

## THE CHRISMON CHRISTMAS TREE

The Chrismon Tree began as an offering of praise and a proclamation to our Savior. It is our witness to His Love and Glory. The original Chrismon Tree was in the Ascension Lutheran Church in Danville, Virginia in 1957. It was created by Francis Kipp Spencer who wanted to decorate a tree in a way that glorified Christ.

Mrs. Spencer searched at length for ideas. She eventually came across copies of drawings made by the earliest Christians and realized that these symbols were beautiful reminders of the real reason we celebrate Christmas. She combined the words Christ and Monogram to make Chrismon – *monograms of Christ*.

Mrs. Spencer added other symbols to enhance the meaning of the tree – hoping the tree would be worthy of being in the Lord's house, and contribute to the spirit of worship in the holiest season. She wanted everyone to remember that Chrismons *are a song of and to the glory of God and that the Chrismon tree is complete only when those who see it understand that the tree tells the story of God's plan for our salvation*.

The evergreen tree symbolizes eternal life and is a background for tiny white lights and the Chrismons. The lights speak of Him, who is the Light of the world, and the ornaments proclaim the name, life and saving acts of our Lord and Savior. Only white and gold beads are used to make Chrismons. White, the color of innocence and purity symbolizes the perfection of our Lord. Gold is a symbol for the glory and majesty of God and the Son of God.

Elizabeth Presbyterian Women, with help from others in the congregation started making Chrismons in 2008, adding new Chrismons each year. The Chrismon collection has grown to include symbols of Christ's Gold Crown, Anchor Cross, Celtic Cross, St. Andrew's Cross, Shepherds Crook Cross, Angel with Cross, Descending Dove, Fish, Fisherman's Shoes, Star, Staff of the King, Triquetra (representing the Trinity) and Unbroken Faith. Christ and the Manger represents the Nativity. Any member of Elizabeth Presbyterian Women will be happy to provide more information about the Chrismons.

*We hope this tree and its message brings joy and peace.  
May you each be blessed with the love, hope and true meaning of  
Christmas.*