

## South Steeple Window Stain Glass Design



Our life in Christ Jesus can be represented in symbols and color. Color and its uses are truly a gift from God. From the very first day of creation (*Genesis 1-2:3*) God was adding color to his world and on the six day to his people. Our church celebrates many wonderful events each year with color. As standards we have green, violet, rose, red, white, silver, gold and black which we use to represent seasons in the church. So the use of color in this stain glass window is quite appropriate for our church space. Pulling from the existing stain glass in the church which is free following forms – and our theology, directly from the Bible, we feel we have a stain glass piece that represents our life as Christians and the wonderful designer God we serve.

Let's begin on our journey through our stain glass window and get to know our God, his word, and the symbols that represent him a little better:

Working our way from top to bottom let's start with the square on point!

What do you think those elements mean?

What is in the box? God's Kingdom Throne Room

- Three white circles- represent the Triune God, God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit. Three is God's number!
- Blocks represents the throne where God reigns

- River of Life starting at the throne (Revelation 22:1) because God provides the life giving water, through that water, baptism we are saved
- The River of Life sustains and it tells of a wonderful day when we will be able drink its water forever!

That's a pretty big tree; do you know where it comes from?

The Tree of Life has two meanings

First Biblical

- It was in the Garden of Eden, It is believed that God brought it up to heaven when he cursed the land after the fall.
- It bears 12 different fruits one every month
- The tree is so big it straddles the river in heaven Revelation 22:1-2
- We made it with many colors to show how vibrant life it can be, also that the tree of life can save and heal.

Second Meaning

- We live in Minnesota!

The Tree of Life is

- Firmly planted on 12 lines that break up the bottom of the design
- These 12 lines represent the twelve foundations of heaven Revelation 21:14,19,20. Twelve Tribes of Israel, the Twelve Apostles.
  - Twelve is a very important number to the church. It also represents the New and the Old Covenant that God has with his people.

The agates are located at the tree roots, add wonderful dimension but they have symbolism as well. Luke 19:40 reminds us that if we don't praise the Lord the rocks will cry out his praises and his truths! As well as Jesus will be a stumbling block for those who do not understand or want to understand. 1 Peter 2:7-8.

Can you see there are some white circles with purple in the middle? How many are there? Did you count six or seven? There are seven, but one is located behind one of the supporting cross beams.

They represents Gifts of the Holy Spirit! Wisdom, Understanding, Right Judgment, Courage, Knowledge, Piety and Fear!

Seven is a big church number! Seven days to make the earth and us, Revelation has many references for seven churches, seven angels of the seven churches and their seven lamp stands that are at the throne of God. Seven represent God and is the perfect number; six is the number of man.

The three yellow banners that totally wrap their way throughout the window represent how God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit work through our lives every day. They are always with us and surround us with love, grace and mercy!

The bottom square on point

Any idea what that symbol is? Who is good with Hebrew?

These symbols tell us God name, the great I AM, Yahweh. That is the Jewish symbol for God. The Hebrews didn't even want to say God's name out of fear of the Lord. In fact, today if you cruise around on the internet to some true Jewish websites they will leave letters out of God's name, they believe that they will offend him if they use his proper name!

I hope you enjoyed our walk through the stain glass. Please check out the Bible verse where this plan for our lives unfolds.

May the Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you; the Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace. (*Numbers 6:24-26*) Grace and peace be yours in abundance through the knowledge of Jesus our Lord. (*2 Peter 1:2*)