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Stained Glass by Local Artist for Pilot Mound Lutheran

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Pilot Mound Lutheran Church recently received some color in the form of a set of stained glass windows created and donated by local artist Karl Unnasch.



Like much of Unnasch's work, the panels are part reclaimed and part new. The antique portions include iconic imagery salvaged from an unknown church and may date back as far as the 1930s. The new portions include a Mobius border design by Unnasch and a quote from Matthew 9:37, "We give thanks", which was selected to accompany a section of harvest imagery with special consideration to the demographic of the parish, which is primarily rural. The church is located just across the road from Unnasch's studio, which is housed in a late 1800s mercantile building in picturesque Pilot Mound.

In answer to why he donated the pieces Unnasch said, "This community has supported me and my work in so many ways for such a long time. This is just my way of giving back."

Over the years, Unnasch's career has spanned the gamut. Currently focused on large-scale public art, he has installed nationwide and even in Canada. He regularly incorporates stained glass into his public artworks, which often also include a "reclaimed" media and/or rural theme.

Unnasch's background in stained glass dates back to his time in Winona. Known as the "stained glass capital of the US", Winona has more than its share of companies in the industry; Unnasch put himself through his undergraduate studies in Art working for several of these. Primarily executing large commissions for churches, he became well versed in everything from design and creation to transport and installation. His work from that period can be found in churches across the country.

More about Unnasch's past and current projects can be found on his website at www.karlunnasch.com.

About the Artist

Karl Unnasch focuses primarily on creating public and architectural art, incorporating stained glass and sculpture into his work. Nestled close to his farmstead roots in Southeastern Minnesota, his works highlight overlooked objects and concepts inherently personal to his rural experiences. Unnasch's smaller-scale work has been exhibited as far as Europe and acclaimed in publications as esteemed as the New York Times and Art in London Magazine, while his larger-scale, award-winning public art has been featured on prominent U.S. and even international media including NBC's 'Today' show and Voice of America. For more information, visit http://www.karlunnasch.com/.

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