

The Chrismon Ornaments and their Symbolic Meaning

We encourage you to come close to the Chrismon Tree and enjoy these unique ornaments.

The decorations on the tree are called CHRISMON, a combination of two words: CHRISt & MONogram. Thus a CHRISMON is a monogram of Christ. Patterns for several of the Chrismon ornaments were copied with permission from the Ascension Lutheran Church of Danville, VA where the concept of the Chrismon Tree originated in the 1950s. After finding many ornaments made in the 1980s in our church attic this tradition has continued. Many of our Chrismon designs are from the Ascension Church while other designs are from Pinterest or created by our own church members.



ANGELS OF GLORY

Angels of gold and white beads scattered throughout the Chrismon Tree. An angel came to Mary to tell of the special baby that was to be born.



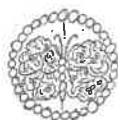
BELLS OF CHRISTMAS

Ring the Bells on the tree, "Good News" Jesus Christ is born! The season of Christmastide begins December 25 and ends January 5. The season of Epiphany begins January 6, also the day the Wise Men came to bring gifts to the newborn "King".



BLESSING HAND OF BENEDICTION

The Latin prefix "bene" means "good / well" which is why many churches have a blessing giving guidance, usually at the end of a worship service.



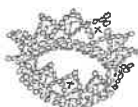
BUTTERFLY in the circle of ETERNITY

The butterfly is the symbol of eternal life, when out of the darkness of the cocoon, a new life is born. Thus the beautiful symbol for the resurrection of Jesus. John 3:16



CHI-RHO CHRISTOGRAM

The Chi-Rho symbol (Ϟ) combines two Greek letters into a symbol that looks like the letter X placed over the stem of the letter P. The Greek letters chi and rho are found at the beginning of *Χριστῶ*, which translates to "Christ" in English. The Chi-Rho is also called the Christogram because it is a monogram of Christ.



CHRIST'S CROWN

Placed on our Chrismon Tree on Christmas Eve; The crown is a symbol for the Kingship of our Lord, Jesus Christ, the King of kings and Lord of lords. 1 Timothy 6:15



CLUSTER OF GRAPES

The crystal cluster of grapes symbolizes "the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control". Gal. 5:22-23



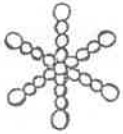
CRECHE

The Creche (from the Latin word *Cripia* "crib or cradle"), refers to the crib of Jesus in the stable of Bethlehem.



FISH with IXOYE

The fish, an ancient symbol for Christ used as a secret sign during early Christianity's persecution period. The IXOYE is the Greek word for fish referring to the first letter; Jesus Christ, God's Son & Savior. The circle surrounding the fish signifies Eternity.



IOTA CHI STARS

The Iota (I) is the first letter of Jesus in Greek. The Chi (X) is the first letter as a title for Christ. The little gold beads, a symbol of the Iota Chi, resemble a six-pointed star.



IOTA CHI in the circle of ETERNITY

The IOTA CHI STAR represents Christ and the white rose represents His birth. The circle around the IX signifies Eternity.



JERUSALEM CROSS

Known as the Crusader Cross, the four (T) TAU crosses meet to form a larger cross, a completion of the crucifixion resulting in our salvation. Four gold Greek crosses indicate Christ's followers.



LATIN or ROMAN CROSS

This cross is widely used in most Christian Churches around the world. It reminds us of our Lord's saving work redeeming humankind through his sacrifice on the cross.



LATIN or ROMAN CROSS with ALPHA & OMEGA

Early Christians often combined the Alpha & Omega with the cross to declare our Savior's divinity. "I am Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end". Rev 22:13; Isaiah 44:6; Isaiah 48:12.



MANGER with the HOLY CHRIST

Because children cannot comprehend symbolic meanings, this Chrismon is made especially for our young ones. The Nativity Scene is placed near the bottom of the Chrismon Tree so all our young people can view.



MESSIANIC or CHRISTMAS ROSE

The white & gold rose symbolizes the Messianic role destined for the child born in Bethlehem, as prophesied and eagerly awaited by people of God so long ago.

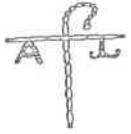


MUSICAL STAFF

Sing and make music. Speak to one another with palms, hymns and spiritual songs Ephesians 5:19-20

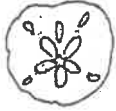


ROSE with the EPIPHANY STAR



Isaiah's Prophecy, "The desert shall rejoice, and blossom as a rose". Thus the rose came to symbolize Christ, the Son of God, the Messiah. Isaiah 35:1

SAND DOLLAR



The legend of the sand dollar tells of the birth and death of Jesus. One side has four "nails" holes and the center opening symbolizes the Roman's spear. The other side is the outline of a poinsettia flower that "blooms" at Christmas

SHEPHERD'S CROOK with ALPHA & OMEGA



Several simple symbols representing Jesus. The staff refers to the eternal One, the Good Shepherd. The XP and the cross are also apparent.

SIX POINTED STAR

The six-pointed star is one of the oldest Christian Symbols for God. For Christians, it's called the Creator's Star. Also called the Star of David.



STAR OF EPIPHANY in the circle of ETERNITY

The star of the wise men is a five-pointed star. The Greek word Epiphany translates to the appearance or revelation of a God. The star is highlighted in a circle of gold-beads representing Eternity.



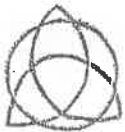
THREE FISHES ENTWINED

Early Christians used the fish to find each other. To outsiders the fish was a mere decoration; to Christians, it was an affirmation of faith in Jesus. Three fishes represent the Trinity.



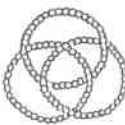
TRIANGLE and TREFOIL

The representation of two geometric figures, a trefoil and an equilateral triangle is combined to define the Godhead; God, Son and the Holy Spirit.



TRIQUETRA with the circle of ETERNITY

A three-part interlocking line that seems to form a complete and harmonious design. All sides are co-equal in length and size, an all powerful God, the Son and the Holy Spirit.



TRINITY - THREE ENTWINED CIRCLES

The doctrine of the Trinity means that there is one God who eternally exists as three distinct Persons; the unity of God, Son, and the Holy Spirit as three persons in one Godhead.



WHEAT AND GRAPES in the circle of ETERNITY

The wheat and grapes represent the bread and wine, the body and blood of Jesus Christ. Matt. 26:26

1st Sunday in Advent / Prophecy - Hope 2nd Sunday in Advent / Bethlehem - Peace
 3rd Sunday in Advent / Annunciation - Joy 4th Sunday in Advent / Shepherds - Love
 Christmas Eve / Star of Wonder



CROSS ATOP ORB

The cross represents Christ's dominion over the orb of the world, literally held in the hand of an earthly ruler. In the iconography of Western art, when Christ himself holds the globe, he is called Salvator Mundi (Latin for "Savior of the World").



CROSS OF GLORY

The cross reminds us of Christ's sacrifice and the Rose in remembrance of Mary. The gold circle represents Jesus Christ, the same yesterday, today, and forever". Heb. 13:8



CROSS OF HOPE or ANCHOR CROSS

Cross of hope or the anchor cross, symbols of hope. Christ is "a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul". Heb. 6:19



CIRCLES OF ETERNITY or CRYSTAL WREATHS

A circle has no beginning or ending thus symbolizing the eternalness of God whose love lasts forever. Small crystal beads in circles can be found throughout the tree's branches.



DESCENDING DOVE in the Circle of Eternity

The descending dove symbolizes the Holy Spirit of God that came down to our Lord's Baptism. The circle around the dove represents Eternity. Mark 1:9-10



EASTERN or GREEK CROSS

This cross is balanced horizontally and vertically, widely used in the Greek Orthodox Church. Most monograms of Jesus Christ are based on the Greek Words, the language of the world known to the early Church.



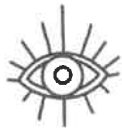
EASTERN or GREEK CROSS (IHS) IOTA ETA SIGMA

IHS are the first three Greek letters of the word, Jesus. This monogram hangs on a Greek Cross to remind us of Christ's sacrifice made for all. The cross arms are balanced both horizontally and vertically, still widely used in the Greek Orthodox Church.



EIGHT POINTED STAR or HOLY BAPTISM STAR

The star with eight points refers to regeneration through baptism. The gold & white colors represent majesty and glory, Christ's purity and perfection. 1 Peter 3:20-21



EVIL EYE

The belief in the evil eye dates back almost 3,000 years to ancient Greece and Rome. It is one of the strongest symbolic images in the world. The evil eye is believed to provide protection against evil forces.



FISH

The idea of the fish was a symbol to the believer's mind the good news of Jesus Christ. Jesus often referred to His Disciples as "fishers of men". Matthew 4:19; Mark 1:17