

Chrismon Tree History & Meaning



St Luke Evangelical Lutheran Church
20 Candlewood Path
Dix Hills, NY 11746



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The celebration of the birth of our Lord is always a joyous time for our St. Luke family. In 1983 one of our family members, Freda Cockshott, had a vision to enhance our celebration by creating a Chrismon Tree on which beautiful monograms that tell the story of our Lord's life would be a visible reminder of the wonderful gift of life and salvation which is ours through our Lord.

Freda undertook the project of making each Chrismon. This has resulted in the magnificent tree gracing the St. Luke sanctuary each Christmas season.

This booklet was created by Freda to enhance our understanding of the rich symbolism of the Chrismons with brief explanations of their spiritual meanings to help us appreciate this beautiful addition to our Christmas celebration.

The St. Luke Chrismon tree was a labor of love for Freda and her husband, John, a deacon of St. Luke.

Freda & John have both entered eternal life, but we are grateful that her daughter Jackie, son-in-law Gregg, and grandchildren Crystal Singh and Roger Von Urff continue to place the tree in the sanctuary each Christmas season.

The family is blessed to have different volunteers join them each year to decorate the tree and carry on the tradition.

Chrismons

The Chrismon tree was originated by the Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Ascension in Danville, Virginia, in 1957.

The evergreen fir tree, symbolizing the eternal life which our Savior has won for us, is a background for tiny white lights, and white and gold Chrismons. The lights speak of Him who is the light of the world, and the Chrismons (CHRIST + MONOGRAM) proclaim the Name, the Life, and the saving Acts of Jesus the Christ.

These symbols, which are the heritage of all Christians, tell the story of God's plan for our salvation that, through faith in Jesus Christ, we might all be restored to the Father in a community of love.

Every Chrismon is hand-made and incorporates differing personal insights based on individual experiences, but the basic signs and symbols have been formed over the centuries since the first Christmas.

*MAY THESE SYMBOLS CONTINUALLY
REMIND YOU OF
GOD'S GREATEST GIFT TO US ALL,
JESUS CHRIST.*



Freda lovingly made every Christmas on this tree over the years we were blessed to have her with us at St. Luke. There are over 1,500 ornaments on the tree, and 5,000 lights that sparkle like the heavens, and remind us of God's love for us through the gift of His Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ.

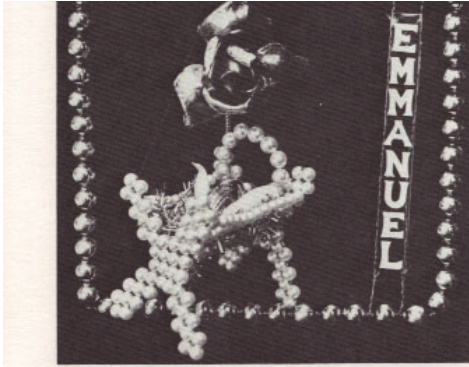
JESUS CHRIST THE VICTOR



The Greek word for victor or conqueror is *NIKA*. A Greek monogram for our Lord's given name Jesus is IC, for His title Christ, XC. These letters surround a cross, the means of death for the Man Jesus. But, as the letters and the word state, He conquered: He rose victorious over the death and the sin that caused it. 'The cross became the **CROSS ADORNED** - a cross decorated with flowers - a symbol of the new life that He won for us.

But how did He conquer? With armies? With power? Is not that how one conquers? Not this One! **LILIES-OF-THE VALLEY** adorn this cross - low-growing flowers, blossoms that bend low, this One conquered in humility.

EMMANUEL: GOD WITH US



The ROSE leaning over the manger represents Mary, Jesus' mother. Inside the crib, a ROSEBUD and a NIMBUS suggest the Child. Notice how the position of the Mother and the manger reveals the Christ's MONOGRAM, XP. A SQUARE, an ancient symbol for the earth, surrounds the scene and another name for the Child, EMMANUEL, which means, "God with us." (Matthew 1:18-25.) When the Virgin conceived and bore a Son, God was with all of us as He had never been before. Through the Person of the Child, God was with us as One of us.

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FROM THE HEAVENS

SUN OF RIGHTEOUSNESS:

About twenty-four hundred years ago, the prophet Malachi compared the Messiah to the sun, the brightest thing in his or our world. A representation of the sun which is centered with our Lord's monogram recalled the prophecy, "For you who fear my name, the sun of righteousness shall rise, with healing in its wings." Malachi 4:2.



STARS, formed by crosses set at various angles, show the close relationship between the birth and death of our Redeemer. The number of points that a star has may indicate a specific meaning:

FOUR POINTS CROSS ETOILE (Star Cross).



FIVE POINTS EPIPHANY STAR: Our Savior; Manifestation of the Son. Matthew 2:1-11.



SIX POINTS CREATOR'S STAR: The Father; Six days of creation. Exodus 20:11.



SEVEN POINTS GIFTS OF THE SPIRIT: Holy Spirit. Revelation 5:12.



EIGHT POINTS HOLY BAPTISM: Regeneration. I Peter 3:20, 21.



Several **MULTI-POINTED STARS**: Heaven.



AND THE EARTH

WATER: “If anyone thirst, let him come to me and drink.” John 7:37. Biblical writers and Jesus Himself often used water to symbolize His life-giving nature. Isaiah 55:1; John 4:10 ff; Revelation 21:6; 22:17.

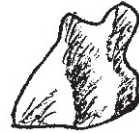


At times, water may refer to Baptism or, by extension, the Holy Spirit. Acts 8:36.

FLAMES: The Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost. Acts 2:1-4.



ROCK: Scriptural applications of this figure for the Christ must be interpreted in context. Stumbling stone—Romans 9:33; Source of living water—I Corinthians 10:4; A good foundation—Luke 6:48.



Scripture frequently employs parts of the body to describe “God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.” We use these same figures on our tree.

References to the **HAND** suggest the creative act, supportive care, judgment, and power. Exodus 15:6; Deuteronomy 11:2; Ezra 8:22; Psalm 16:11; 18:35; 104:28; 139:10; Habakkuk 3:4; Luke 1:66; Acts 7:50.



The “**EYE OF GOD**” connotes loving care and watchful judgment. Judges 18:6; Psalms 17:8; 33:18; Ezekiel 20:17.





LATIN CROSS

Most widely used form today.

THE CROSS

is, of course, always a reminder of our Lord's saving work of redeeming mankind through His sacrifice for our sins, by which we receive forgiveness and salvation. Different forms of the cross point to various aspects of our Savior's work.



GREEK CROSS: While the leg of the Latin Cross is longer than the arms, all parts of the Greek cross are equal. The balanced form, more adaptable in design, was widely used by early Greeks.



CRUX GAMMADIA: When the edges of the Greek Cross are emphasized, four Greek Gammas appear.



CROSS TRIUMPHANT (OF VICTORY): Triumph of the Gospel through the world; Christ glorified.



CROSS WITH ORB: Artists often show our Lord holding a cross-topped orb: The earth and heaven in the Lord's hands; the world united in Christ.



TAU CROSS: The "T" shape suggests Moses' staff and evokes the Messianic promises.



SERPENT ON TAU CROSS: The bronze serpent on the staff by which the Lord saved Israel: A type of the crucifixion. Numbers 21:9; John 3:14.



CROSS IN ETERNITY.



CELTIC CROSS: The circle may represent the sun or eternity, as in the cross above. But some think that the circle was merely a support for the heavy stone arms of the original crosses.



EASTERN CROSS (RUSSIAN): We offer one of several interpretations: The top bar—the superscription; the bottom bar—the footrest.

JERUSALEM CROSS: Cross of Crusader kings; Five crosses—five wounds of our Lord. Or, prophecies (Taus) climaxed in Jesus' crucifixion near Jerusalem (large cross). Since then, Christians have carried the Gospel to the four corners of the world (corner crosses).



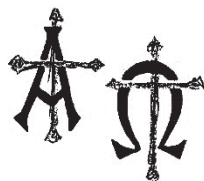
The center cross alone, **CROSS POTENT:** The Savior's spiritual and physical healing powers.



Adjectives added to a cross may describe the decorative termination of its members. Arms of the **CROSS CROWNED** end in crowns to suggest Christ's crown of glory. *NIKA*—Greek for Victor. Hebrews 2:9.

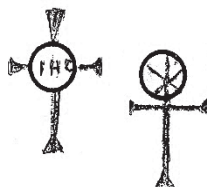


Paired **LATIN CROSSES FUSILÉE**, one entwined with an Alpha, another with an Omega. (Fusilée - spindle; diamond-shaped.) Revelation 1:8.



CROSS FUSILÉE COUPED with a monogram of the name Jesus.

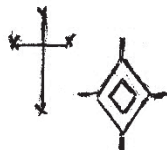
The circle around the Greek monogram for Christ makes this cross Fusilée Couped resemble the **ANSATE** or Looped Cross.



CROSS PATTÉE w/SCROLLS: Salvation proclaimed in the four Gospels: Winged man—Matthew; Winged Lion—Mark; Winged Ox—Luke; Eagle—John.



Nature and artifacts reveal hidden crosses. **SOUTHERN CROSS:** A constellation of four stars seen in the Southern hemisphere. **EYE OF GOD** (*Ojo de Dios*): A pre-Columbian art form reveals a cross in its weave.



TRINITY & PERSON SYMBOLS



TRINITY: Legend says that Patrick used a SHAMROCK to help explain the mystery of One God in three Persons. Another symbol for the Holy Trinity, the TRIANGLE is entwined with a CIRCLE of GLORY to suggest the eternal nature of the Triune.



CROSS TREE FLEE (Bottonnee):

Three balls at the end of each arm suggest the Persons of the Triune, each of Whom act in our Salvation. II Corinthians 13:14.



The Trinity complex hangs inside the upper loop, apart from the line of the figure 8 because “no one has seen God.” (John 1:18.) Yet He shows Himself to man in three ways: As the Father Creator, the Savior Son, and the Spirit Sanctifier. Symbols for these Persons appear on the line of the loop. The GLORY surrounds each figure.



FATHER: Hand from Cloud. Frequently used in both the Old and New Testaments, the Hand was almost the only symbol that designated the Father during Christianity’s first thousand years. Psalm 98:1.



SON: *Agnus Dei* or Lamb of God. Derived from prophecy, the Lamb is the most enduring figure for our Lord. Reference is to the sacrificial lamb of Israel. With the banner of Victory, it represents the risen Christ. Isaiah 53:7; Revelation 5:6.



SPIRIT: Descending Dove. Also an ancient symbol of Scriptural origin, the dove has been widely used since the days of the first Christians. Matthew 3:16.

STARS, VINE, CENSERS

STARS proclaim the ways in which God comes to us.

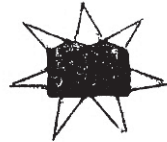
CHALICE on Six Point Star: The Lord's Supper. This Star denotes the attributes of the Messiah. Isaiah 11:2.



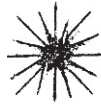
SHELL on Eight Point Star: Holy Baptism. Regeneration. I Peter 3:20; 21.



BOOK on Seven Point Star: The written Word. "The Word of God Endures Forever." The Star refers to the Gifts of the Holy Spirit Who inspires the Scripture.



Multi-pointed **STARS** around the Trinity symbol connote Heaven, God's element. **CENSERS** are scattered along the upper loop to suggest Prayer. Revelation 5:8.



CROSS SALTIRE: "First called" of our Lord's twelve, Andrew is said to have died on a cross of this shape. As the Church Year begins on the Sunday closest to St. Andrew's Day we use this cross to depict all who are "called," the whole Christian Church. The Church developed the way of living with our Lord which we call the Christian Year. John 1:35-42.



VINE: "No one has seen God; the ... Son ...has made Him known." A Vine connects the symbols which explain that Life, God's revelation of Himself. Nine bunches of fruit hang on the Vine, the fruit of those who abide in Christ through the Spirit of truth. May you find yourself among these fruits. John 1:18; 15; Galatians 5:22.



SEASON SYMBOLS AND CROSSES



ADVENT: Scroll with Prophecy. Coming of the Messiah Who shall bring peace. Isaiah 9:6; Luke 1:79.

TAU CROSS (Advent, Anticipatory, Old Testament): Salvation promised but not yet accomplished. Numbers 21:9; John 3:14-15.



CHRISTMAS: Gladiolus. The Incarnation, the "Word became flesh." The living sword—the living Word. John 1:1, 14; Hebrews 4:12.

ANCHOR CROSS (Cross of Hope):

This Child, the hope of the world. Or, a cross rises out of the crescent moon, a symbol for Mary, our Lord's mother. Hebrews 6:19; Luke 2:7.



EPIPHANY: Five-Pointed Star. The Manifestation to the wise men. "A star out of Jacob." "I am... the bright morning star." Matthew 2; Numbers 24:17; Revelation 22:16.

CROSS CROSSLET: Spread of Christianity to the North, East, South, and West—to the ends of the earth.

Matthew 28:19; Mark 8:34; Acts 1:8.



LENT: Pelican-in-her-piety. The Atonement, Sacrifice of Christ for our sins. Lord's Supper. (Her blood feeds her young.)

Psalms 102:6 (KJV); Matthew 26:26 ff.

PASSION CROSS (Cross of Suffering): Pointed ends remind us of the points of the thorns, the nails, and the spear. John 19.



EASTER: Phoenix rising from Flames. The Resurrection. (From Egyptian fables: A miraculous bird destroyed itself in flames only to rise again to a new life. Thus, a symbol for immortality.)

CROSS IN GLORY (Rayed, Easter): The rising sun behind the cross suggests the new day when our Lord conquered death for us. I Corinthians 15:3, 4.



ASCENSION: Chariot of Fire. Our Lord's Ascension parallels Elijah's. The fiery chariot is a type for the Ascension. II Kings 2:11; Acts 1:9-11.

CROSS OF CONSTANTINE: The Chi Rho with the X turned to form a cross—Christ the victorious King. I Timothy 6:15.



PENTECOST: Seven-Tongued Flame. The Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost. Seven gifts of the Spirit. Acts 2:1-4; Revelation 5:12.

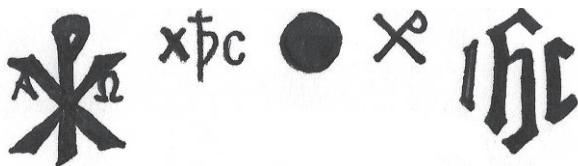
CROSS FLAMANT (Fiery Cross): Flames signify the fiery zeal of one filled with the Spirit of God. Romans 12:11.



FIGURES around the Symbols: A circle to suggest God and a square for the earth surrounds the season symbols that represent God's saving action in the world.

Flames of the Spirit close the Life cycle and join it to the Trinity circle. By the Spirit, the Life came to us, "was incarnate by the Holy Ghost." By that same Spirit, the Life comes back. But the Flames more than join the two cycles: they also reach out to us. Through the "Counselor," the Life may live in us today. Matthew 1:18ff; Acts 1, 2; John 14:15. (See center pages for illustration.)

MONOGRAMS



XP or CHI RHO: Most monograms of Christ Jesus are based on Greek words, the language of the world known to the early church. In Greek, Christ (the Hebrew 'Messiah' is *XPICTOC*). All the monograms for Christ in the various Chrismons are derived from these letters. John 1:41.



Sometimes the first letter is alone. Or, the first and last may be used. But the most widely known Chrismon is the Chi Rho (XP), the union of the first two letters. Generally the letters are superimposed as in the large figure at the upper left.



Changing the position and shape of the letters may evoke other meanings. The Chi may become a manger with a Rho that is a shepherd's crook. Or, the X can form a cross while the P becomes the person on it.

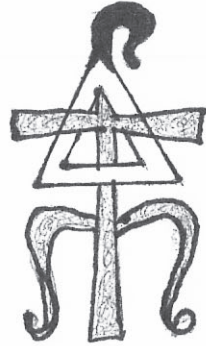


IHC IHS: Likewise, monograms for our Lord's given name are based on the Greek for Jesus, *IHCOYC*. The most used monogram is the Iota Eta Sigma (IHC or IHS). An early form of the Greek Sigma is C; the S is now used more often. The monogram may also be I, IC, or IS. Matthew 1:21-25.



CIPHER: The first letters of our Lord's title, Christ, and His name, Jesus, combine to form His cipher. This design may appear alone or with another figure. Placing a circle around it symbolizes the eternal nature of the Son of Man.

A cross formed from a Chi Rho is the basis for the Chrismon at the right. The triangle (for the Holy Trinity) calls attention to the Christ's divinity while the monogram of His mother Mary(M) suggests His human birth.



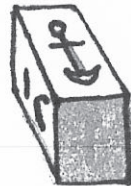
ιηc ιηc xps

The Greek sign for an abbreviation is a line over the letters. By extending an upright line from a letter, early Christians put the sign of the cross into some of our Lord's monograms.

The cross at the right shows how monograms can be hidden in a design. Among the letter combinations that are readily discernible are: XP, XPC, IC, IX, and IC XC for JESUS, THE CHRIST.



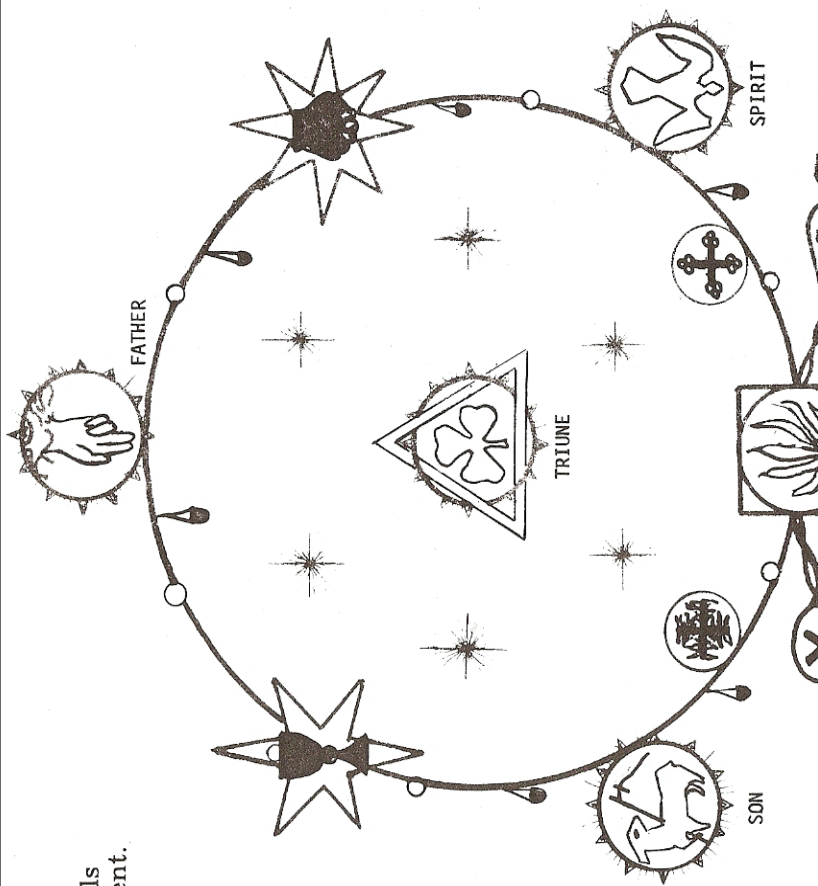
Many **CORNERSTONES** are on our tree. Monograms of our Savior are on their sides while the bottoms show another symbol for the "chief cornerstone." Ephesians 2:20; Mark 12:10.

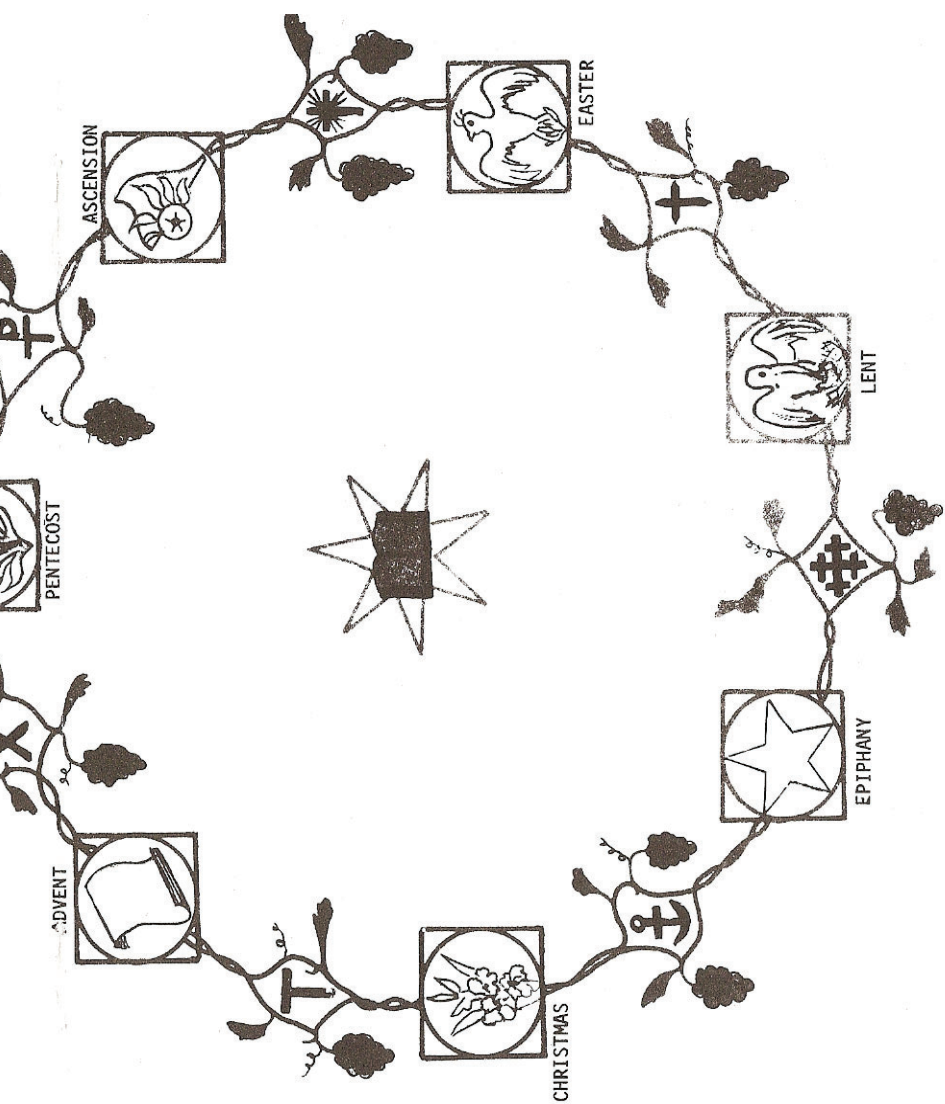


Some Chrismons on our tree are monograms only. But generally a monogram is combined with one or more symbols for the Christ. The XP, for example, appears with the Alpha and Omega while the IHS may be on a cross.

THE TRINITY CIRCLE AND THE LIFE CYCLE

Key to the symbols
and their placement.





PLANTS & FLOWERS

PROPHECY



Some people consider Isaiah's prophecy, "The desert shall . . . blossom . . ." (35:1) a Messianic Promise. Thus, the flower became a symbol of the Messiah. But since different translations call the flower a rose, lily, crocus, or jonquil, all became figures for Christ. Years of usage established certain meanings. **MESSIANIC ROSE** (stylized, five-petaled): Messianic Promise. **ROSE** (natural): Our Lord's virgin mother Mary, His human birth, or His Humanity. **LILY**: The Virgin Mary. **CROCUS & JONQUIL**: From recent translations and therefore not yet widely known.

LIFE AND TEACHINGS

Because certain plants played a part in episodes in our Lord's Life, these plants became symbols for the events.

PALM: Christ's triumphant ride into Jerusalem. John 12:13.



WHEAT & GRAPES: Bread and wine, Body and Blood of our Lord. Luke 22:14 ff.



THORNS: Our Savior's crown of suffering. Mark 15:17.



Since Jesus taught in terms familiar to His listeners. He drew some illustrations from plants of the Holy Land.



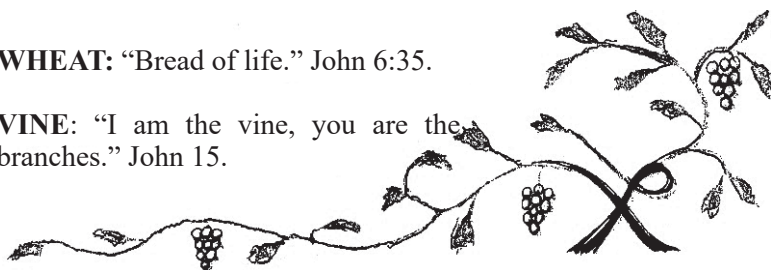
ANEMONES: Probably the "lilies of the field" cited to describe the Father's loving care of His children. Matthew 6:28.



WHEAT & WEEDS: "Sons of the kingdom ... Sons of the evil one." Matthew 13:24 ff.

WHEAT: "Bread of life." John 6:35.

VINE: "I am the vine, you are the branches." John 15.



WITNESS BY THE BRANCHES

Since Biblical times, our Lord's disciples associated other flowers with His Person. Generally, the linkage occurs because of a blossom's specific nature.

DAISY: A flower of simplicity - the innocence of the Christ Child.



DOGWOOD: Bracts set to form a cross with reddish-brown markings remind us of the Crucifixion.



GLADIOLUS: The Incarnation. The sword plant. John 1:14; Hebrews 4:12.



LILY: The Resurrection. Probably based on the emergence of the flower from the seemingly dead bulb.



LILY OF THE VALLEY: Its low growth suggests Christ's humility.

LOTUS: From roots in the mud, the stem rises through the waters to support a flower of beauty and purity.



PASSION FLOWER: Its markings recall events of our Lord's Passion.

SHAMROCK: Three leaflets on one stem illustrate the Triune God.

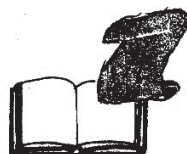


ARTIFACTS

SCROLL: Prophecy; Pentateuch; Scripture.

FOUR SCROLLS: The Four Gospels.

BOOK: The written Word. The Bible. As symbols, the Book and the Scroll are frequently interchangeable.



SIXTY-SIX BOOKS: The Bible.

BREAD: The Christ. John 6:48 ff.



BREAD, CHALICE (Cup): Either or both. The Last Supper; Holy Communion. Mark 14:22 ff; I Corinthians 11:23 ff.

CROWN: The Kingship of our Lord; His victory over sin and death; His place of honor at the right hand of God the Father. I Timothy 6:15; Revelation 14:14; Romans 8:34.



FIERY CHARIOT: Ascension of our Lord. II Kings 2:11; Acts 1:9-11.



LAMP: Divine inspiration; Truth; Knowledge. Psalms 43:3; 119:105.



TEN LAMPS: The ten virgins.

LIGHT: Our Lord: "I am the light of the world." John 8:12. Father: "Believe . . . that you may become Sons of light." John 12:36; Psalm 27:1.



LIGHTS: Our Lord's followers, "You are the light of the world." Matthew 5:14.

MANGER: The Nativity of the Christ. Often with a nimbus to suggest the divinity of the Child. Luke 2:7 ff.



SHEPHERD'S CROOK: Our Savior, "I am the good shepherd." John 10:11 ff. OR, the shepherds at the manger.

FIGURES



An equilateral **TRIANGLE** is a figure made up of three separate but equal sides. Any design of three equal parts may symbolize the Holy Trinity, one God in three Persons. A figure for the Triune God may be combined with another.

Adding a circle, for example points out the eternal nature of the Trinity. Or, two different symbols for the Triune God may be superimposed.

CIRCLE: Eternity; God the only eternal One; God's eternal love; or eternal life with God.

ORB (BALL): In ancient times, the heavens around the earth; more recently, earth alone.

SQUARE: An older figure for the earth or earthly things. Note that a square has four sides.

The number of **SIDES** or **PARTS** of any geometric figure implies a definite element.

VESICA PISCIS: An almond or fish like shape that abstractly suggests our Lord and God.

NIMBUS: A circle of light around the head that connotes Godliness or holiness.

TRI-RADIANT NIMBUS: Three rays of light in a nimbus indicate a Person of the Triune.

CRUCIFORM NIMBUS: The sign of the cross in the circle denotes the crucified Christ.

GLORY: A combination of the nimbus and rays of light to suggest the atmosphere in which God lives. It generally surrounds the whole figure.



CREATURES OF THE EARTH



The **FISH**, an ancient symbol for the Christ, was a secret sign during early Christianity's persecutions. On catacomb walls, FISH pointed to places of worship and served in devotional art.



A complex of meanings lead to this symbol's use. In addition, the Greek word for FISH, *ΙΧΘΥΣ*, is an acrostic on the first letters of the Greek words, Jesus Christ, God's Son, Savior. (John 20:31.)



Some Chrismons combine the FISH with the word *ΙΧΘΥΣ*. Another fish bears a basket of bread on its back, a Eucharistic symbol that evokes other meanings as well. Three fish suggest the Triune God. Numerous fish symbolize followers of the Christ.



BUTTERFLY: Our Lord's Resurrection; Resurrection of those who die in Christ. I Corinthians 15:20-23.



DESCENDING DOVE: The Holy Spirit at our Lord's baptism. Mark 1:10.



LAMB: A Scriptural symbol for Christ.



SERPENT ON TAU CROSS: Prefiguration of the sacrifice on the Cross. John 3:14.



SCALLOP SHELL with Three Drops of Water: Baptism in the Name of the Three Persons. Matthew 28:19.



PEARL: Word of God. Matthew 7:6; 13:45.



IVORY: Our Lord's Body. Solomon 5:14.



NUMBERS

Numbers connote meanings only when one understands their reference. Thus, numbers are not symbols but signs that point to certain ideas. These ideas are the real elements that enter into the meaning of a specific Chrismon. Figures themselves are not on Chrismons. One finds them by counting points, lines or other like elements. The resulting number indicates the idea to consider. The design above, composed of three fish-shaped forms, symbolizes one God in three Persons.

- 1 Unity of the Godhead. One God.
- 2 The two Natures of our Lord, human and divine.
- 3 The Triune God; Persons of the Godhead. Heaven. Or, the known but still unseen God.
- 4 The earth; the four corners of the earth. The four Gospels; the four Evangelists.
- 5 The five wounds of our Lord. Epiphany of the Lord. The Pentateuch.
- 6 God the Father Creator; Days of creation. The attributes of the Messiah. Isaiah 11:2.
- 7 Gifts of the Spirit. Revelation 5:12. The perfect number, 3 + 4: Union of heaven and earth.
- 8 Holy Baptism; Regeneration. Or, "Eighth" day of creation: Resurrection of our Lord. Completion.
- 9 Fruits of the Spirit. Galatians 5:22.
- 10 The Ten Commandments. Ten virgins.
- 12 The Apostles; the Church; the Tribes of Israel.

LETTERS & WORDS

Α Ω

ALPHA & OMEGA: The first and the last letters in the Greek alphabet. Note the two forms of the Omega. "I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end." Revelation 22:13; Isaiah 44:6: 48:12. This symbol of Christ's divinity is generally used with another symbol or monogram for the Lord. Sometimes, lines may be extended from the letters to form a cross.

Α Ω

✝

Α Μ Ω

When a middle letter of the Greek alphabet, MU, is inserted, the idea becomes, "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever." Hebrews 13:8.

I. N. R. I.

First letters of the Latin superscription on the cross, "Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews." John 19:19.

V. D. M. A.

"*Verbum Dei Manet in AEternum.*" Isaiah 40:8; I Peter 1:25.

W. G. E. F.

"The Word of God Endures Forever," translation of the Latin phrase above.

ΙΧΘΥΣ

The Greek word for fish, which forms an acrostic on the Greek phrase, Jesus Christ, God's Son, Savior.

ΝΙΚΑ

The Greek word for Conqueror or Victor: Our Lord's victory over sin and death for us. I Corinthians 15:54-57.

ΕΜΜΑΝΟΥΕΛ

"His name shall be called Emmanuel" (which means, God with us). Matthew 1:23; Isaiah 7:14.

There is an angel on the Chrismon Tree for every child in our Sunday School.

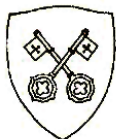


Symbolical of Jesus
as the Light of the
World.

The Chandelier says
to everyone: 'Let your
light so shine before
men that they may see
your good works and
glorify your Father
which is in heaven.'

St. Matthew 5:16

SYMBOLS OF THE APOSTLES



PETER



ANDREW



JAMES



JOHN



PHILIP



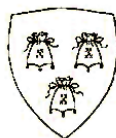
BARTHOLOMEW



THOMAS



JAMES THE LESS



MATTHEW



JUDE



SIMON



JUDAS

Peter - crossed gold and silver keys. "I will give YOU the keys of the kingdom of heaven."
Matthew 16:19 (RSV)

Andrew - a saltire cross, signifying his crucifixion.

James - three scallop shells, representing the pilgrimages he made to establish the Christian faith in Spain.

John - a serpent in a chalice, because his enemies tried to poison him.

Philip - a Latin cross with a loaf of bread on either side under the cross arm, indicating the manner of his death and his remark at the feeding of the five thousand - "Two hundred pennyworth of bread is not sufficient."
John 6:7

Bartholomew - three flaying knives, the instruments of his death.

Thomas - a spear behind a square, showing his trade as a builder and the instrument of his death.

James the Less - a saw to indicate that he was dismembered.

Matthew - three money bags. He had been a tax collector. It is said that he was sent to Abgarus, King of Edessa, in his missionary work for Christ.

Simon - a book with a fish resting on the top of it, to show that he became a fisher of men by the power of the Word of God.

Judas - thirty pieces of silver and a rope coiled in the shape of the letter “J” indicating his treachery and his suicide.



Luke, the Evangelist - not an apostle, but the devoted physician of Paul. He had studied at Antioch and was probably converted after Christ's ascension. He is the author of “The Gospel according to St. Luke” and “The Acts of the Apostles.”

St. Luke Lutheran Church



Fræda and Deacon John Cockshott



Interior of St. Luke Evangelical Lutheran Church

SAFETY PIN ANGELS



Materials List

18 safety pins 1 1/2 inches
80 x 6 mm: 44 white pearls, 36 gold or silver
87 x 3 mm: gold pearls or silver
1x 12 mm: white pearl
1x 14 mm: white pearl
18 x 8 mm pearls. 9 white and 9 gold or silver
60 inches wire -24 gauge
12 inches - hanger cord

Method

Put 4 x 6 mm pearls on each safety pin. Close the safety pin with the tweezers.

Thread a piece of wire(60 inch) through the hooks in the safety pins

Twist the wires tight together.

Thread wire through the top 3 times. Twist wire each time in the center.

On both wires thread first 1x 12 mm pearl and the 14 mm pearl.

On one wire thread 17x3 mm pearls and thread the wire back through the 14 x 12 pearls. The other wire twist twice around the gold beads and thread back through the 14x12 mm pearls. Take wires through the safety pins and twist the wires together tightly.

Take a piece of wire and thread 1x 8 mm pearl between each safety pin to complete the base of the skirt.

Twist both wires together and cut off surplus wire. Take a piece of wire about 24 inches and thread 34 x 3 mm beads. Twist wire to form a wing. Repeat to make a second wing. Twist the two wires between the 14 mm and the 12 mm pearls to make the wings secure.

On each wire add 4x6 mm pearls and 1x 3 mm bead. Pass wire back through the 6 mm pearls and 1x3 mm bead. Pass wire back through the 6 mm pearls and secure by twisting around large pearl.

Repeat the second wire.

When complete twist the two wires together and cut off surplus wire.

Angel is complete. Add hangar cord.

As instructed by Freda Cockshott

St. Luke Lutheran Church



MAY THESE SYMBOLS
CONTINUALLY REMIND
YOU OF GOD'S GREATEST
GIFT TO US ALL,
JESUS CHRIST

We acknowledge the help given by the Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Ascension in Danville, Virginia, and their kindness in giving Freda Cockshott permission to reproduce some of the material in this booklet from their Chrismons guide, written by Frances Kipps Spencer.