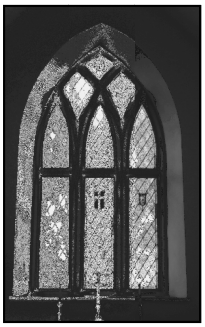
Christian Symbols in Stained Glass Windows

Stained glass windows in the church have been respected for centuries as way of teaching through the eyes, just as audible words seek to teach through the ears. The nave gothic windows in this church contain new translucent colored glass, and the windows at both ends of the main aisle have Christian symbols included.



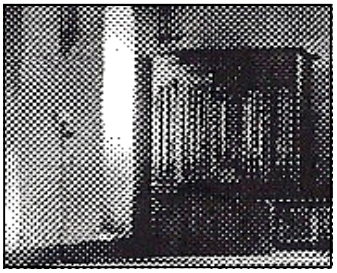
The Altar window was designed by the Rev. Dr. Victor Zuck, past President of Old St. Luke's Church. and given in memory of David B. Shakarian, founder of the General Nutrition Company. All of the windows in the church were fabricated by the Hunt Studio, Pittsburgh, replacing the original 1852 glass.

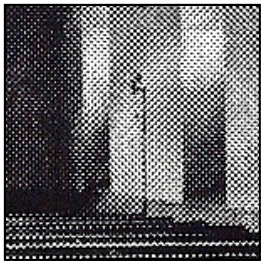
At the crown of the Altar Window are the initials IHS, the first three Greek letters of the name Jesus.
(It can also be shown as IHC, or as INRI which means "Iesus Nazarenus Rex Iudacorum", that is, "Jesus Nazareth, the King of the Jews".)

This view of the Altar Window shows three symbols of the Christian Faith. On the left is the symbol of wheat, viz., the Bread that represents the Body of Christ. On the right is a grape vine, viz., the Wine representing the Blood of Christ. In the center panel is the Cross of Christ, mounted on a shield.

The Clerestory Window is above the front entrance and the start of the main aisle of the Church It is placed there in memory of Eleanor Knabe and designed by the Rev. Dr. Victor Zuck. The outside frame is a triangle with red rays representing the Holy Trinity. The primary circle, without end, is the symbol for eternity. It enfolds three trefoil circles for the Godhead, all enfolding a descending white dove symbolizing the presence here of God the Holy Spirit.

Let there be (Gas) Light





Our archive contains this grainy photo, above, of the church interior, and if you look carefully on the two enlarged photos, gas lights and the pipes can be made out; on the left near the organ, and on the right near the pulpit. Note that the walls are plastered.

When this building was constructed the only light source probably was either candles or newly developed kerosene lamps. At an unknown date, gas lamps were added to the church. This photo shows a notch cut into the wainscoting in each of eight locations for the gas pipes extending upward on the stone wall. (*Gas lamps were installed on Pittsburgh city streets in 1849.)*

Starting in 1975 our newly formed Board held winter meetings near the pot belly stone and kerosene heaters. We are not certain of the date when electric and water lines were added and the construction of two lavatories had been completed. The adjoining area we now call the Bride's Room was hand dug by volunteers, which initially was meant to be a kitchen.

The first electric baseboard heaters were installed in 1986. Four very efficient electric blowers were installed in 1996. The installation of an air cooler unit in 2009 has not effectively cooled the size of the interior of the church. We are testing the possibility of using the new fluorescent bulbs in the two main chandeliers.