

BUT WHY?

1. But Why do we have different colors on the alter?

White is for Christ The King

The other colors mean different seasons of the church:

Red is for the festivals

Green is for Epiphany

Purple is for Easter or Death and Resurrection

Blue is for Advent or the birth of Jesus

2. But Why do we have a red carpet?

The red carpet represents the blood of Christ.

3. But Why are our hymnals green?

The color was voted on and green won. The color green is also the color of plant life, abundant in Spring. It represents the triumph of life over death.

4. But Why do we have one large and one small pulpit?

The large pulpit is for ordained people. The small one is for non-ordained people.

5. On the baptismal font, why is the cross crushing the sheep.

The cross isn't really crushing the lamb. Jesus is the Lamb of God and the cross represents his sacrifice to us.

6. But Why do we have arches?

Archeturally they are strong. Glass was starting to be used in churches but the glass wasn't strong so to help keep the frame strong and support the stain glass they used arches. They also look like lit candles which remind us of God's light.

7. But Why do we have two candles on the alter?

The candle on the right is God's candle and it is lit first and extinguished last. The candle on the left is Christ's candle; Jesus sits at God's right hand.

8. But Why is the ceiling blue?

It is the color of the sky and is symbolic to heaven. It also symbolizes truth.

9. But Why are there butterflies in the carvings?

The butterfly is a Christian symbol of resurrection, for it disappears into a cocoon and appears dead but emerges later far more beautiful and powerful than before.

10. But Why are a lot of things in threes?

Three represents the Trinity; The Father, Son and Holy Spirit

11. But Why is there such a scary picture of a pelican up there?

According to legend, in times of famine a mother pelican would draw blood from her own chest and give the blood to her chicks. This symbolizes the sacrifice of Christ on the cross because he gave his blood for us. It also symbolizes the Eucharist as it represents Christ's blood and provides spiritual nourishment.

12. But Why are there flower carvings?

They are dogwood flowers. Legend tells us that the dogwood tree was large and mighty like the oak. Because of this, it was chosen to be the wood used for crosses. The dogwood was greatly saddened by this. As Jesus lay hanging on the cross, He sensed the dogwood's displeasure of being used in such a way. He promised the dogwood that the tree would cease to be mighty like the oak. From then on, it would be slender and bent. Its flower petals would grow into the form of a cross, with two petals growing longer than the other two. On the outer edge of each petal would be the nail markings, stained in blood and rust. In the center of the flower, the crown of thorns would be formed. So all who looked upon the dogwood would always remember the sacrifice Jesus made for us on the cross.

13. But Why do we have this? (Pointing to the IHS symbol)

That symbol is the Iota, Eta and Sigma, the first three letters in the Greek alphabet word for Jesus.

14. But Why do we have to have these? (Pointing to the carving on the front of the altar)

They are the Alpha and the Omega or the beginning and the end.

15. But Why do we have this cloth and what does it mean? (pointing to the cloth hanging over the large pulpit)

The shepherd's crook is the symbol of Jesus, the Good Shepherd. This crook also has the alpha and omega, the beginning and the end. The 4 streams represent the 4 Gospels. When there is more than one sheep they represent the church. The 5 stars represent the 5 wounds Jesus received on the cross. There are 8 points on the stars which is the number of new beginnings like the number of people on Noah's ark and the number of covenants or agreements God made with Israel.

16. Did anyone notice the Angels that watch over us during the service? (Point to the shadowing above the alter) It looks like two Angel's heads and they are standing next to each other, arm in arm.