

WINDOWS ON THE PAST

A Confirmation Project presented in 1987
Updated in 2003

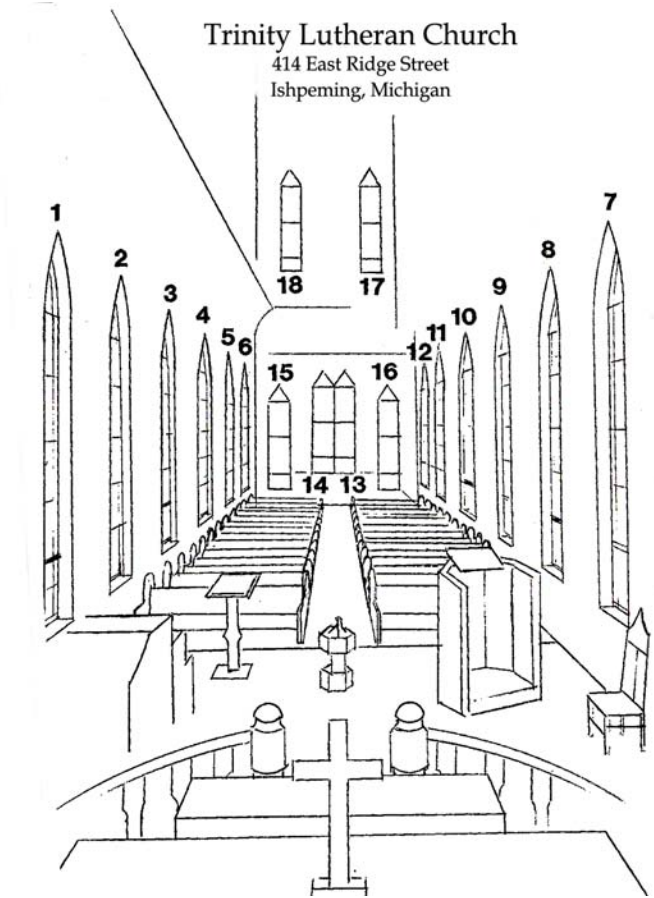


Preface

“History is most fragile. Unless remembered and preserved it is soon lost forever. Sometime early in this century, stained glass windows were donated and placed within the walls of the nave and narthex of the Church. The donors have long since died. Only their names remain on the windows as a permanent legacy of faithfulness and witness.

Three of Trinity’s confirmation students have prepared brief biographies of the people of the windows. What kind of men and women were they? What did they do at Church and in their lives? Who are their living descendants? With those questions as a starting point, this book is a valuable addition to the congregation’s history. Since 1871, Trinity Lutheran Church has proclaimed the good news of Jesus Christ to the Ishpeming area and to the world.”

~ Rev. Thomas A. Skrenes
Written in 1987



Window Number 1

Mr. and Mrs. Svend Johnson

Svend Johnson was born in Norway. Then he moved to the U.S. and opened a large department store called "SVEND JOHNSON and CO." The store was moved three times until its final location, where the post office now stands. Svend used his Norwegian heritage to his business advantage. His wife's name was Gjertrude. He died in 1913 at the age of 65. He had three sons named Martin, Julius, and Seth, and two daughters named Mrs. Oliver Rye and Gyda. His grandsons are Roy H. Johnson, Norman D. Johnson, and Julius Johnson, Jr. Other descendents of Svend who are still members of Trinity are Kathryn Doto and her daughters Kristen, Mary Jo, Tamara, and Nicole Doto; and Holen Johnson and his children Connie Herman, Lori Brownell, and Kurt Johnson.

Other descendants: Brittany and Libbie Jo Doney.

Window Number 2

Mr. and Mrs. Jens Leregen

Jens was the head bookkeeper at Braastad's Store. He was the church's treasurer. Mrs. Leregen was a soloist and was active in the Ladies' Aid. The Leregens had one son, Julius. Julius was employed by the Peninsula Bank as a teller. Jens died on July 18, 1932, at the age of 84.

Other descendants:

Great uncle of Betty Bannon, Shirley Mattson, Marilyn Johnson and Merle Weingartner. Heidi Johns' and Candy Jackson's great-great uncle. Janelle, Rebecca and Kelsey Johns would be great-great-great-nieces. Ricky Keller would be a great-great-great nephew.

Window Number 3

Mr. and Mrs. O. A. Rye

Ole and Eli Rye had a son, Oliver A. Rye. Their son married Mathea Johnson, the oldest daughter of Svend Johnson. Ole helped to build the church tower. He was a first-class carpenter. He died in November 1929, at the age of 80.

Window Number 4

Mr. and Mrs. O. G. Aas

Ole was the Assistant Cashier and Head Teller at the Miners Bank. He was known as Gilbert to almost everyone. His wife was active in the Ladies' Aide. They had two sons and three daughters who were active at the church.

Window Number 5

Ole A. Seyrstad

Ole lived on the corner of Ridge and Fifth Streets for many years, renting an apartment from the Ryes. He was never married and he "enjoyed life to its fullest." He was considered a good worker in the mines.

Window Number 6

Mr. Andrew Erickson

Andrew lived at 715 Second Street in what is today [in 1987] Harold Johnson's home, where he rented from Harold's father, Ole. His wife died at an early age, but gave Andrew two children, Edith, who was a teacher, and Leif. Sarah Nelson kept house for Andrew after his wife passed away. Andrew was a very quiet and pleasant man. He was also the Head Usher of the church. Andrew had a heart condition and died of a stroke while trimming a neighbor's tree.

Window Number 7

Mr. J. Langaas

John was born in Norway. He was a very godly person and was always helpful to everyone. He would take food and coal to the widows and other poor persons. He was a very hard worker who worked on Sundays and then gave his Sabbath pay to the church. He was married to Oline, and upon her death, to Johanna. John had three children. One of them was Olga Lee. John died on June 18, 1924, at the age of 64 years. Lois Watters is a granddaughter, and her children Jon, Paul, and Lynn are great-grandchildren.

Other descendants:

Great-great grandchildren are Lindsay and Billy Haukkala.

Window Number 8

Mr. William Davidson

For many years, William Davidson rang the bell at the High Street School, where the Phelps School now stands. He was the long time janitor there until the school was closed. William was married and had a daughter. He was a good worker in the church. He was the Sunday School Superintendent and Deacon for many years. When he was Deacon, while the students were getting confirmed, he would ask them questions about their beliefs in front of the entire congregation.

Window Number 9

Mr. and Mrs. D. M. Windsand

His given name was David Marselius. He was born in Norway, and shortly after immigration, he died at the age of 44. He and his wife had nine children, eight girls and a boy. Their son, Ditliff, worked for the county. Jeanette Koski is a granddaughter, along with Donald and George Windsand who are grandsons. John Koski is a great-grandson and his son, Bradley is a great-great grandson.

Other descendents:

Great-granddaughter is Lois Bath.

Great-great grandchildren are Kevin, Mark, Michael, Wendy and Shannon Bath.

Window Number 10

Lars Hoyseth

Lars was born in Norway and was a Norwegian to the core. He put up a Norwegian flag on his flag pole. One day the police came to his house and told him that he would have to put an American flag above his Norwegian flag. Lars found a miniature version of the American flag and put it up above his large Norwegian flag. Lars owned and worked in the Hoyseth Store, which was a market and grocery store. Lars was married to Sigrid, and they had three children together. Two daughters were Wilhelmina and Selma, who became president of the Ladies' Aid. Wilhelmina taught Latin in the High School for many years. They also had one son, Eric. Lars had no grandchildren. Both Lars and Sigrid were very good members of the church. Lars Hoyseth died on June 1, 1915, at the age of 67 years.

Window Number 11

Mr. and Mrs. L. Stuen

Lars and his wife Mollie were faithful in weekly worship at the church. Mollie taught Norwegian classes at Sunday School and worked very hard as the church janitor. She would shovel the coal into the furnace, and she would always wear her husband's clothes when she worked as the janitor. Some days she would work so hard that when she sat in the front of the church during the service, she would fall asleep during the sermon. Lars and Mollie were loved by the people of the congregation.

Window Number 12

Mr. and Mrs. Hoiem

Both Christ and Maret Hoiem were very active members of the church. He was a Stationary Engineer at the Lake Angeline Mine for several years. They had five children: Arthur, Ingeborg, Anna, Clara, and Harold. Christ served as an usher and also was the janitor for several years. Maret was active in the Ladies' Aid. Their daughter, Clara, was a soloist in the choir, and also Choir Director for several years. She was married to George Drew, who later became the minister at St. Alban's Church in Manistique. After George died, she married Henry Bork. Harold also sang in the choir for several years. Harold's wife, Helen, is a member of Trinity. Lois Abendroth and Kris Hoiem are grandchildren of Christ and Maret. Great-grandsons are Kurt and Mark Abendroth. Great-granddaughters are Lynn Laitala and Lori Abendroth.

Other descendants: Great-great-great granddaughter, Judy Laitala.

Window Number 13

Bikuben

Bikuben was a Women's group started in 1882. The word "Bikuben" means "Bee Hive." At first only unmarried women were allowed to join. They met once a month. They bought the church a piano and had many fund-raising efforts. The club ended in 1961, when it merged with the Ladies' Aid to form the Trinity Lutheran Church Women.

Window Number 14

Mr. and Mrs. Anton Hanson

Anton was born in Norway and was one of the first Ford dealers in Ishpeming. Young Norwegian girls often served as maids, and before her marriage, his wife was his maid. They had no children. Mrs. Jeanne Nylander is their great niece, and Steve Fernea and his children are also related. Mr. Anton Hanson died on January 9, 1939, at 71 years of age.

Other Relatives: Greg, Lauren and Brandon Fernea.

Other descendants:

James and Gail Nylander and their children, Brandon and Ashley.

Jeff and Lucinda Nylander and their children, Cindy and Tina.

Window Number 15

Mr. and Mrs. John C. Johnson

John was married twice. His first wife, Ane, died during childbirth, along with the baby, their third child. John's niece by marriage, came to take care of the two older children, Richard and Ingaborg. John then married his wife's niece. On his own wedding day, John asked his boss if he could have the day off because "his niece was getting married." They lived together on Third Street across from the Phelps School. They had no children of their own. John worked as a Stationary Engineer at the Lake Angeline Mine for many years. He also worked a great deal in the church. He fixed pipes, wiring, and many other things. John Johnson died in 1928. Rose Harris is a niece by the marriage to his first wife. Eldred and John Harris would be grand-nephews.

Window Number 16

Winthrop Young People Society

Winthrop area is today known as National Mine, south of Ishpeming. Children from this area of Norwegian background were confirmed in our church and met as a group for study, prayer, and fellowship.

Window Number 17

Miss Olga Langaas

Olga worked as a seamstress. She was married later in life to Ludvig Lee, and they had a daughter, Lois Watters. This was Ludvig's second marriage after his first wife died. Olga helped people in many different circumstances, and is remembered for her loving concern for people.

Other descendents:

Grandchildren are Jon Watters, Paul Watters, and Lynn Haukkala.

Great-grandchildren are Lindsay and Billy Haukkala.

Window Number 18

Mr. and Mrs. Johan Olsen

Johan was a carpenter and worked for the mining company. He was married to Eli, who enjoyed artwork, and was a pillar of the women's group. Together they had ten children, nine girls in a row, and then the youngest child, a boy. Rose Harris, was the ninth girl. A daughter, Marie, was the superintendent of the English Sunday School. Another daughter, Jennie, was the superintendent of the Norwegian Sunday School. Johan and his family lived together on Bessemer Street. On Sundays the children would create quite a procession when they walked to Sunday School.