

# Bethlehem

## Lutheran Christmas Church



1. [Entrance Plaza](#)
2. [Church](#)

### Note :

- For more information about this church see [www.bethlehemchristmaslutheran.org](http://www.bethlehemchristmaslutheran.org)
- All Biblical quotes are based on the New Revised Standard Version
- The following abbreviations are used :
  - B. – Blessed
  - Fr. - Friar
  - St. – Saint
  - V. - Venerable

# Entrance Plaza

## Street View



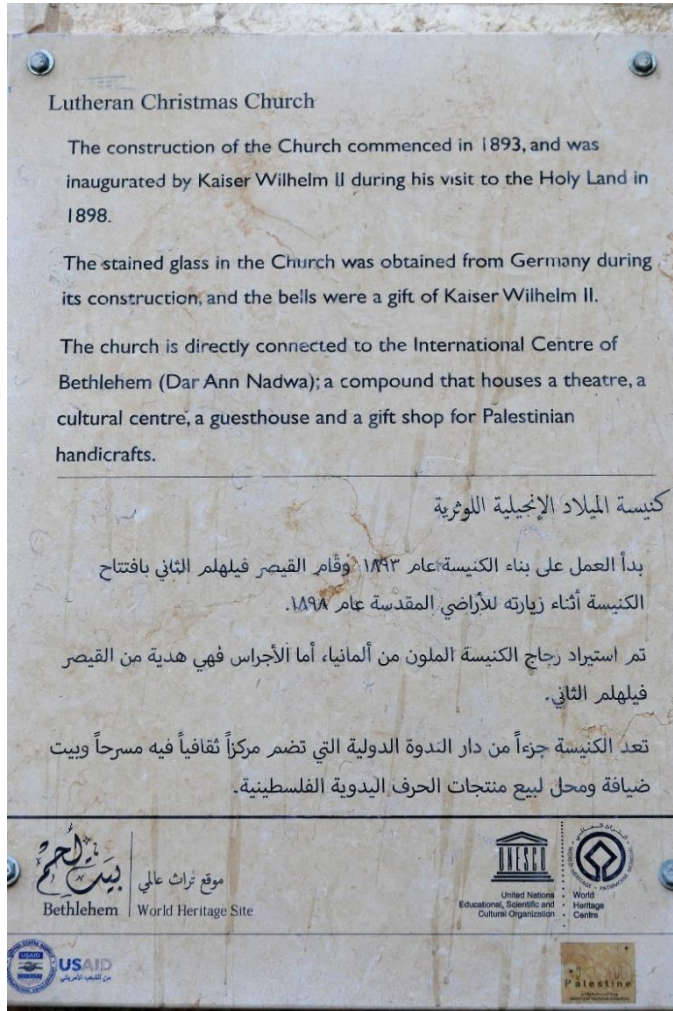
Entrance to the church compound



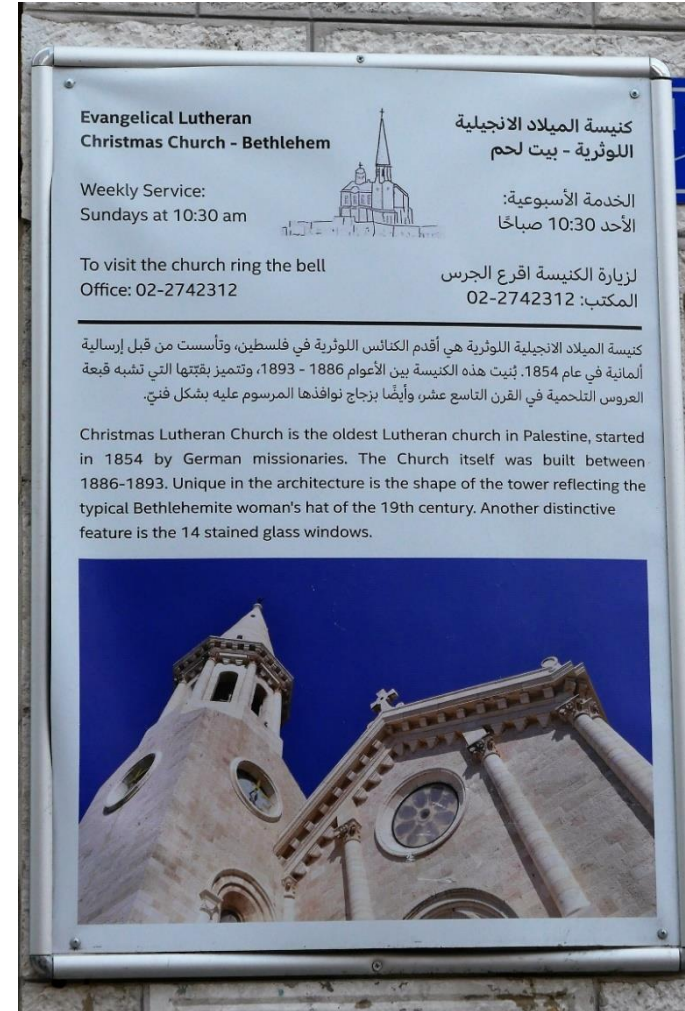
The church is located inside the Old City, at the corner of Paul VI Street and al-Fawaghra Street\*



## Street View



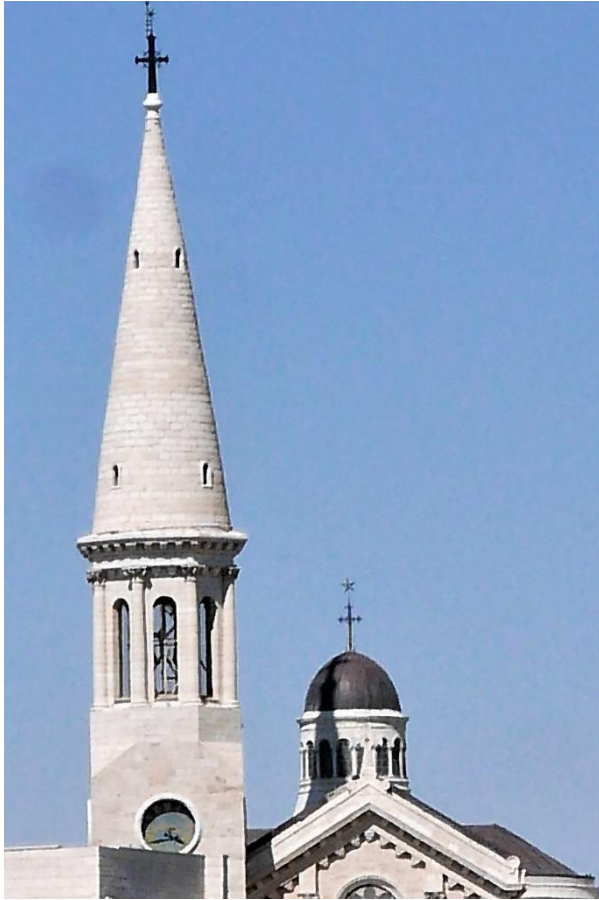
Historical summary\*



Church information

\* Following the 2012 announcement of the Church of Nativity and the Pilgrimage Route as an UNESCO World Heritage site, the Palestinian Authority installed many information plaques around the Old City and the Pilgrimage route

# Church Silhouette



Western façade\*



Northern façade

## 1. Entrance Plaza

\* The shape of the bell tower reflects the typical Bethlehemite women's hat of the 19<sup>th</sup> century



## Courtyard



Bell tower\*



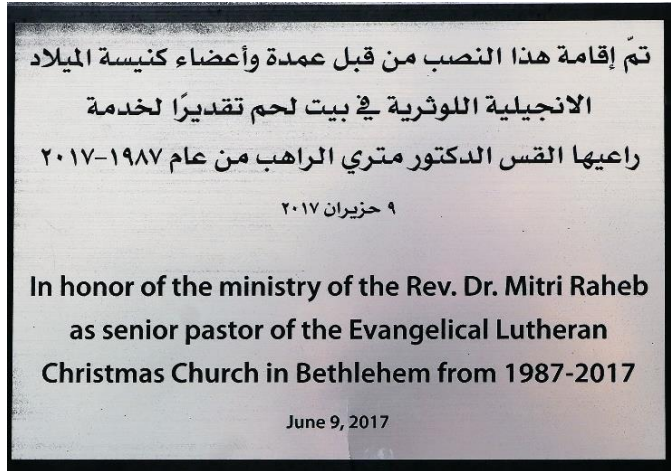
Western façade - Entrance to the church

## 1. Entrance Plaza

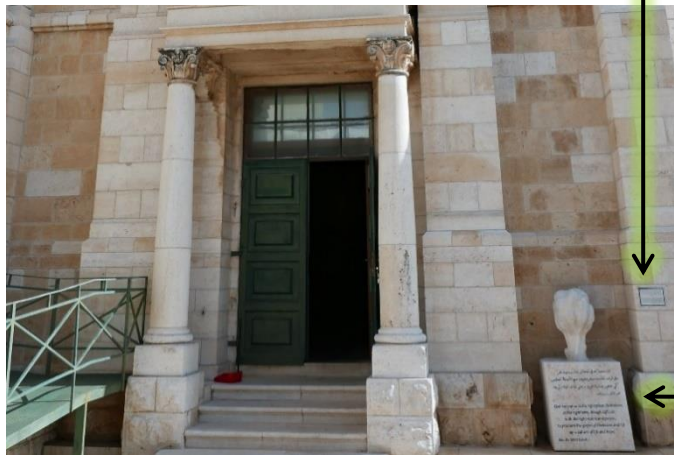
\* The bell tower has 4 clocks, one on each side

# Courtyard – Tribute to Rev. Dr. Mitri Raheb\*

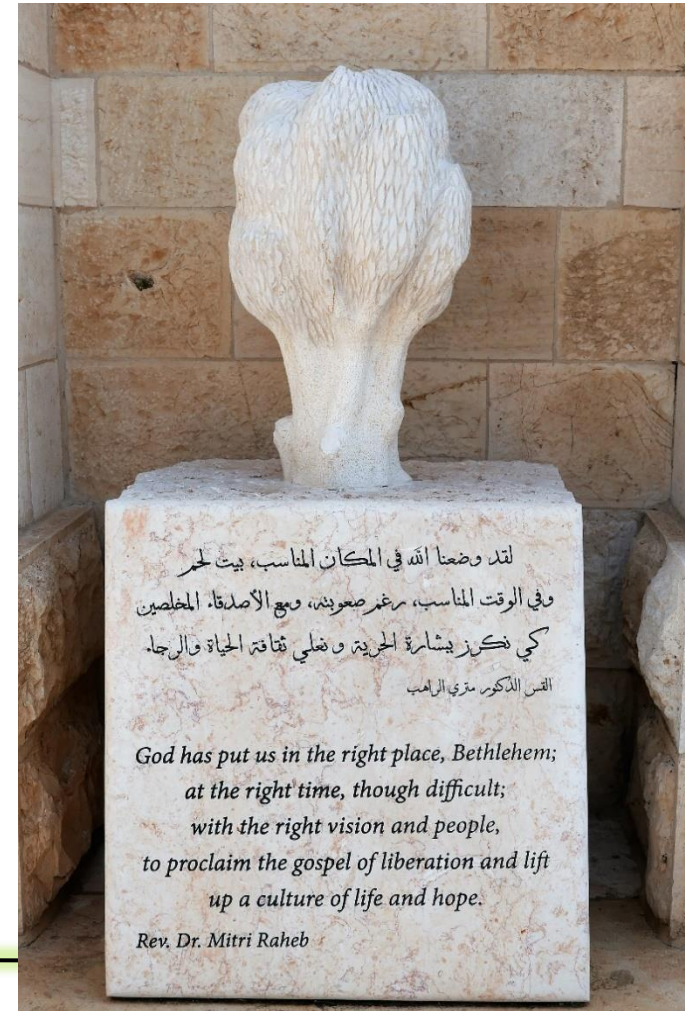
\* For more on his work see [www.mitriraheb.org](http://www.mitriraheb.org)



Appreciation plaque



Entrance to the church



In his own words

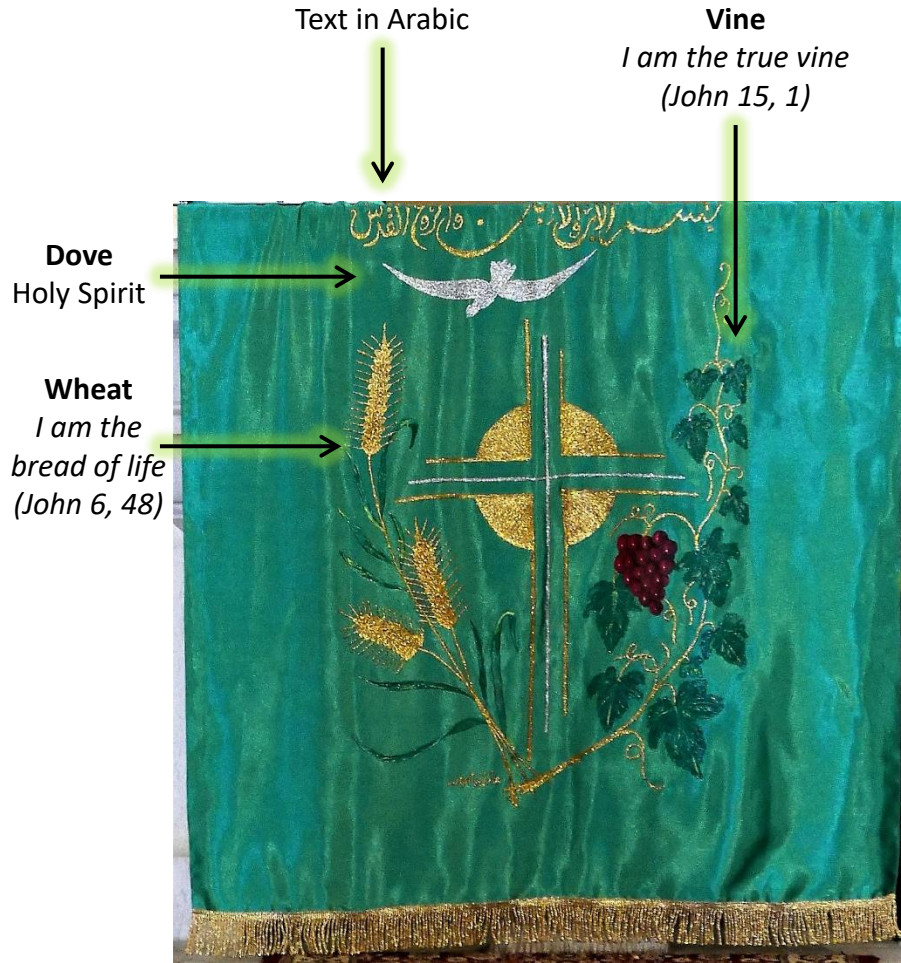
# Church



## Church – Eastward View



# Church – Apse



Embroidered altar cloth



Altar



## Church – Westward View



Entrance

Staircase to organ  
and bell tower



Organ

Ps. 51, 17. Herr thue meine Lippen auf,  
dafs mein Mund Deinen Ruhm verkündige

*O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth  
will declare your praise (Psalm 51, 15)\**



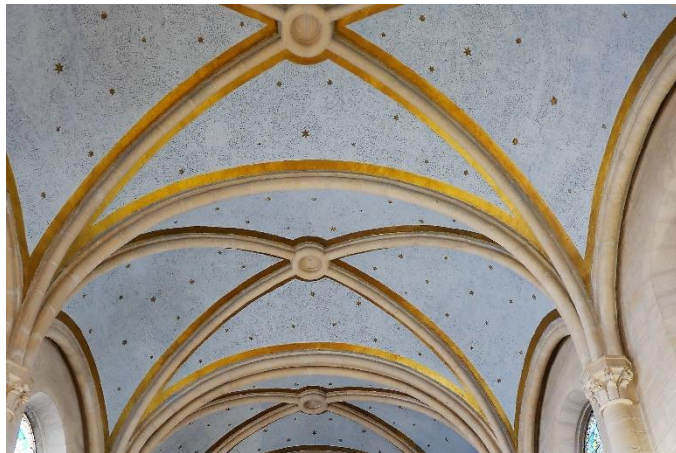
## Church – Ceiling



Dome

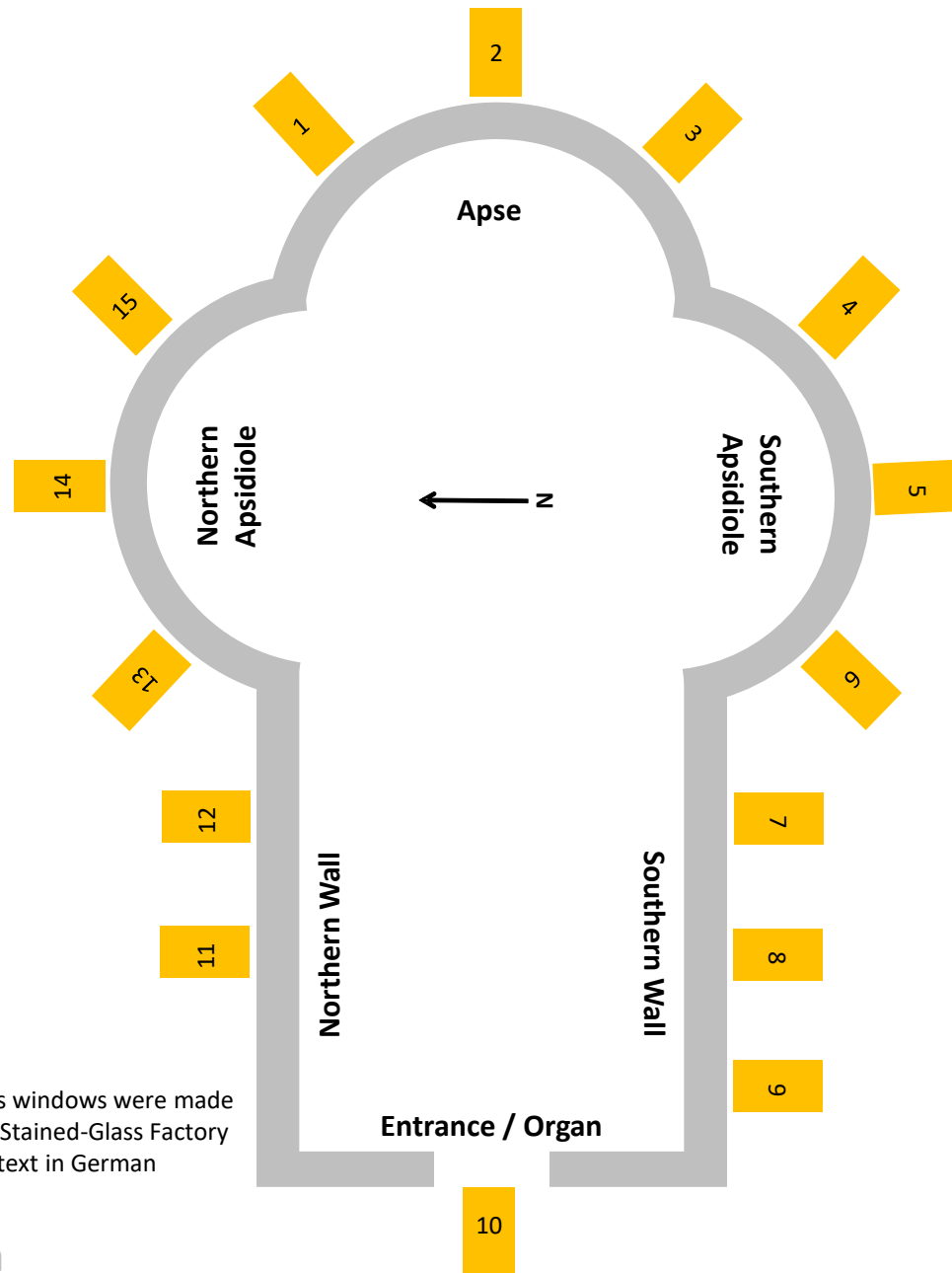


*Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace,  
good will toward men (Luke 2, 14)\**



Vaults and stars

## Stained-Glass Windows – General Layout\*



- 1 – Nativity of Jesus
- 2 – The Shepherds
- 3 – The Wise Men
- 4 – Resurrection of Jesus
- 5 – Crucifixion of Jesus
- 6 – Jesus in Gethsemane
- 7 – The Good Shepherd
- 8 – The Bread of Life
- 9 – Triumphant Lamb
- 10 – Rosetta
- 11 – The Last Supper
- 12 – The Anointing of David
- 13 – Jesus being baptized by John the Baptist
- 14 – Jesus the Adolescent in the Temple
- 15 – The Flight to Egypt

\* The stained-glass windows were made by the Emperor Stained-Glass Factory in Germany. All text in German



# Stained-Glass Window #1



**Nativity of Jesus**

*And Mary said "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior" (Luke 1, 46-47)*



Ox and Ass



**Ernst & Camilla von Mirbach**

Donors



## Stained-Glass Window #1



**Coat of Arms**  
Ernst & Camilla von Mirbach

## Stained-Glass Window #2



**The Shepherds**  
*I am bringing you good news  
of great joy (Luke 2, 10)*



**Loesche**  
Donors



## Stained-Glass Window #3



### The Wise Men

*We observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage (Matthew 2, 2)*



**Evangelical Lutheran Parish  
in Philadelphia  
Donors**



## Stained-Glass Window #4



**Resurrection of Jesus**

*And remember, I am with you always,  
to the end of the age (Matthew 28, 20)\**



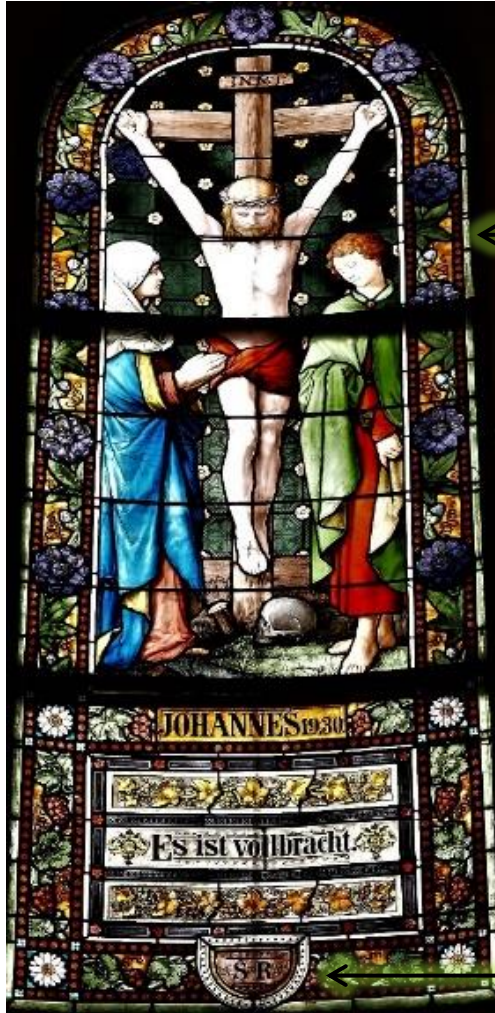
Angel

Guard

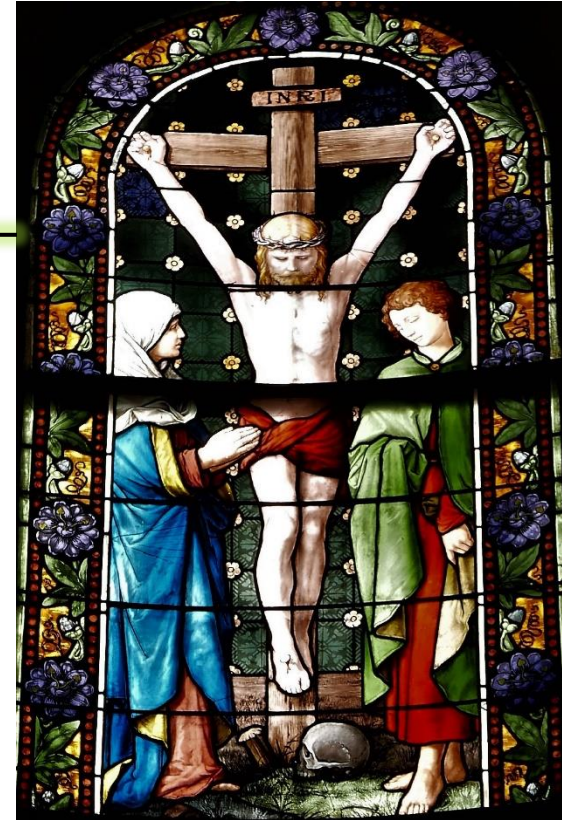


**Ms. Helene von Korn**  
Donors

## Stained-Glass Window #5



**Crucifixion of Jesus\***  
*It is finished (John 19, 30)*



**S-R**  
**?????**



# Stained-Glass Window #6



**Jesus in Gethsemane**

*Stay awake and pray that you may not come into the time of trial (Matthew 26, 41)*



**S-R**  
????



# Stained-Glass Window #7



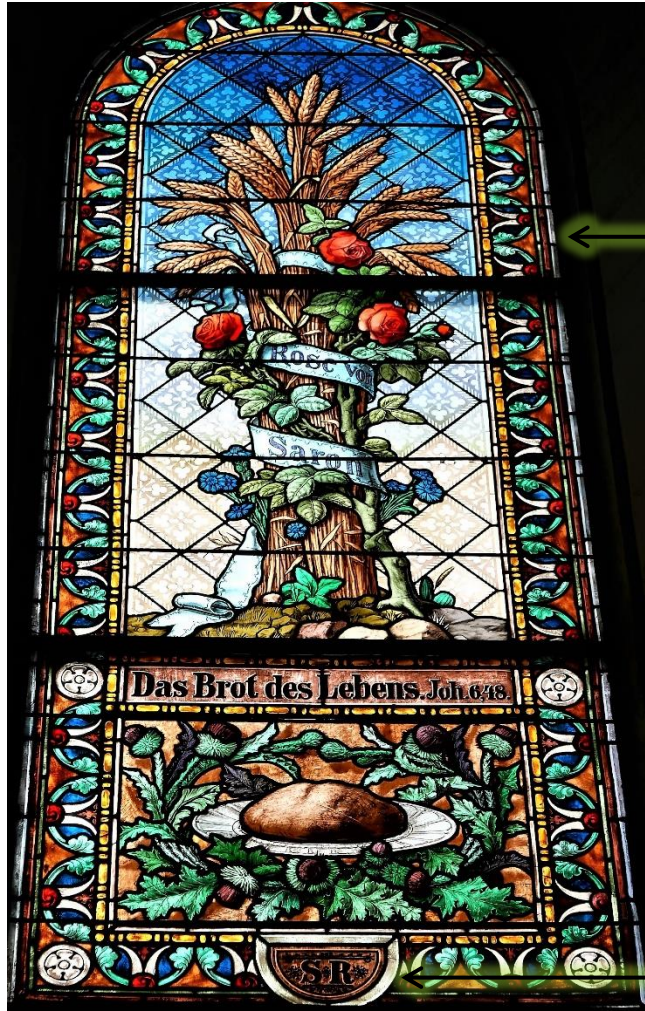
**The Good Shepherd**  
*Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost (Luke 15, 6)*



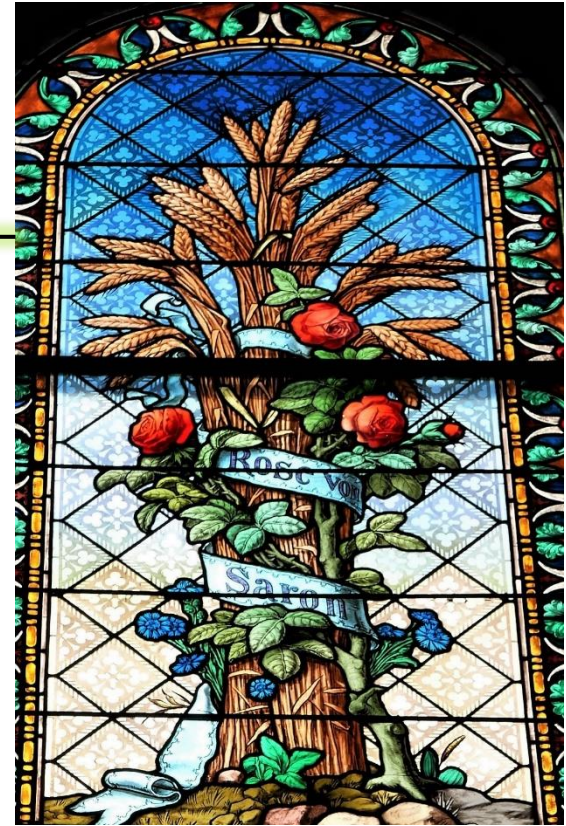
**S-R**  
????



# Stained-Glass Window #8



**The Bread of Life**  
*I am the bread of life (John 6, 48)*



*...Rose of Sharon (Song of Songs 2,1)*



**S-R**  
????



# Stained-Glass Window #9



*The snake killer (Revelation 5, 12)\**



Triumphant Lamb



S-R  
????

\* The quoted text does not match the reference. Maybe the text refers to the Lion while the reference to the Lamb - see more in the next page

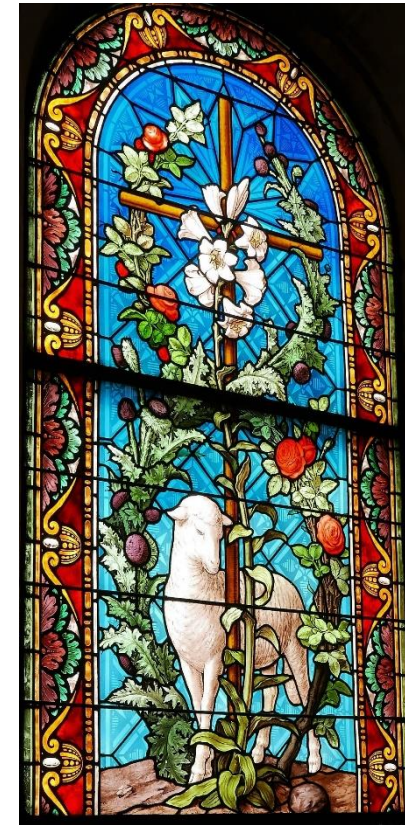


## Stained-Glass Window #9



**The Snake Killer\***

Visually, the scene depicts the victory of the Lion over the Serpent, recalling the Biblical text *"The LORD said to the serpent...he will strike your head"* (Genesis 3, 14-15). Theologically, the scene depicts the victory of Christ (represented by the Lion, attribute of Tribe of Judah) over Evil (represented by the Serpent)



**Triumphant Lamb**

*Worthy is the Lamb that was slaughtered to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honour and glory and blessing* (Revelation 5, 12)\*



## Stained-Glass Window #10

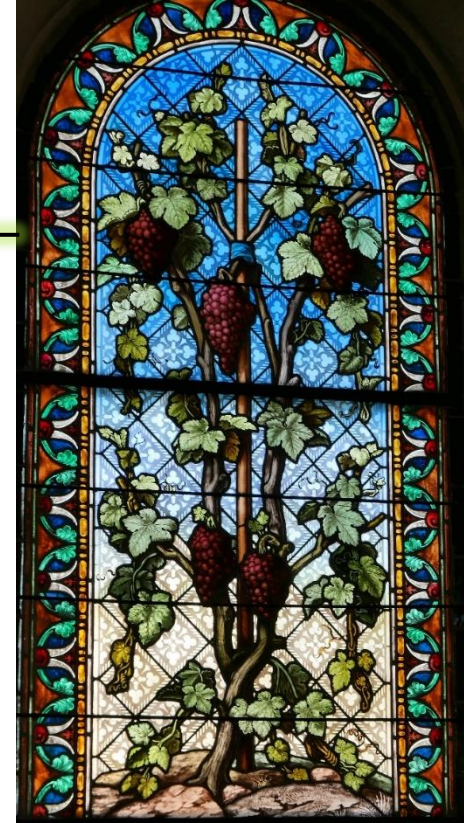


Rosetta

# Stained-Glass Window #11



**The Last Supper**  
*This cup...is the new covenant (Luke 22, 20)*



*Fruit of the vine (Luke 22,18)*



**S-R**  
????



# Stained-Glass Window #12



Samuel

Jesse

David



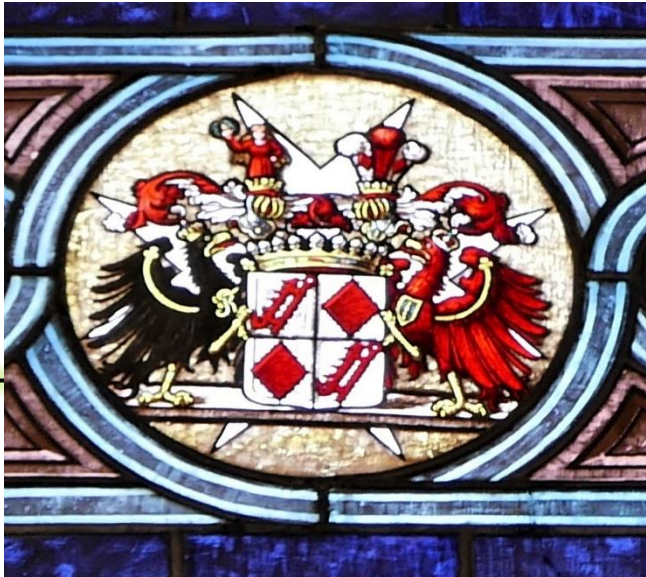
Graf von Zieten  
Schwerin  
Donor

## The Anointing of David

*The LORD said : "Rise and anoint him,  
for this is the one" (Samuel I 16, 12)*



Stained-Glass Window #12



Coat of Arms  
Graf von Zieten



# Stained-Glass Window #13



Dove  
Holy Spirit



**Jesus being baptized by John the Baptist**  
*This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased (Matthew 3, 17)*

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in Philadelphia**  
Donors



## Stained-Glass Window #14



**Jesus the Adolescent in the Temple**  
*Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house ? (Luke 2, 49)*



**Caroline Kersten**  
Donor



## Stained-Glass Window #15



**The Flight to Egypt**  
*Get up, take the child...and  
flee to Egypt (Matthew 2, 13)*



**Ms. Helene von Korn**  
Donor