

- b. John the Baptizer identified Jesus to be the *true Lamb of God, the Savior of the world!* John said, “Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world” (John 1:29 ESV).

Jesus already has delivered us: The Bible says, “...behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has conquered” (Rev. 5:5 ESV). Then John went on to record these words: “Then I looked, and I heard around the throne and the living creatures and the elders the voice of many angels, numbering myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands, saying with a loud voice, ‘Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!’ And I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, and all that is in them, saying, ‘To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever!’ And the four living creatures said, ‘Amen!’ and the elders fell down and worshiped” (Rev. 5:11-14 ESV).

The Baptismal Font

God’s Work to Unite to Jesus!

The symbol on the top points to the Holy Spirit, the shell points to the water of baptism, and the three drops point to God’s three-fold name into which we were baptized. Jesus said, “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you” (Mt. 28:19 ESV).

The Lectern and Pulpit Symbols

Each One has a Meaning!

Lectern Symbol: Jesus is the Word of God; He is also the King of kings:

1. “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God” (John 1:1 ESV).
2. “They will make war on the Lamb, and the Lamb will conquer them, for he is Lord of lords and King of kings, and those with him are called and chosen and faithful” (Rev. 17:14 ESV).

Pulpit Symbol: The book is the Bible; we preach God’s Word. The two vertical lines symbolize law and gospel; law *shows our sin*, while gospel *shows our Savior*. This is good law – gospel passage: “For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord” (Rom. 6:23 ESV).

The Candles

Each One has a Meaning!

Eternal Light: It symbolizes the eternal presence of God, *so it is always burning*. Jesus said, “I am with you always, to the end of the age” (Mt. 28:20 ESV).

Altar Candles: They represent Jesus:

1. He is both God and Man: “...the high priest said to [Jesus]... tell us if you are the Christ, the Son of God.’ Jesus said to him, ‘You have said so’” (Mt. 26:63-64 ESV). An angel to Joseph: “She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins” (Mt. 1:21 ESV).
2. He gave His body and shed His blood; **Matthew 26:26-28.**

Wall Candles: They symbolize the Holy Spirit: “John to the seven churches that are in Asia: Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come [the Father], and from the seven spirits who are before his throne [the Holy Spirit], and from Jesus Christ [the Son]” (Rev. 1:4-5 ESV). The shape of a fish is an ancient Christian symbol.

Four Advent Candles: They symbolize the nearness of Jesus – *the celebration of His first coming*, which we celebrate on Christmas, *and the anticipation of His second coming*, which could be very soon (1 Thess. 5:2)!

Christmas Candle: The center Advent Wreath Candle is lit during the season of Christmas to enhance our celebration of His birth!

Christ Candle: It is lit for each service from *Christmas Eve through the day of Jesus’ Ascension* to symbolize His physical presence with us during that time of the Church Year.

Baptism Candle: It is lit when a child is baptized to symbolize the reality of God’s work to unite sinners to Jesus, the Savior, who is the light of the world (John 8:12 ESV).

Conclusion

We are saved **by** grace **through** faith **in** Jesus **for** eternal life! By God’s grace let us always trust in Jesus *as our only Savior* and live for Him *as our only Lord!*

You Are Invited to Join Us

Website: BethlehemLutheranChurchParma.com
Location: 7500 State Road, Parma, Ohio 44134
(Just South of Pleasant Valley Road)
Facebook: “Bethlehem Lutheran Church Parma”
Podcast: “Benefit from the Bible”
Contact: 440-845-2230; pastor@blc7500.com

(Last Update: 5-16)

Our Worship Area Symbols



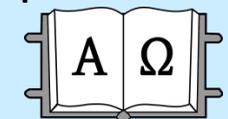
What Do They Mean?

Introduction

Dear Friend: Since all have sinned and need to be saved, God sent His Son – **Jesus, the Christ** – to take away the sin of the world! Now, God is enabling everyone to repent (*which includes sorrow for sin and trust in Jesus as Lord and Savior*). For all who know Jesus as Savior, they want to honor Him with their lives but they also fall into sin; therefore, God wants them to know they are forgiven!

This brochure will focus on our worship area symbols which point us to Jesus and the forgiveness we have through Him!

The Alpha and the Omega



Jesus is the First and the Last!

We are familiar with A and Z, the first and last letters in the English alphabet. The letters under our altar are the first and last in the

Greek alphabet; they are pronounced Alpha and Omega. Jesus said of Himself: “I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end. Blessed are those who wash their robes, so that they may have the right to the tree of life and that they may enter the city by the gates” (Rev. 22:13-14 ESV). What is that washing all about? The Bible says that those in heaven “have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb” (Rev. 7:14 ESV).

The Altar



Jesus is the Ultimate Sacrifice!

Sacrifice was common in the Old Testament; it began with God making animal-skin clothes for Adam and Eve; then it continued with the countless animal sacrifices which were offered to God. All such sacrifices were pointing ahead to Jesus’ once for all Sacrifice. When John saw Jesus coming he said, “Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world” (John 1:29 ESV). The Bible says that “Christ...suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God” (1 Pet. 3:18 ESV).

The Altar is also the table from which we receive His Supper – *His body given and His blood shed*, to assure us that we are forgiven through Him. The Bible records: “as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and after blessing it broke it and gave it to the disciples, and said, ‘Take, eat; this is my body.’ And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he gave it to them, saying, ‘Drink of it, all of you,

for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins’ (Mt. 26:26-28 ESV).

The Altar and Processional Crucifixes



Jesus Sacrificed Himself for Us!

We are helpless to save ourselves: “...by works of the law no human being will be justified in [God’s] sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sin” (Rom. 3:20 ESV).

Animal sacrifices do not remove sins: “...since the law has but a shadow of the good things to come... it can never, by the same sacrifices that are continually offered every year, make perfect those who draw near.... But in these sacrifices there is a reminder of sins every year. For it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins” (Heb. 10:1-4 ESV).

We all need Jesus’ saving work: “Thus it was necessary for the copies of the heavenly things to be purified with these [animal sacrifices], but the heavenly things themselves with better sacrifices than these. For Christ has entered, not into holy places made with hands, which are copies of the true things, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God on our behalf. Nor was it to offer himself repeatedly, as the high priest enters the holy places every year with blood not his own, for then he would have had to suffer repeatedly since the foundation of the world. But as it is, he has appeared once for all at the end of the ages to put away sin by

the sacrifice of himself. And just as it is appointed for man to die once, and after that comes judgment, so Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time, not to deal with sin but to save those who are eagerly waiting for him” (Heb. 9:23-28 ESV).

The Large Cross



Jesus Is Our Risen Savior and Lord!

The large cross has three letters in the center: **HIS** – capital Greek letters. They are called a *Christogram* and are derived from the first three letters of the Greek name of Jesus (Ιησοῦς), I (I = *iota*) H (H = *eta*) S (S = *sigma*).

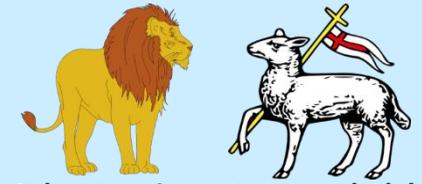
The cross is all about Jesus, God’s Son:

- † He lived without sin *for us!*
- † He was nailed to a cross *for us!*
- † He bore *our sins!*
- † He laid down *His life!*
- † He opened heaven *to all believers!*

An angel said to the women who visited Jesus’ tomb, “He is not here, for he has risen, as he said” (Mt. 28:6 ESV).

It is right for believers to honor Jesus as Lord; He said, “Why do you call me ‘Lord, Lord,’ and not do what I tell you” (Luke 6:46 ESV)?

The Stained Glass Window



It has two important symbols!

Look for a large lion and a lamb with a banner. What do they mean? *They both point us to our victorious Lord Jesus Christ:*

1. **Jesus is the Lion of Judah:** *Powerful to win the ultimate victory!*
 - a. God promised to send His Son as an *eventual descendant of Judah:* “Judah is a lion’s cub; from the prey, my son, you have gone up. He stooped down; he crouched as a lion and as a lioness; who dares rouse him” (Gen. 49:9 ESV)?
 - b. Jesus won the victory over sin, death, and the devil! “And one of the elders said to me, ‘Weep no more; behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has conquered...’” (Rev. 5:5 ESV).
2. **Jesus is the Lamb of God:** *The perfect, once-for-all sacrifice for all sins!*
 - a. The unblemished lambs pointed ahead to Jesus perfect sacrifice. When the Lord decreed: “every firstborn in the land of Egypt shall die” (Exodus 11:5 ESV), he also provided a way for those who trusted in Him to escape through the blood of an unblemished year-old lamb. The Lord said: “when I see the blood, I will pass over you” (Exodus 12:13 ESV).