

St. Stephen Lutheran Church of the East Bay & Central Valley

(A Congregation of the Church of the Lutheran Confession)

www.ststephenclc.org

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

Worshipping 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

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Organist: Elizabeth Karp

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**The Third Last Sunday of the Church Year – 8 November
2015**

Liturgy — Page 5 in The Lutheran Hymnal

HYMNS: 13 Before Jehovah's Awe=full Throne
375 If Thy Beloved Son, O God
45 Now, The Hour Of Worship O'er

Sermon Text: Job 14,1-6

Sermon Theme: No Easy Answers For Difficult Questions

1. Why Judge If Everyone Is Guilty?
2. Why Bother If Everything Is Predetermined?

3. Where Is Vindication?

INTROIT: Have mercy upon me, O Lord, for I am in trouble:
deliver me from the hand of my enemies, and from them
that persecute me. Let me not be ashamed, O Lord: for I
have called upon You. In You, O Lord, do I put my trust:
let me never be ashamed. Amen. **Glory be to the Father ...**

COLLECT: Almighty God, we beseech You, show Your
mercy unto Your humble servants, that we who put no trust
in our own merits may not be dealt with after the severity
of Your judgment, but according to Your mercy; 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

Job 14,1-6

[Job continues to speak, saying:]

“Man, who is born of woman,
Is short-lived and full of turmoil.

²Like a flower he comes forth and withers.
He also flees like a shadow and does not remain.

³You also open Your eyes on him
And bring him into judgment with Yourself.

⁴Who can make the clean out of the unclean?
No one!

⁵Since his days are determined,
The number of his months is with You;
And his limits You have set so that he cannot pass.

⁶Turn Your gaze from him that he may rest,
Until he fulfills his day like a hired man.”

Epistle

1 Thessalonians 4,13-18

But we do not want you to be uninformed, brethren, about



The Dead In Christ Shall Rise First

those who are asleep, that you may not grieve, as do the rest who have no hope. ¹⁴ For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who have fallen asleep in Jesus. ¹⁵

For this we say to you by Word of the Lord, that we who are alive, and remain until the Coming of the Lord, shall not precede those

who have fallen asleep. ¹⁶ For the Lord Himself will descend with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trumpet of God; and the dead in Christ shall rise first. ¹⁷ Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air; and thus we shall always be with the Lord. ¹⁸ Therefore comfort one another with these words.

GRADUAL

O LORD, It is You Who have kept my soul from the pit of nothingness,

For You have cast all my sins behind Your back.

You turn man back into dust,

And say, "Return, O children of men."

For we have been consumed by Your anger,

And by Your wrath we have been dismayed.

You have placed our iniquities before You,

Our secret sins in the light of Your presence.

Return, O LORD; how long will it be?

And repent in regard to Your servants.

O satisfy us in the morning with Your steadfast love,

That we may sing for joy and be glad all our days.

Hallelujah! 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

Matthew 24,15-28

Response: Glory be to Thee, O Lord!

[As Jesus was going out of the Temple in Jerusalem, He continued to speak with His disciples, saying:]
"Therefore when you see the abomination of desolation



Jesus Teaches the Disciples as They Marvel at the Temple - Tissot

which was spoken of through Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place (let the reader understand), ¹⁶ then those who are in Judea must flee to the mountains. ¹⁷

Whoever is on the housetop must not go down to get the things out that are in his house. ¹⁸

Whoever is in the field must not turn back to get his cloak. ¹⁹ But woe to those who are pregnant and to those who are nursing babies in those days! ²⁰ But pray that your flight

will not be in the winter, or on a Sabbath. ²¹ For then there will be a great tribulation, such as has not occurred since the beginning of the world until now, nor ever will. ²² Unless those days had been cut short, no life would have been saved; but for the sake of the elect those days will be cut short. ²³ Then if anyone says to you, ‘Behold, here is the Christ,’ or ‘There He is,’ do not believe him. ²⁴ For false Christs and false prophets will arise and will show great signs and wonders, so as to mislead, if possible, even the elect. ²⁵ Behold, I have told you in advance. ²⁶ So if they say to you, ‘Behold, He is in the wilderness,’ do not go out, or, ‘Behold, He is in the inner rooms,’ do not believe them. ²⁷ For just as the lightning comes from the east and flashes even to the west, so will the coming of the Son of Man be. ²⁸ Wherever the corpse is, there the vultures will gather.”

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

Response: Praise be to Thee, O Christ!

† † †

Lessons for 15 November – The Second Last Sunday of the Church Year

Old Testament: Isaiah 40,9-11
Epistle: 1 Thessalonians 1,3-10
The Holy Gospel: Matthew 25,31-46

Today’s Gradual is based on selected verses from Isaiah 38 and Psalm 90.

Next Service in Stockton: Sunday, 15 November, at 2 p.m.

Bible Study. Hayward – Tuesday, 10 November, at 2 p.m.
Stockton, Tuesday, 17 November, at 2 p.m.

Thanksgiving Day Service – we will have a Thanksgiving Day Service in Hayward on **Thursday, 26 November, at 9 a.m.**

Voter’s Meeting in Hayward after the morning service on 29 November, about 10:30 a.m. Major Topics – election of officers for 2016 and 2016 budget.

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).



Call News. Nothing new to report.

Handout – President Eichstadt’s November Pastoral Letter

Pulpit Exchange on 22 November.

Bartholomew Crasselius, Lutheran Pastor & Hymn Writer (16 February 1667 – 10 November 1724). Crasselius [Crasselt] was a Lutheran Minister and poet of church hymns. A son of

a barrel-maker, he studied in Halle with August Hermann Francke, a pietist, and was an eager pupil.

In 1701 Bartholomäus Crasselius became a minister in Nidda (Wetterau) and worked from 1708 in Duesseldorf. He was a pietistic repentance preacher, and was seen as inconsiderate but undaunted. By his eager faith he aroused new life in the municipality. However his “babelstürmende” (Babylon storm) brought him also much controversy and reprimand. For many years he was engaged in strenuous fights with the authorities. Most of his hymns are filled with what he thought was the “spirit of Elijah” and repentance.

Of his hymns, several should be mentioned: “Erwach, o Mensch, erwache” and “Ach Herr, wann kommt das Jahr, die Deinen zu erlösen?” His most famous hymn is “Dir, dir, Jehova, will ich singen,” which is “Jehovah, Let Me Now Adore Thee,” number 21 in The Lutheran Hymnal.

Martin of Tours, Bishop (316 – 8 November 397). Martin of Tours, pastor and bishop of the Church, was born into a pagan family in what today is Hungary around the year 316. He grew up in Lombardy (a region in northern Italy), and came to the faith as a young man. He then began a career in the Roman army. Sensing a Call from God, he left the army and became a monk, and affirmed that he was “Christ’s soldier”

According to early stories, when he was 21 he passed the gates of Amiens (in France) and saw a man freezing on the side of the road. Taking pity upon him, he ripped his army

cloak in half and gave it to him. That night, Martin dreamt of Christ wearing that half cloak. That vision affected him so deeply that he gave up military life, succeeding in getting a discharge (the usual term of enlistment was for approximately 25 years).



Martin of Tours as a Roman soldier dividing his cloak with a poor, freezing stranger

Martin journeyed to the city of Poitiers and met its bishop (later to be named Saint Hilary) and was baptized. Afterward, he spoke out against the Arian heresy, but then was forced to flee on account of persecution, as did Hilary. After living as a hermit on an island in the Tyrrhenian Sea, in 361 Martin heard that Hilary had returned to Poitiers and he returned to Gaul.

Hilary sent Martin to Leguge, a Benedictine monastery, to continue as a hermit. Martin spent the next ten years there. In 371, the Bishop of Tours died and Martin was twice asked to assume that seat, but he respectfully refused on both occasions. He was then asked to come to Tours to anoint the sick wife of a friend. While there, he was asked again, and this time accepted the office of bishop. He is remembered for his simple life-style and his vigorous defence of the faith, both against Christian heresies but also against the pagan Druids.

On Martin’s name day (11 November) in 1483, a German couple had their son baptized and named him after Martin of Tours. The couple’s names were Hans and Margaret and we know their son as Martin Luther.

Kaspar Aquila, Reformer (7 August 1488 – 12 November 1560). Aquila, whose birth name was Johann Kaspar Adler, was a German reformer, who was born in Augsburg. Educated at Augsburg and at Ulm (1502), in Italy (he met Erasmus in Rome), at Bern (1508), studied theology in Leipzig (1510) and Wittenberg (1513). According to his son, he entered the ministry in August 1514, while at Bern. He was for some time a military chaplain.

In 1516, he became pastor of Jengen, near Augsburg, where he introduced ideas of the Reformation. Openly proclaiming his adherence to Martin Luther's doctrine, he was imprisoned for half a year (1520 or 1522) at Dillingen, by order of the bishop of Augsburg; a death sentence was commuted to banishment through the influence of Isabella, wife of Christian II of Denmark and sister of Charles V. Returning to Wittenberg, he met Luther, and acted as tutor to the sons of Franz von Sickingen at Ebernburg castle. After the siege of the Ebernburg by Richard Greiffenklau, the archbishop of Trier, on June 6, 1523, he returned to Wittenberg to teach Hebrew, and aided Luther in his version of the Old Testament.

The dates and particulars of his career are uncertain until 1527, when he became pastor at Saalfeld, and in 1528, superintendent. His vehement opposition to the Augsburg Interim (1548) and a warrant by Charles V on his head led him to take temporary shelter at Rudolstadt with Catherine, countess of Schwarzburg. In 1550, he was appointed dean of



the Collegiatstift in Schmalkalden. Here he had a controversy with Andreas Osiander. Restored to Saalfeld after the peace of Passau, not without opposition, in 1552, he remained there, still engaged in controversy, until his death on the 12th of November 1560. He was twice married, and left four sons. He published numerous sermons, a few Old Testament expositions and some controversial tracts.

Justinian I, Roman Emperor (483 – 13 or 14 November 565; emperor from 527). Although he was a staunch defender of orthodox Christianity, and so the Eastern Orthodox Church



Mosaic of Justinian at the church in Ravenna, Italy

considers him to be a saint (as do some Lutherans), Justinian was hardly “saintly” in the performance of either his civic or religious duties (one would be hard pressed to be “saintly” in either becoming emperor or retaining power and staying alive as emperor). That said, he was probably one of the greatest Roman emperors and had a profound impact upon Western Civilization.

He was born to a peasant family and then adopted by his uncle, Justin, his mother’s brother. Justin went from being a member of the emperor’s guard to emperor. Justin brought his nephew to Constantinople, where Justinian received a good education in politics, law, and religion. In 527, Justinian became associate emperor and upon Justin’s death in 527 he assumed sole duties of emperor.

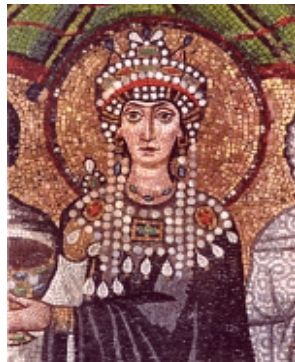
In about 525 he married Theodora (ca. 500–547), who

was twenty years his junior, and before their marriage was an “actress” (which most take to be a euphemism for prostitute). While the marriage caused a scandal, Theodora was very intelligent and staunchly supported her husband. Theodora died in 548 at a relatively young age. Justinian would outlive her by 20 years and in his later years became more and more interested in theology. In theological matters, however, Theodora seems to have sympathized with the heretical Monophysites.

In military matters, Justinian was well served by his general, Belisarius, who conquered Africa from the Vandals (533–34), and then went on to conquer Italy from the Goths (535–40 and 541–554). Justinian’s military efforts were directed more to the West than the East. Belisarius was instrumental in putting down the Nika riots of 532 in Constantinople, which attempted to overthrow Justinian. Theodora strengthened Justinian’s resolve to brutally suppress the riots, including the slaughter of tens of thousands of civilians in the Hippodrome. Taking advantage of the situation, at this time Theodora successfully persuaded him to kill the extended family of one of the previous emperors.

In legal matters, Justinian codified Roman Law in what has become known as the Code of Justinian, which was influential in the development of Roman Catholic canon law and also became the basis for many European law codes.

Justinian built many churches, including the famed



Mosaic of Theodora at the church in Ravenna, Italy

Hagia Sophia (Church of the Holy Wisdom, dedicated to Jesus as the personification of Wisdom – often, the name of this church has been mis-translated as the “Church of Saint Sophia”) in Constantinople; after the Muslim conquest in 1453, this great church was turned into a mosque.

In religious matters, Justinian championed the Nicene–Constantinopolitan Creed, which he made the sole symbol of the Church. He accorded legal force to the canon of the first four Ecumenical Councils. He vigorously suppressed heresy (including being personally present while Manicheans were burned at the stake and drowned). In 539 he closed the Academy in Athens. He suppressed paganism. For the most part and even in opposition to his ecclesiastical officials in the East, he pursued good relations with the papacy in Rome. In support of this endeavour, he suppressed the Monophysite heresy, which was particularly strong in Syria and Egypt. Also in support of this suppression, he called the Fifth Ecumenical Council in 553 for Constantinople, which condemned the teachings of Origen and affirmed the Fourth Ecumenical Council of Chalcedon. He actively promoted missionary activity.

He was a hard-working individual who placed the interests of the state above personal interests. His invasion of Italy worked out well for him, but not so well for Italy, since the consequent devastation began a long-term de-urbanization of the country and within three years of Justinian’s death Italy was conquered by the Lombards. His wars demanded heavy taxation which alienated large segments of the populace. His persecution of Monophysites left Syria and Egypt open to welcome Muslim invaders as

“liberators” a little more than a century after his death.

Elizabeth of Hungary, Princess and Provider for the Poor (7 July 1207 –14 November 1231). Elizabeth was the daughter of King Andrew II of Hungary and his wife Gertrude. At age four, she was brought to the court of Thuringia, Germany, to be betrothed to the future Ludwig IV of Thuringia, whom she married at age fourteen, the same year in which he was crowned king (1221). In 1223, Franciscan monks arrived, and Elizabeth learned about the selfless life of Francis of Assisi. She then began to give alms and perform other charitable deeds, all with the approval of Ludwig. In 1226, when Ludwig was tending to imperial affairs, flood, famine, and plague



gripped Thuringia and Elizabeth assumed control and distributed alms in all parts of the land. Below the Wartburg castle, she built a hospital and helped tend the patients on a daily basis.

In the 1220s, Konrad von Marburg became her confessor. He was a harsh man and in assigning penance demanded that she even undergo physical beatings. It is thought that this harsh regimen contributed to her weak health and eventual death.

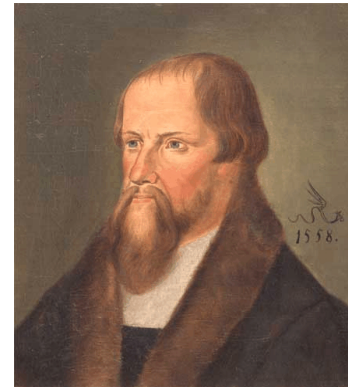
In 1227 Ludwig died while on his way to join the Sixth Crusade. At this point, she made solemn vows to Konrad similar to those of a nun, including those of celibacy. This last vow was contested by her family, who, for political reasons, would have liked to marry her off again. Elizabeth, however,

held fast to her vows. She became affiliated with the Third Order of St. Francis and built a hospital in Marburg with her dowry. She died in Marburg.

Elizabeth was survived by her three children: Hermann II, Landgraf of Thuringia (1222–41); Sophie (1224–75), who married Henry II, Duke of Brabant; Gertrude of Altenberg (1227–97), who became the abbess of the convent of Altenberg.

Elizabeth is commemorated by many hospitals which have been named in her honor.

Kaspar Cruciger the Elder, Pastor, Reformer, “Equivocator” (1 January 1504 – 14 November 1548). Cruciger was a Lutheran pastor who helped make Magdeburg a Lutheran



stronghold, befriended Luther, assisted him in translating the Bible into German, transcribed and compiled his sermons, but, as a friend of Philip Melanchthon, later in life was willing to compromise with the Zwinglians (that is, the Reformed) and the Roman Catholics.

Cruciger (and there are various spellings of his name) was born in Leipzig; his father was a well-to-do merchant. In 1513 he entered the University of Leipzig and studied Theology. In 1523 he went to Wittenberg to continue his studies, but was also interested in natural history, botany, and astronomy. In 1525 he became the rector and preacher at the newly established Evangelical St. John’s School in Magdeburg.

In 1528 he returned to Wittenberg to become a professor of theology and in 1533 he received his doctorate in theology. In 1539 he was assisted by Friedrich Myconius in establishing the Reformation in Leipzig. He took part in theological debates in Marburg (1529) and later in Hagenau and Worms (1540–41), and Regensburg (1541). With the outbreak of the Smalcald War in 1546, the imperial and Catholic forces moved from victory to victory, and Melanchthon moved to secure a compromise with the imperial government of Emperor Charles V by conceding some points which he felt were *adiaphora* (that is, things neither commanded nor prohibited by Scripture) in the area of worship. Cruciger would have gone along with this compromise, which was finally codified in the Augsburg Interim of 1548, but Cruciger died before the Interim was signed. The concept that one could yield in *adiaphora* in such circumstances was later condemned by Article X of the Formula of Concord (1580).

Cruciger was twice married. His first wife was Elizabeth von Meseritz, who bore two children: a daughter, who was Johannes Luther's second wife (Johannes was Martin Luther's eldest son), and a son, Kaspar the Younger, who followed in the final equivocating steps of his father and, after having been banished from Saxony in 1576, became a Calvinist pastor. After the death of his first wife, Cruciger married Apollonia Güntherode, the daughter of a Leipzig city councillor; this union bore one daughter, Apollonia, who married the poet Georg Mauritius.

Veteran's Day – 11 November. Originally called Armistice Day



to commemorate the end of World War One at the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month (1918); in 1954 the name was changed. In the British Commonwealth today is known as “Remembrance Day.” Wearing a red

poppy reflects the WW I poem “In Flanders Fields,” by Lt. Col. John McCrae.

In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the Dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved, and now we lie,
In Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields.