



**Reflections:
A Guide to
'The Trinity
Lutheran
Windows'
By Becky
Anderson**

Yet you, LORD, are our Father.
We are the clay, you are the potter;
We are all the work of your hand - *Isaiah 64:8*

Rediscovering 'The Trinity Windows' - A Love Story

By Becky Anderson

A Journey has to have a beginning, and mine begins long before I ever thought of myself making stained glass windows or even being an artist to any degree. Mine is the journey and story of the stained glass windows, and what led me to create them.

I was the second of four daughters born into a tragically dysfunctional family. I spent my first two years of college with an eating disorder weighing close to 80 pounds. I spent my days running and then eating one meal a day. I would collapse into bed after trying to study and hope that God would just take me away, as I was too tired to face the next day and the anxiety that would arrive in the morning.

I finished school with a major in Elementary and Secondary Art Education, and a minor in Art Therapy. I worked a summer job weighing trucks for my dad and met a handsome young architect, who soon provided my life with an amazing and never-known-before thing called *unconditional love*. This young man promised me that if I would only marry him, my life would never be boring! He has lived up to that one! He also taught me how to never be afraid of anything. And to never stop dreaming of what I could do - the sky's the limit!

After marriage I became a Lutheran! I discovered that I live by Grace!

My life soon became a creative place and my thoughts were filled

with visions of beautiful scripture made real to me through my new understanding. The Bethel series that I studied when we joined Trinity picked me up and carried me visually . the Scriptures with delicious new meaning and with a longing to recreate their beautiful story for myself!

With a need and financial support, I began to create with an amazing energy and a new spirit that God supplied for me inside and out. In my prayers, I asked for a new understanding, and for God to guide my hand through careful interpretation of what he wanted me to "say".

For the first time in my life, I felt completely free to be creative with a life centered in the love of a husband who supported me and a God who help me up to speak his story. Not a Sunday goes by, when I don't hear a compliment or a story about the window (at TLC). I have heard that some people even find their special pew close to the window of their choice.

THE WINDOWS

Each window has its own special symbolism as was extensively planned to give meaning to the subject and to creatively satisfy a need to tell The Story.

The Creation Window:

The Father's hands - Hands of a loving Father taken from what I remember of my own father's hands ready to guide and hold me.

The Earth rising out of the sea - God creating the Earth.



The Garden - the Ultimate place that God created for humans to dwell including flowers, trees, flowing waterfall and also the Apple Tree.

The Snake - the strong representation of the devil himself looms in the background.

The Blazing Sun - another strong symbol of creation.

All of these are visual images that I entered into and are details that needed to be handled with the utmost detail and sensitivity to creatively show the scene as it actually could have been in my mind as if it were possible to have been present at this moment in time.

The Baptism Window: The incredible story of Jesus choosing to be baptized by John the Baptist at the Jordan River.

In this window, the glass that was chosen for the most intimate details of clothing was precariously han-

dled. To choose glass to imitate clothing is always tricky at best, but in this case the extensive resources of glass I had must carefully show the correct amount of texture and luminescence.



The Jordan River, itself, is carefully portrayed as a lush and vibrant garden with cat tails and water lilies to celebrate the supreme joy of the moment.

The Ascending Dove - The very symbol of God's divine presence

The Water - present in all of the windows in its most dramatic appearance and a true representation of the Will of God.

The Crucifixion Window:

Christ's Body wrapped in a circle of Gold - God's Recognition of His Son with the rays of light ending at the Body as well as the Dove overhead.

The gray, unfurling curls of glass

were specifically chosen to represent the story of the Crucifixion fulfilling the ancient scriptures.



The Red and Orange flames represent Christ going to hell to fight for our Salvation and forgiveness through his death and resurrection.

The Easter Lilies - an ever-present sign of Christ's victory over death!

The Pentecost Window:

The story of the Disciples who had locked themselves in an upper room while the Holy Spirit suddenly descends on them through a window.

The Fiery Red and Gold glass for this window was intentionally chosen from the Spectrum Glass Company in Seattle. It is made with small particles of gold which, when layered in massive sheets and fired in the giant ovens, explode with vibrant color and texture each like a one-of-a-kind adventure!

The Disciples, themselves, are



shown in a mass of confusion and excitement. They are both blinded and deafened by this occurrence and struggle to deal with this miracle.

The Revelation Window - The Second Coming:

This window portrays the story of the second coming of Christ in Revelations.

The fulfillment of the scriptures' symbol of the unfurling gray tendrils, tie themselves from Christ to the promise of God to His Creation showing that God will not forsake His people even through sin and death, He will remember His promise.

The Cross itself also takes on the image of a boat mast, steadying the people through the stormy seas of events surrounding the final days.

Christ - is portrayed showing the nail holes in His hands revealing



proof of the Crucifixion and gesturing to all people to rise and join Him in Heaven,

The Angels - The Trumpeter Gabriel calling to signal the final days as a sign in the scripture to come in the final days on earth.

The Communion Window:

This window is the largest window with perhaps over 2,000 individual pieces. This window was created under the careful eye of Pastor Eric Ranum.

The rich colors of deep purple grapes and wine are in definite contrast to the soft colors of the wheat and fresh bread - representing the sacred Sacraments that we enjoy and share in God's presence in our sanctuary.

The grape vines are symbols of several stories in the Bible of Life Blood of Christ shed for man, while the Bread is also represented in the Bible as the Body of Christ being

broken for us as well.

The landscape in the background is an representation of a Heavenly scene to remind us of the Maker of all good and sacred sacraments.



Reflections.

So, the story of these stained glass windows is actually a Love Story of sorts. These are the story of a Living God showing his unconditional love for his Creation - His people.

They are true examples of Life on Earth - the extreme fragileness, the excitement, the color, and the pain and suffering - which remind us of the promised that God made and keeps for us.

I have designed and built many window projects over the years, in-

cluding the four window collection above the altar at the Church of the Master, but non had the calling and compelling message experienced in the Trinity Windows.



Trinity Lutheran Church
812 N. 5th Street
Coeur d'Alene, Idaho 83814
(208) 664-5743

www.trinitylutheran-cda.org