

St. Stephen Lutheran Church of the East Bay & Central Valley
(A Congregation of the Church of the Lutheran Confession)
www.ststephenclc.org

**Worshiping Every Sunday in the East Bay at 9 a.m. at
Grace Lutheran Church
1836 B St., Hayward, CA 94541-3140**

Worshiping in the Central Valley at 2 p.m. - 1st & 3rd Sundays of
the Month

Atria Senior Living - Bayside Landing - 1st Floor Activity Room
3318 Brookside Rd., Stockton, CA 95219

Pastor: Steven Karp
21290 Birch St. - Hayward, CA 94541-1538
Phone: (510) 581-6637; e-mail: se-karp@sbcglobal.net

Organist: Elizabeth Karp

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The First Sunday After Trinity – 7 June 2015

- A Service with Holy Communion

(Visitors should speak with the pastor before communing)

Liturgy — Page 15 in The Lutheran Hymnal

HYMNS: 250 Holy God We Praise Thy Name (stand for last stanza)
429 Lord, Thee I Love With All My Heart
50 Lord, Dismiss Us With Thy Blessing

Sermon Text: 1 John 4,16-21

Sermon Theme: Love In Action

1. Love In The World
2. Love Casts Out Fear
3. We Love Because Jesus First Loved Us

INTROIT: O Lord, I have trusted in Your mercy: my heart shall rejoice in Your salvation. I will sing unto the Lord: because He has dealt bountifully with me. **Glory be to the Father ...**

COLLECT: O God, the strength of all them that put their trust in You, mercifully accept our prayers; and because through the weakness of our mortal nature we can do no good thing without You, grant us the help of Your grace that in keeping with Your commandments we may please You both in will and deed; through Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, ever the One true God, world without end. **Amen.**

Old Testament

Jeremiah 9,23–24

Thus says the LORD, “Let not a wise man boast of his wisdom, and let not the mighty man boast of his might, ⁵ let not the rich man boast of his riches; ²⁴ but let him who boasts boast of this, that he understands and knows Me, that I am the LORD who exercises lovingkindness, justice, and righteousness on earth; for I delight in these things,” declares the LORD.

Epistle

1 John 4,16-21

God is love, and the one who abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him. ¹⁷ By this, love is perfected with us, that we may have confidence in the Day of Judgment; because as He is, so also are we in this world. ¹⁸ There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves punishment, and the one who fears is not perfected in love. ¹⁹ We love, because He first loved us. ²⁰ If someone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for the one who does not love his brother whom he has seen, cannot love God Whom he has not seen. ²¹ And this commandment we have from Him, that the one who loves God should love his brother also.

GRADUAL

My soul shall make its boast in the LORD;

The humble shall hear it and rejoice.

O magnify the LORD with me,

And let us exalt His name together.

I sought the LORD and He answered me,

And delivered me from all my fears.

They looked to Him and were radiant,

And their faces shall never be ashamed.

O taste and see that the LORD is good;

How blessed is the man who takes refuge in Him!

O fear the LORD, all you His saints;

For those who fear Him there is no want.

The young lions do lack and suffer hunger;

But they who seek the LORD shall not be in want of any good thing.

O Lord, deal with Your servant according to Your mercy and teach me Your statutes.

I am Your servant, give me understanding that I may know Your testimonies. [sing: triple Hallelujah]

The Holy Gospel

Luke 16,19-31

Response: Glory be to Thee, O Lord!

[Jesus said:] "Now there was a certain rich man, and he habitually dressed in purple and fine linen, gaily living in splendor every day. ²⁰ And a certain poor man named Lazarus was laid at his gate, covered with sores, ²¹ and



longing to be fed with crumbs which were falling from the rich man's table; besides, even the dogs were coming and licking his sores.

²² Now it came about that the poor man died and he was carried away by the angels to Abraham's bosom; and the rich man died and was buried. ²³ And in Hades he lifted up his eyes, being in

torment, and saw Abraham far away, and Lazarus in his bosom. ²⁴

And he cried out and said, 'Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water and cool off my tongue; for I am in agony in this flame.' ²⁵ But Abraham said, 'Child, remember that during your life you received your good things, and



likewise Lazarus bad things; but now he is being comforted here, and you are in agony. ²⁶ And besides all this, between us and you there is a great chasm fixed, in order that those who wish to come over from here to you may not be able, and that none may cross over from there to us.’ ²⁷ And he said, ‘Then I beg you, Father, that you send him to my father’s house ²⁸ — for I have five brothers — that he may warn them, lest they also come to this place of torment.’ ²⁹ But Abraham said, ‘They have Moses and the Prophets; let them hear them.’ ³⁰ But he said, ‘No, Father Abraham, but if someone goes to them from the dead, they will repent!’ ³¹ But he said to him, ‘If they do not listen to Moses and the Prophets, neither will they be persuaded if someone rises from the dead.’” [Scripture passages are from the *New American Standard Bible*, © The Lockman Foundation, used by permission]

Response: Praise be to Thee, O Christ!

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Lessons for 14 June – The Second Sunday After Trinity

Old Testament: Isaiah 55,2–5
Epistle: Ephesians 2,17–22
Gospel: Luke 14,15–24

Weekly Scripture Verse: Jesus says: “The one who listens to you listens to Me, and the one who rejects you rejects Me.” (Luke 10,16)

The Gradual is based on selected verses from Psalm 34.

Next Service in Stockton: Today at 2 p.m.

Bible Study. Hayward – Tuesday, 9 June at 2 p.m.

Stockton – Tuesday, 23 June, at 2 p.m.

ILL. In your prayers, please remember Nancy, Roy and his brother Gerald; Cindy Hartman (Pr. Jay Hartman's wife); Jean Niblett; Marlene Clappier; Don Luebkehan, and Rose, one of his care givers; Sue (the Karps' neighbor who is undergoing chemotherapy), Sue (Carolyn's friend), Don Drews; Richard Hocker; Ruth Scheuermann; James Sandeen; the Breeden twins, Chloe and Dagny; Pr. Doug Priestap (Calgary).



Call News. Messiah Lutheran, Eau Claire, WI, has called Miss Naomi Bernthal of Eau Claire to teach the 2nd–3rd grade level at Messiah School. Miss Bernthal is a 2014 graduate of ILC's teacher training department. Immanuel Lutheran, Mankato, MN, has called Mr. Matthew Kranz, Eau Claire, WI, to serve as 5th and 6th grade teacher beginning in the Fall 2015. Gethsemane Lutheran, Spokane Valley WA, has resolved to wait with calling a teacher until the next school year, 2016–17. PULPIT VACANCIES: Mt. Olive, Lamar, CO; Grace, Fairbanks, AK; Shepherd of the Valley, Weslaco, TX; Resurrection, Calgary, AB; 2nd Foreign Missionary.

Council Meeting on Sunday, 28 June, after the morning service in Hayward.

Handout – CLC President Eichstadt's June 2015 Pastoral Letter.

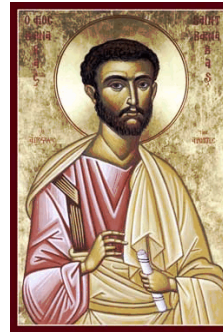
Cruise the Bay on the USS Potomac. Roy Cameron is organizing a church outing for a two hour cruise of San Francisco Bay on FDR's former presidential yacht, the USS Potomac, on Saturday, 11 July, beginning at 9:30 a.m. The cost would be \$35 for children (3-12), \$50 for seniors and \$55 for others. The place to meet would be 540 Water St., Oakland (near Jack London Square). If you are interested, please log onto the USS Potomac web site and follow the directions to order tickets on Ticket Web; if you'd like to go but do not have web access, Pastor Karp can make the reservations for you.



For Those Who Might Vacation in Eau Claire this Summer – Immanuel Dining Hall – Help Requested: This summer, between June 29 and July 19, Paul Heinze, the Immanuel Facilities Manager, plans to remove the carpeting from the Immanuel dining hall and replace it with new tile. Those willing to assist in this project at Eau Claire may contact Paul at (715-456-7194/paul.heinze@ilc.edu) so that he can coordinate the volunteer efforts.

St. Barnabas, Apostle (11 June). St. Barnabas was a Levite from Cyprus who sold some land and gave the proceeds to the early Christian community in Jerusalem (Acts 4,36-37). St. Paul informs us that he was a cousin of Mark (Colossians 4,10). Barnabas was sent by the Jerusalem Church to oversee the

young Church in Antioch (Acts 11,22). While there, he went to Tarsus and brought back Paul to Antioch to help him (Acts 11,25-26). It was this church in Antioch that commissioned and sent Barnabas and Paul on the first missionary journey (Acts 13,2-3). When it was time for the second missionary journey, however, Barnabas and Paul disagreed about taking John Mark. Barnabas took Mark and went to Cyprus; Paul took Silas and headed north through Syria and Cilicia (Acts 15,36-41). Nothing more is known of the activities of Barnabas, except that he was apparently known to the Corinthians (1 Corinthians 9,6). Tradition relates that Barnabas died a martyr's death in Cyprus by being stoned.



A READING FROM THE BOOK OF CONCORD
APOLOGY OF THE AUGSBURG CONFESSION
ARTICLE V, "LOVE AND FULFILLING THE LAW"

²⁴¹ We are not trying to start a needless word battle about the term "reward". But this is a great, exalted, and very important matter about where Christian hearts can find true and certain comfort. It's about whether our works can give consciences rest and peace, whether we are to believe that our works are worthy of eternal life, or whether that is given us for Christ's sake. These are the real questions regarding these matters. If consciences are not rightly taught about these, they can have no certain comfort. However, we have stated clearly enough that good works do not fulfill the Law, that we need

God's mercy, that through faith we are accepted by God, that good works – be they ever so precious, even if they were the works of St. Paul himself – cannot bring rest to the conscience.

It makes sense that we are to believe that we receive eternal life through Christ by faith, not because of our works or of the Law. But what do we say of the reward that Scripture mentions? If the adversaries will admit that we are regarded righteous through faith because of Christ, and that good works please God because of faith, we will not afterward argue much about the term reward. We confess that eternal life is



a reward; it is something due because of the promise, not because of our merits. For the justification has been promised, which we have previously shown to be properly God's gift. To this gift the promise of eternal life has been added, according to Romans 8,30, "Those whom He justified He also glorified."

²⁴² Here belongs what Paul says, "There is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me" (2 Timothy 4,8). The justified are due the crown because of the promise. ²⁴³ Saints should know this promise, not that they may labor for their own profit, for they ought to labor for God's glory. But saints should know it so they may not despair in troubles. They should know God's will: He desires to aid, to deliver, and to protect them. (Apology to the Augsburg Confession, Article 5, § 241–243)[Condensed quotations from the Lutheran Confessions from Concordia: The Lutheran Confessions, © 2005, 2006 by Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission. All rights reserved.]

Holy Communion

Concerning Holy Communion, we believe, teach and confess that:

- a. in, with, and under the bread Jesus gives us His true Body;
- b. in, with, and under the wine Jesus gives us His true Blood;
- c. whoever receives Holy Communion, receives it either for salvation or for judgment;
- d. whoever believes the words, "given and shed for you...", receives the Body and Blood of Christ for salvation;
- e. whoever does not believe the words, "given and shed for you...", receives the Body and Blood of Christ to judgment;
- f. out of a pastoral concern for your soul, we ask that visitors speak with the pastor before receiving Holy Communion.



We practice Close Communion. We welcome those to the Lord's Supper who are baptized and confirmed members in good standing of our congregation and sister congregations within the Church of the Lutheran Confession. This reflects the practice of the ancient and apostolic church which opened the Lord's Table only to those who had been baptized and publicly confessed doctrinal agreement with all that Christ had commanded. If you are a visitor and would like to learn more about what we teach, please speak with Pastor Karp.