

CHRISMON SYMBOLS

Chrismons originated at Ascension Lutheran Church in Danville, Virginia in 1957 and have been adapted by churches of many denominations to be used at Christmas to remind us of God’s Son Jesus Christ. The word Chrismon is derived from “Christ Monogram.” Chrismons are religious symbols representing many aspects of the Christian faith. Chrismons are traditionally white (the liturgical color of Christmas and Easter that signifies joy and holiness) and gold (representing the glory, majesty and kingship of Jesus.)



The Angel reminds us of the angels who told the shepherds of Jesus’ birth. It can also represent the second coming of Jesus, which the Bible says will begin with an angel blowing a trumpet.



The Chalice is a symbol of Communion and also represents God’s forgiveness.



The Butterfly is a symbol for resurrection, transformation and immortality. A chrysalis symbolizes the death of the caterpillar, which then springs forth in beautiful new life.



The Grapes represent Communion and Christ’s saying “I am the vine, you are the branches.”



The Cross and Chi are two Chis superimposed. The Chi in the normal “X” position represents the first letter in the Greek word for Christ. The second Chi in the cross position represents the crucifixion.



The Lamb is a frequent image of the Messiah in both the Old and New Testaments.



The Manger is a reminder of the humble birth of Jesus.



The Lamp represents Jesus as the Light of the World.



The Latin or Roman Cross is the most recognized Christian symbol and represents the crucifixion.



The Calvary Cross is a Latin Cross standing on three steps which represent Faith, Hope, and Love.



The Celtic Cross is a Latin Cross with a circle, representing eternity.



The Triumphant Cross is a Latin Cross on top of a circle. The circle represents the earth with a latitude and a longitude line. The Cross on top reminds us that Jesus is triumphant over the challenges of the world.



The Upsilon Cross or Furca is taken from the Greek letter Y. It is also called the Thieves’ Cross from the two robbers who were crucified on each side of Jesus. The two forks also represent the choice between good and evil.



The Tau Cross and Serpent is a sign of salvation from John 3:14 “And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.” It is also a symbol of Jesus as Healer.



The Jerusalem Cross is also known as the Crusaders' Cross. The four small crosses represent the four gospels and the spread of the gospels to the four corners of the earth. The large center cross represents the crucifixion. The five crosses together represent the five wounds of Jesus.



The Anchor Cross is the Cross of Hope reminding us that Jesus is the anchor of our faith. As an anchor holds a ship in place, hope holds us to Christ.



The Natal Star Cross has four large points representing the Bethlehem star and four smaller points representing the four gospels.



The Circle and Cross has a circle representing eternal life with no end or beginning. Combined with a Latin Cross it tells us that Jesus died that we might live.



The Fish or ICHTHUS is an acrostic for the Greek words meaning Jesus Christ, God's Son and Savior. The fish was once a secret sign used during times of persecution to point the way to places of worship.



The Alpha and Omega are the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet symbolizing that Jesus the Christ has come, will come again and is the beginning and end of all things.



The Five-Pointed Star represents the five wounds of Jesus on the cross.



The Chi-Rho are the two Greek letters that are the first two letters in the Greek word for Christ.



The Shepherd's Crook reminds us that Jesus was often called the Good Shepherd, and also of the shepherds who were the first people to be told of Jesus' birth.



The Triquetra symbolizes the Trinity, representing the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. The continuous interwoven line represents unity.



The Trefoil is composed of three interwoven circles representing the Trinity.



The Descending Dove is the symbol of peace and the Holy Spirit who appeared as a dove when Jesus was baptized.



The Clam Shell is the symbol of baptism with the three drops representing the Trinity.



The Keys are the symbol for the Church in the world and remind us of the "keys to Heaven."