

# GREEN PARAMENTS

GREEN is the color of Christian growth and of our faith-bearing Christian fruit. The green paraments are used during the Sundays after Pentecost and the Sundays after Epiphany. As Lutheran Christians, we believe and confess that spiritual growth is the work of God's Spirit through the ministry of the proclamation of Word and administration of the Sacraments. May we continue to be rooted in grace; bearing fruit with love.



## The Lectern

The lectern symbol is a cross, a net, and fish caught in the net. Jesus says in Matthew 4:19, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men." The net represents how God's Word and Sacraments create and keep us in the Christian faith. The fish represent the catch, the promise of God through Isaiah, the prophet, that the word "shall not return...empty" (Isaiah 55:11). But this word must be shared and proclaimed, for "how are they to hear without a preacher" (Romans 10:14). The cross is a sharp reminder that the primary content of God's mercy and love for us is Jesus Christ, and Him crucified (1 Corinthians 2:1-2).



## The Pulpit

The pulpit symbol is an open Bible with the words "Faith Alone" on top of a sword. The Bible is open because we, as Christians, are blessed to listen to the Bible in worship and that proclamation of the Word of God brings good news to the congregation. The traditional symbol of St. Paul is a sword and a Bible. As the apostle describes the armor of God, he writes "And take the...sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God" (Ephesians 6:17). The words, "Faith Alone," reminds us of the insight of Martin Luther, that faith alone saves (Romans 3:28). By His suffering and death as the substitute

for all people of all time, Jesus purchased and won forgiveness and eternal life for them. Those who hear this good news and believe it, have the eternal life that it offers. God creates faith in Christ and gives people forgiveness through Him. What a blessing to grow spiritually with Christ through His life-giving Word!

## The Stoles

One stole has a cross behind an open Bible. The other stole has a grain of wheat over the cross. We live on every Word that comes from the mouth of the Lord. In our time of Christian growth, we continue to hear God's Word proclaimed by our pastors and to receive the Lord's Supper, bread/wine and the body/blood of Christ for the forgiveness of our sins and strengthening of our Christian faith and growth with Christ.



## The Altar Paraments

God's people grow spiritually as we are nourished through the Sacrament of Holy Communion. The one frontlet, with its stalks of wheat and loaf of bread, symbolizes the bread, reminding us that we receive Christ's true body in, with, and under the bread. The other frontlet, with its leaf, stems, and grapes, symbolizes the wine through which we receive



Christ's true blood. What a beautiful visual and bold reminder that there is more in this Sacrament than mere bread and wine. Jesus Christ is present. "This is my body... this is my blood" (Matthew 26:26, 28). Through this sacrament we grow in grace and become more fruitful in our Christian living.