

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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All Saints' Day - 1 November 2015 -

A Service with Holy Communion

[Visitors are asked to speak with the Pastor before communing]

Liturgy — Page 15 in The Lutheran Hymnal

HYMNS: 475 Ye Watchers And Ye Holy Ones [stand for last stanza]

201 Jesus Lives! The Victory's Won

656 Behold A Host Arrayed In White

Sermon Text: Isaiah 25,6-9

Sermon Theme: Jesus Has Swallowed Up Death For Us

1. A Feast On God's Holy Mountain

2. Death Is Swallowed Up In Victory

3. Without Reproach, We Wait For The Lord

INTROIT: A great multitude which no man could number stood before the throne and the Lamb: clothed with white robes and with palms in their hands. And cried with a loud voice, saying: "Salvation to our God Who sits upon the throne and unto the Lamb. Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous: for praise is comely for the upright. **Glory be to the Father ...**

COLLECT: O almighty God, Who has knit together Your elect in one communion and fellowship in the mystical Body of Your Son Jesus Christ, our Lord, grant us grace so to follow Your blessed saints in all virtuous and godly living that we may come to those unspeakable joys which You have prepared for those who unfeignedly love You; 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

Isaiah 25,6-9

And the LORD of Hosts will prepare a lavish banquet
for all peoples on this mountain;

A banquet of aged wine, choice pieces with marrow,
And refined, aged wine.

⁷ And on this mountain He will swallow up the
covering which is over all peoples,
Even the veil which is stretched over all nations.

⁸ He will swallow up death for all time,
And the Lord GOD will wipe tears away from all
faces,
And He will remove the reproach of His people from
all the earth;

For the LORD has spoken.

⁹ And it will be said on that day,
“Behold, this is our God for Whom we have waited
that He might save us.

This is the LORD for Whom we have waited;
Let us rejoice and be glad in His salvation.”

Epistle

Revelation 7,2-12

And I saw another angel ascending from the rising of the sun, having the seal of the living God; and he cried out with a loud voice to the four angels to whom it was granted to harm the earth and the sea, ³ saying, “Do not harm the earth or the trees, until we have sealed the bond-servants of our God on their foreheads.”

⁴ And I heard the number of those who were sealed, one hundred and forty-four thousand sealed from every tribe of the sons of Israel;

⁵ from the tribe of Judah, twelve thousand were sealed;

from the tribe of Reuben twelve thousand;

from the tribe of Gad twelve thousand;

⁶ from the tribe of Asher, twelve thousand;

from the tribe of Naphtali, twelve thousand;
from the tribe of Manasseh, twelve thousand;
⁷ from the tribe of Simeon, twelve thousand;
from the tribe of Levi, twelve thousand;
from the tribe of Issachar, twelve thousand;
⁸ from the tribe of Zebulun, twelve thousand;
from the tribe of Joseph, twelve thousand;
from the tribe of Benjamin, twelve thousand were sealed.

⁹ After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude, which no one could count, from every nation and all tribes, and peoples and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, and palm branches were in their hands; ¹⁰ and they cry out with a loud voice, saying,

“Salvation to our God
Who sits on the throne,
and to the Lamb.”

¹¹ And all the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures; and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, ¹² saying,
“Amen, blessings and glory and wisdom
and thanksgiving and honor and power and might,
be to our God forever and ever. Amen.”



“Adoration of the Lamb” by
Albrecht Dürer

GRADUAL

The saints have overcome because of the blood of the Lamb,

And they did not love their life even into death.

I will sing of the lovingkindness of the LORD forever;

To all generations I will make known Your faithfulness with my mouth.

And the heaven will praise Your wonders, O LORD;

Your faithfulness also in the assembly of the holy ones.

How blessed are the people who know the joyful sound!

O LORD, they walk in the light of Your countenance.

In Your name they rejoice all the day,

And by Your righteousness they are exalted.

For You are the glory of their strength,

And by Your favor our strength is exalted.

Sing to the LORD a new song,

And His praise in the congregation of the holy ones. [sing triple Hallelujah!]

The Holy Gospel

Matthew 5,1-12

Response: Glory be to Thee, O Lord!

And when [Jesus] saw the multitudes, He went up on the mountain; and after He sat down, His disciples came to Him. ² And opening His mouth He began to teach them, saying,

³ “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven.

⁴ “Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

⁵ “Blessed are the gentle, for they shall inherit the earth.

⁶ “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.

⁷ “Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.

⁸ “Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

⁹ “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.

¹⁰ “Blessed are those who have been persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven.

¹¹ Blessed are you when men revile you, and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely, on account of Me. ¹² Rejoice and be glad, for your reward in heaven is great, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.” [Scripture



from the *New American Standard Bible*, © The Lockman Foundation, used by permission]

Response: Praise be to Thee, O Christ!

† † †

Lessons for 8 November - The Third last Sunday of the Church Year

Old Testament: Isaiah 49,12-18

Epistle: 1 Thessalonians 4,13-18

The Holy Gospel: Matthew 24,15–28

Weekly Scripture Verse: So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints, and are of God's household. (Ephesian 2,19)

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

Bible Study – Hayward – Tuesday, 3 November, at 2 p.m.
Stockton – Tuesday, 24 November, at 2 p.m.

Today's Gradual consists of selected verses from Revelation 12 and Psalms 89 and 149.

Handout – Revised November 2015 Church Calendar

Call News. Nothing new to report.

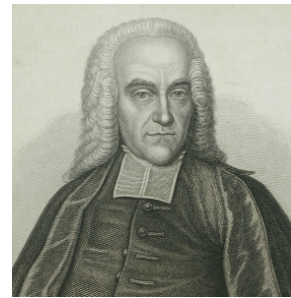
ILL. In your prayers, please remember Nancy, Roy and his brother, Gerald; Jean Niblett; Marlene Clappier; Don Luebke (who is now at home), Don's nephew Leigh, and Rose, one of Don's care givers and her husband; Sue (the Karps' neighbor who is undergoing chemotherapy), Sue (Carolyn's friend), Don Drews; Richard Hocker; Ruth Scheuermann; James Sandeen; the Breeden twins, Chloe and Dagny; Pr. Doug Priestap (Calgary); Pr. Robert List (Spokane).



Voters' Meeting. Our annual congregational voters' meeting will be held after the morning service in Hayward on Sunday,

29 November. We will have elections for new congregational officers for 2016 and adopt our 2016 operating budget.

Johann Albrecht Bengel, Theologian (24 June 1687–2 November 1752). Bengel was born in Winnenden in Württemberg, where his father was a Lutheran Pastor, who died in 1693. Bengel grew up in the house of a family friend. In 1703 Bengel entered the University of Stuttgart, where he studied philosophy and theology, and especially the works of



the pietists of his day, especially August Francke. He graduated in 1707 and was a tutor at the University of Tübingen from 1707–11. He took a study tour and then in 1713 began his 28 year tenure as a teacher in the Evangelical Cloister School at Denkendorf (a school which prepared students for the study of theology). In 1741 he was promoted to superintendent, ducal counselor, and member of the Diet.

Bengel is best known for his compilation of texts of the New Testament (1734) and establishing a system of reading variants in the text; his principle that the most difficult variant is probably the correct one is still followed. He also published Gnomon of the New Testament (1742), which sought to explain all the verses of the New Testament in accordance with Scripture itself. This caused many to consider him a Biblicist.

Even though he was sympathetic to the pietists, he maintained the Lutheran principle of the objective efficacy of the Word of God. Unfortunately, his studies lead him into millennialistic thinking and he predicted that the world would

end with Jesus' Second Coming in 1836 – which he maintained was but a warning call for the Church.

Bengel seems to have suffered various bouts of illness during his lifetime. In 1713 he married Regina Seeger; they were blessed with 12 children; however, only six survived beyond childhood.

Felix Mendelssohn, Musician (13 February 1809 – 4 November 1847). Mendelssohn was the grandson of the great Jewish scholar, Moses Mendelssohn. Mendelssohn's parents converted to Christianity and Mendelssohn, along with his siblings, was baptized in the Lutheran Church in 1816 (his parents were baptized in 1822 and added Bartholdy to their last name). Mendelssohn's father was a banker in Berlin. As a child, Mendelssohn was a musical prodigy. As he grew up, he traveled throughout Europe and visited Britain ten times, where he was especially well received.



A Portrait of Mendelssohn in 1846

His musical tastes were essentially conservative. He founded the Leipzig Conservatory. Mendelssohn was known as a conductor, pianist, composer, and organist. He was instrumental in resurrecting the works of J. S. Bach (his aunt Sara Levy had been a pupil of W. F. Bach and a patron of C. P. E. Bach and at Mendelssohn's confirmation gave him a score of the "St. Matthew's Passion"). In 1829 in Berlin, Mendelssohn conducted Bach's "St. Matthew's Passion," which had not been performed since Bach's death in 1750 and was

all but forgotten; the performance was a smashing success. Mendelssohn also popularized Bach's organ works. Mendelssohn wrote a number of symphonies; his symphony No. 5, "The Reformation Symphony," was written to commemorate the 300th anniversary of the Reformation, but was passed over by the commemoration committee (and many said it was because of Mendelssohn's Jewish ancestry). His most famous oratorio's are "St. Paul" and "Elijah." In 1837, Mendelssohn married Cécile Jeanrenaud, the daughter of a French pastor; they had five children. Mendelssohn's health was poor during the last years of his life. In May 1847 his sister Fanny died, and this greatly affected him. On 17 November 1847, at the age of 38, Mendelssohn died in Leipzig after suffering a series of strokes. His funeral was held in St. Paul's Church in Leipzig and he was interred in the family plot at the Trinity Church in Berlin.

Hans Poulson Egede, Missionary to Greenland (31 January 1686 – 5 November 1758). Known as the "Apostle of



Greenland," Egede was born in Norway, studied in Copenhagen, and then eventually went to Greenland, establishing a successful mission among Inuit and re-establishing a Danish connection to the island (note: in Canada and Greenland the preferred term for the aboriginal population is Inuit, which means "man"; the term "Eskimo," meaning "meat-eater," is considered to be pejorative). Egede was inspired by stories

about the old Norwegian Vikings who had settled Greenland. While the Danish king was interested in his proposal to go to Greenland, the king was not successful in persuading merchants to underwrite the expedition. Eventually, however, Egede raised the necessary funds, bought the ship "Hope," and in 1721 arrived in Greenland. While he found no surviving Vikings, he did make contact with the local Inuit, learned their language, gathered them into colonies, and began the work of spreading the Good News. He was aided by his wife, Gertrud neé Rauch; they had four children. In 1733 Moravian missionaries came to Greenland and opposed Egede's work because they did not understand how he could be an orthodox Lutheran and a pietist. He translated Christian literature into Inuktitut and wrote a catechism. After the death of his wife in 1735, Egede returned to Denmark but left his son, Poul, to continue his work. Poul translated the New Testament into Inuktitut. In Denmark, Egede founded a seminary to train missionaries for work in Greenland. Lutheran mission work in Greenland, as opposed to Canada, for example, adapted itself to the local language and customs and thus the majority of Greenlanders are Lutheran.

Gustavus Adolphus, King of Sweden (19 December 1594 – 6 November 1632). As King of Sweden in the seventeenth century, Gustav II Adolf is best known by his Latinized name, and ruled during what was the beginning of the "golden age" of Sweden. Most of his adult life was spent fighting for Swedish and Protestant interests on the continent.

He was the great-grandson of Gustavus Vasa, who had gained the independence of Sweden from a joint union of

Denmark, Sweden, and Norway, and introduced the Reformation to Sweden (although Vasa tolerated both Protestants and Catholics as long as they "preached the pure



Word of God," a phrase that E. N. Williams says "characterizes the doctrinal slide of the Swedish Reformation" [see: E.N. Williams, Dictionary of English and European History 1845–1789, Penguin Books]. Gustavus Adolphus gained the throne at age seventeen and then ruled in his own right a short while later.

He inherited three wars and led Sweden's armies to victory in the Kalmar War with Denmark (1611–13), the Russian War (1611–17), and the Polish Wars (1617–18; 1621–2; 1625–9).

He intervened in the Thirty Years' War (1618–1648) after the Catholic armies of Tilly defeated the Protestant alliance headed by Denmark (1629). In 1630 he landed in Germany and inflicted a series of defeats against Catholic armies. Ironically, Sweden's military endeavors in Germany were partially underwritten by King Louis XIII of France (himself a Catholic). Although he used mercenary troops, the majority of Sweden's troops were Swedish conscripts. He died in battle at Luetzen near Leipzig, which, except for his death, was a Swedish victory. The Swedes, with the continued financial backing of France, continued to fight until the end of the War.

Gustavus Adolphus reorganized the government of Sweden and also is recognized as an innovator in the

development of modern warfare.

He married Maria Eleonora, the “neurotically possessive” daughter of John Sigismund, the Elector of Brandenburg. They had one daughter, Christina, who later converted to Catholicism and abdicated the throne.

Heinrich Schütz, Lutheran Musician (8 October 1585 – 6 November 1672). Schütz is considered to be the most important German composer before Johann Sebastian Bach and also one of the most important composers of the seventeenth century.



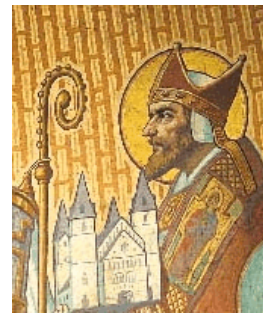
He was born in Köstritz. In 1590, the family moved to Weißenfels, where his father managed an inn and was prosperous and active in politics. In 1559 Schütz’s musical talents were recognized and after being a choir-boy he went on to study law at Marburg. From 1609–12, he studied music in Venice. He had a short stint as an organist in Kassel before moving to Dresden in 1615 to be the court composer to the Elector of Saxony. In 1628 he again went to Venice and studied with Claudio Monteverdi. Because the Thirty Years’ War had disrupted life in Dresden, in 1633 he took a post in Copenhagen, but returned to Dresden in 1641.

In 1619 he married Magdalena Wildeck in Dresden. She bore him two daughters but died in 1625; he seems never to have recovered from her death and never remarried. In 1651, he left Dresden to live with his sister, Justina, in Weißenfels. He was buried at the Frauenkirche in Dresden, but his grave

was subsequently destroyed.

Most of Schütz’s surviving music is church-related. He wrote three passions and also set the Psalter to music (after having learned Hebrew, the Psalter was his favorite Biblical book). His use of recitative made him a master at interpreting Biblical texts (and some regard him as even having been better than Bach or Handel).

Willibrord, Apostle to the Frisians (ca. 658 – 7 November 739), Willibrord was a Saxon from Northumbria, England. He



joined the Benedictine order and from age 20 to 32 studied under St. Egbert at the Abbey of Rathmelsigi, which was a center of European learning at the time. At the behest of Pipin, the Christian king of the Franks, Egbert sent Willibrord and twelve companions to Christianize the Northern Germanic tribes of Frisia (present day Netherlands). He traveled twice to Rome and on 21 November 695 was consecrated Bishop of the Frisians and also given the name of Clement. He built numerous churches, including the monastery at Utrecht, where he established his cathedral. Apparently Radhod, the King of the Frisians, agreed to be baptized, but repudiated this after he found out that he could not bring his pagan ancestors into heaven with him. After the death of Radhod in 719, mission activity continued.

The Augsburg Confession, Article XXI, “The Cult of Saints”

It is also taught among us that the saints should be kept in remembrance so that our faith may be strengthened

when we see what they received and how they were sustained by faith. Moreover, their good works are to be an example for us, each of us in his own calling. So His Imperial Majesty may in salutary and godly fashion imitate the example of David in making war on the Turk, for both are incumbents of a royal office which demands the defense and protection of their subjects.

However, it cannot be proved from the Scriptures that we are to invoke saints or seek help from them. "For there is one Mediator between God and men, Christ Jesus" (1 Timothy 2,5), Who is the only Savior, the only High Priest, Advocate, and Intercessor before God (Romans 8,34). He alone has promised to hear our prayers. Moreover, according to the Scriptures, the highest form of Divine Service is sincerely to seek and call upon this same Jesus Christ in every time of need. "If anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the Righteous."



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.