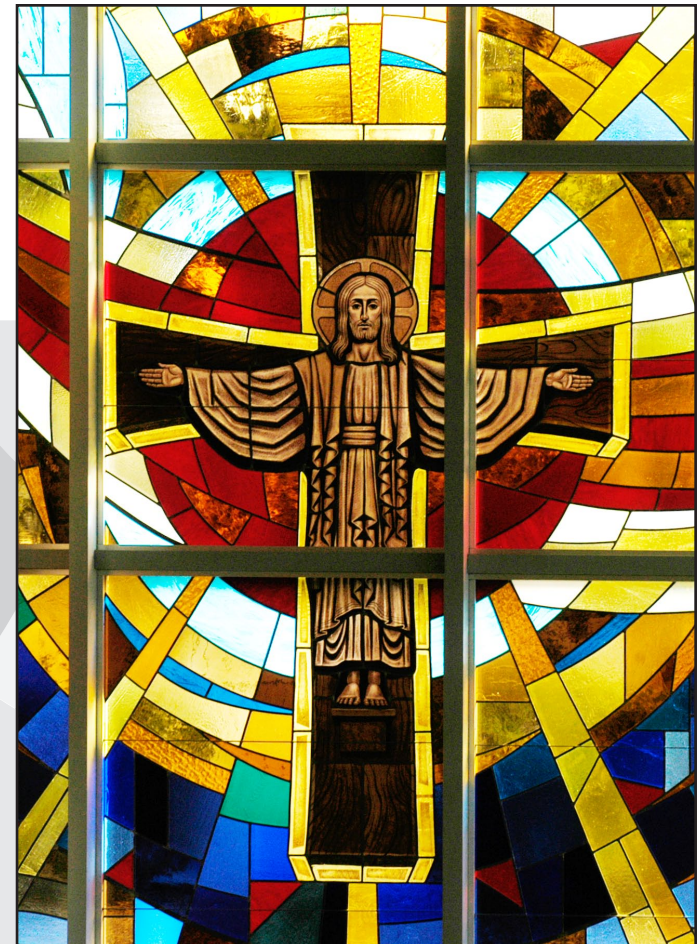


Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

—Ephesians 3:20-21

The Atrium Windows at MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH Fairview Park, Ohio

Our Christian Calling As Told In Glass

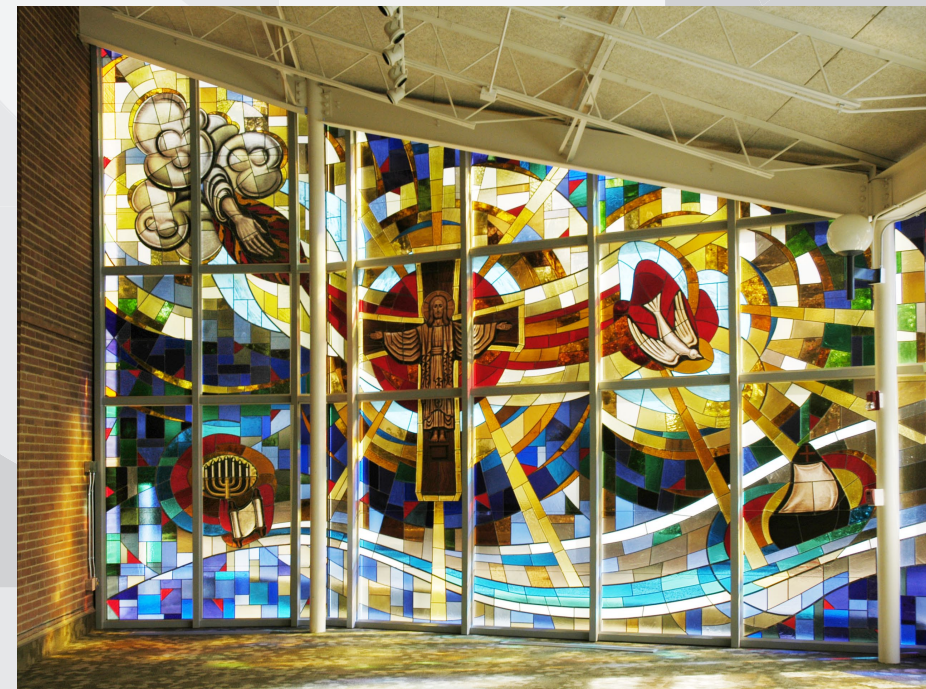
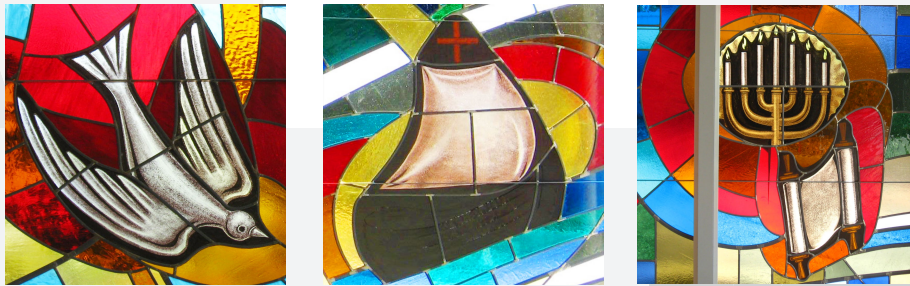


A brief account prepared for
the dedication of the windows on
Reformation Sunday 2013,
the 27th day of October

The Gloria Dei Window

All things have their beginning and end in God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, to whom alone all praise and glory is due.

This window depicts the work of God in creation, its blazing glory captured in hues of red, yellow, and brown that part the dark blue seas of primordial chaos and sin. On the upper left we see the Father's almighty hand piercing the darkness with light and life. This light and life come to their fullness in the person of God the Son, our Savior Jesus Christ, who reigns today as the Lord who gave his all that all might live in him. From Father and Son proceeds the Holy Spirit, depicted in the classic symbol of the dove. Here is God calling new and everlasting life into being through faith in Jesus Christ. Flecks of red, scattered throughout the window, invite reflection on the bursts of God's grace that relieve sorrow, brighten days, and make life possible in every corner of God's creation.



God's Word is the instrument by which all God's work is said and done. At the bottom of the window we see depictions of God's Word and those who carry it into the world, to the left the law-givers and prophets of ancient Israel, represented by scroll and the seven-fold candle, and to the right the Church, bearer of the Gospel, the saving message of Jesus Christ. Ancient preachers often described the Church as a ship or a boat, a vessel of salvation prefigured by Noah's ark.

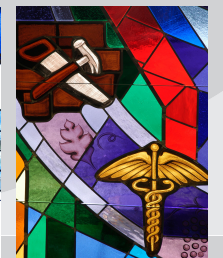
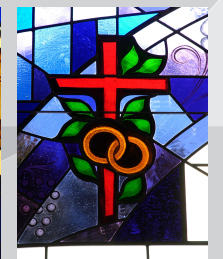
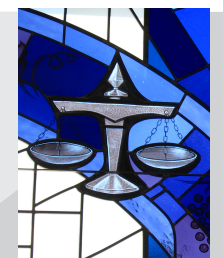
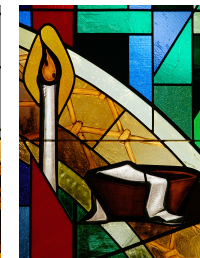
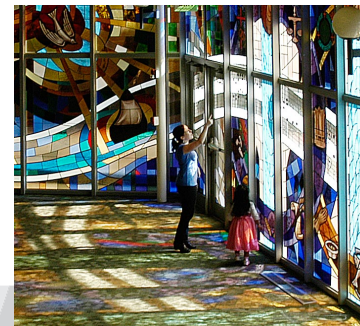


The Missio Dei Window

"As the Father has sent me, so I send you. Receive the Holy Spirit..." (John 20:21). With these words our Lord Jesus drew the apostles and all baptized Christians into the mission of God depicted in the Gloria Dei window. "Mission" comes from the Latin word that means "I send."

Perhaps the greatest gift of the Lutheran reformation was an insight into God's Word as Law and Gospel, the one creating and governing the life we were born into, the other launching the new and everlasting life we were baptized into. We live, as it were, in two worlds, or in the metaphor that Luther and his successors preferred to use, in two kingdoms. God rules one with his left hand, the other with his right hand. The kingdom of the left is the world that all people know and experience every day. The kingdom of the right is God's new creation unfolding in Christ, a world we experience even now through faith in Christ. Day after day God dispatches baptized people to serve his purposes in both worlds.

The Missio Dei window illustrates this two-fold mission with overlapping rings. In the left-hand ring are symbols of secular vocations, God-given work that we share with all human beings. The purple hue, combined with a grape vine, calls to mind the vineyard, a frequent Biblical image of God's productive people. In the right are symbols of work that falls to us specifically as human beings who know and trust our Lord Jesus Christ. The net and the golden hue suggest the saving Gospel that baptized people trust and serve. Running through both rings is a ribbon of musical notation for the classic Lutheran hymn, "With the Lord Begin Thy Task."



Artist: Damien Marchione, building on an earlier design by Kathleen Akers

The Messiah Window (1999)

Here we see how the complementary ministries of Messiah Church and Messiah School equip God's children and saints for their two-fold mission in the world.

Symbols of work and ministry specific to the congregation appear in the ring on the left. Here the emphasis is on the ministry of Word and Sacrament that benefits all who participate in our life together as God's people in Christ. It aims to extend the promise of the Gospel, to deepen our faith in Christ, and to bless us with those gifts of the Spirit that make possible our daily service as Christ's agents in our homes, our neighborhoods, and our places of work.

The ring on the right focuses on the ministry specific to our school. Here children are equipped with knowledge that every human being needs to make a useful contribution to the world, honoring God and serving the neighbor in love. In a special gift available at a church-related school, their studies are enhanced and undergirded by training in God's Word.

Here too a ribbon of song runs through the rings. "Savior of the nations, come! Virgin's Son, make here Thy home!" To which we answer, "Amen!"

Artist: Kathleen Akers



How the Windows Came to Be

In 1998 Messiah's Senior Pastor, the Rev. Dr. Paul John Thielo, commissioned John W. Winterich and Associates to design and execute a work of stained glass art to adorn the Atrium entryway to Messiah Church and School. The commission was underwritten by a devout and now sainted member of the congregation, Helen Gratzer. Mrs. Gratzer's quiet generosity had already enabled Winterich's to produce the magnificent windows that describe the seasons of the Church year for worshipers in Messiah's sanctuary.

The new Atrium window, one of two envisioned at the time, was installed in 1999. It portrays the intertwined ministries of Messiah's church and school.

When last year's elevator project expanded the Atrium into the meeting and gathering area we now enjoy, David and Martha Hessler stepped forward with a splendid offer to help furnish the room by continuing the stained glass project. They imagined an extensive work of art that would draw on the genius of our Lutheran theological heritage to help teach the faith that baptized saints in Christ are privileged to confess. Complementing the piece already in place, it would also serve for years to come to encourage people using the room to praise and glorify God.

Today we dedicate the outcome of this vision to God's use among his people at Messiah. Viewed from left to right, the windows tell a coherent story: first, of God's glorious work in creation and redemption (the Gloria Dei window); second, of the two-fold mission that baptized people serve in God's unfolding work (the Missio Dei window); and third, of the way our church and school equip people for that mission (the Messiah window of 1999).

The new windows, again produced by Winterich's, were designed and painted by Damien Marchione, with the guidance of an advisory team comprising Mr. Hessler, Pr. Jerome Burce, John Winterich III, and William Jean, a professional artist and friend of the congregation. Mr. Jean also designed the new and reconfigured display of Messiah's extensive collection of crosses.

