

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. in
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

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Organist: Elizabeth Karp

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The First Sunday In Advent – 29 November 2015

Liturgy: The Order of Matins — Page 32 in The Lutheran
Hymnal

Hymn 58 Oh Lord, How Shall I Meet Thee (1 & 3-5)

Matins	page 32
The Invitatory	page 33
The Venite	pages 33-34

The Psalmody

LORD, you were favorable to Your land;

You restored the fortunes of Jacob.

You forgave the iniquity of Your people;

You covered all their sin.

Let me hear what God the LORD will speak,

**For He will speak peace to His people, to His
saints; but let them not turn back to folly.**

Surely His salvation is near to those who fear Him,

That glory may dwell in our land.

Steadfast love and faithfulness meet;

Righteousness and peace kiss each other.

Faithfulness springs up from the ground,

And righteousness looks down from the sky.

Yes, the LORD will give what is good,

And our land will yield its increase.

Righteousness will go before Him

And make His footsteps a way.

Hallelujah! Remember, O Lord, Your tender mercies,

**For they have been ever of old. [sing: Glory be to
the Father ...]**

First Lesson

Jeremiah 33,14–18

‘Behold, days are coming,’ declares the LORD, ‘when I will fulfill the good word which I have spoken concerning the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ¹⁵ In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch of David to spring forth; and He shall execute justice and righteousness on the earth. ¹⁶ In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will dwell in safety; and this is the name by which she will be called: The LORD Is Our Righteousness.’

¹⁷ For thus says the LORD, ‘David shall never lack a man to sit on the throne of the house of Israel; ¹⁸ and the Levitical

priests shall never lack a man before Me to offer burnt offerings, to burn grain offerings and to prepare sacrifices continually.”

P] But Thou, O Lord, have mercy upon us.

C] Thanks be to Thee, O Lord.

Second Lesson

Matthew 21,1-9

When they had approached Jerusalem and had come to Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, then Jesus sent two disciples, ² saying to them, “Go into the village opposite you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied there and a colt with her; untie them and bring them to Me. ³ If anyone says anything to you, you shall say, ‘The Lord has need of them,’ and immediately he will send them.” ⁴ This



took place to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet:

⁵ “Say to the daughter of Zion,
‘Behold your King is coming to you,
Gentle, and mounted on a donkey,
Even on a colt, the foal of a beast of burden.’”

⁶ The disciples went and did just as Jesus had instructed them, ⁷ and brought the donkey and the colt, and laid their coats on them; and He sat on the coats. ⁸ Most of the crowd spread their coats in the road, and others were cutting branches from the trees and spreading them in the road. ⁹ The crowds going ahead of Him, and those who followed, were shouting,

“Hosanna to the Son of David;
Blessed is He Who comes in the name of the Lord;
Hosanna in the highest!” [Scripture passages are from the *New*

American Standard Bible, © The Lockman Foundation, used by permission]

P] But Thou, O Lord, have mercy upon us.

C] Thanks be to Thee, O Lord.

Hymn 95 Savior Of The Nations Come (1-4)

Sermon Text: Jeremiah 33,14-18

Sermon Theme: Jeremiah Brings Consolation In The
Midst Of Devastation

1. In Jesus ... Better Days Were Coming
2. In Jesus ... Better Days Have Come
3. In Jesus ... A Better Day Is Coming

Hymn 95 Savior Of The Nations Come (5-7 stand for 7)

The Offering

The Te Deum Laudamus page 35-37

The Prayers [Morning Suffrages]

O Lord,
Have mercy upon us.
O Christ,
Have mercy upon us.
O Lord,
Have mercy upon us.

Confession Of Faith

**I believe in God the Father Almighty,
Maker of Heaven and earth.
And in Jesus Christ, His Only Son, our Lord;
Who was conceived by the Holy Ghost;
Born of the Virgin Mary;
Suffered under Pontius Pilate,**

**Was crucified, dead, and buried;
He descended into Hell;
The third day He rose again from the dead;
He ascended into heaven,
And sitteth at the right hand of God the Father
Almighty;
From thence He shall come to judge the quick and
the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Ghost;
The Holy Christian Church,
The communion of Saints;
The forgiveness of sins;
The resurrection of the body.
And the life everlasting. Amen.**

Unto Thee have I cried, O Lord:
**And in the morning shall my prayer come before
Thee.**

Let my mouth be filled with Thy praise:
And with Thine honor all the day.

O Lord, hide Thy face from my sins:
And blot out all mine iniquities.

Create in me a clean heart, O God:
And renew a right spirit within me.

Cast me not away from Thy presence:
And take not Thy Holy Spirit from me.

Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation:
And uphold me with Thy free Spirit.

Vouchsafe, O Lord, this day:
To keep us without sin.

Have mercy upon us, O Lord:
Have mercy upon us.

O Lord, let Thy mercy be upon us:
As our Trust is in Thee.

Hear my prayer, O Lord:
And let my cry come unto Thee.

Let us pray [special petitions, intercessions, or thanksgivings]

[Together we pray the morning prayer:] **We give thanks unto
Thee, heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Thy dear
Son, That Thou hast kept us this night from all harm and
danger; and we pray Thee that Thou wouldst keep us this
day from sin and every evil, that all our doings and life
may please Thee. For into Thy hands we commend
ourselves, our bodies and souls, and all things. Let Thy
holy angel be with us that the wicked Foe may have no
power over us. Amen.**

The Kyrie [sung]

**Lord, have mercy upon us.
Christ, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy upon us.**

The Lord's Prayer

**Our Father Who art in heaven,
Hallowed be Thy name;
Thy Kingdom come;
Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven;
Give us this day our daily bread;
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
And lead us not into temptation;
But deliver us from evil;
For Thine is the Kingdom and the Power and the Glory
forever and ever. AMEN.**

P] The Lord be with you.

C] **And with thy spirit.** [sung]

COLLECT: Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of
Your only Son. By His coming strengthen us to serve You with
purified lives; 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.

C] Amen. [sung]

P] Bless we the Lord.

C] Thanks be to God. [sung]

P] The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ (✠) and the Love of God and the Communion of the Holy Ghost be with you all.

C] Amen. [sung]

Hymn 60 Hark, A Thrilling Voice is Sounding (stand for last)

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Lessons for 6 December — The Second Sunday of

Advent- A Service With Holy Communion

Old Testament: Micah 4,1-7

Epistle: Romans 15,4-13

The Holy Gospel: Luke 21,25-33

Weekly Scripture Verse: Behold, your King is coming to you;
| He is just and endowed with salvation. (Zechariah 9,9)

Next Service in Stockton: Sunday, December 6 at 2 p.m.

Bible Study – Hayward – Tuesday, 1 December, at 2 p.m.

Today's Psalmody consists of selected verses from Psalm 85.

Call News — The Rev. Michael Gurath, pastor at Holy Cross Lutheran, Phoenix, AZ, has returned the Call to Gethsemane Lutheran, Spokane Valley, WA.

Handout – December 2015 Church Calendar.



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 caregivers 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).

Advent begins today and consists of the four Sundays preceding Christmas, when the Word of God became flesh and was pleased to dwell among us to begin His work of redemption. During this penitential season, we look back to Jesus' coming in Grace.

From President Eichstadt: The "press release" from the Nov. 13 meeting of the committees from the CLC, ELS, and WELS follows. The revised joint statement has been submitted to the CLC Bd. of Doctrine for their review and evaluation. The next meeting of the three synods is scheduled for Feb. 2016:

Doctrinal Discussions Continue between the CLC, the ELS, and WELS. Representatives from the Church of the Lutheran Confession, the Evangelical Lutheran Synod, and the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod met in Waukesha, Wisconsin, on November 13 to continue formal doctrinal discussions. The group made final edits on a joint statement on the biblical doctrine of fellowship. This statement had been adopted by the group as a draft in an earlier meeting

and had been shared with the doctrinal committees of all three synods. Comments from those committees were considered in the writing of the latest draft. The revised statement will be shared again with the doctrinal committees for additional input.

The group also spent a portion of the meeting addressing how the biblical doctrine of fellowship is applied in various situations. One significant area of discussion is how the biblical fellowship principles impact participation in various organizations that may have religious elements in their governing documents or in how the organizations function. Another subject for discussion was the biblical doctrine of the role of men and women in the church, in marriage, and in society. Discussion of these matters will continue at the next meeting, planned for early in 2016.

The talks have been constructive and positive, with all involved fully committed to a faithful understanding and application of God's Word.

NOMINATIONS FOR ILC PRESIDENT: The Board of Regents invites nominations for the office of President of Immanuel Lutheran College. The current term of Professor Steve Sippert expires June 30, 2016. All pastors, professors, male teachers, and voting members of the CLC are entitled to nominate a man from the faculty of Immanuel Lutheran College to serve a two-year term beginning July 1, 2016. Nominations must be written or E-mailed no later than midnight January 5, 2016 to: Mr. Craig Ryan; 499 Country Lane; Fulda, MN 56131; E-Mail: cryan@page1printers.com.

An Announcement from Prof. John Pfeiffer of ILC: "For

reasons of uncertain health issues and the need of the synod for time to initiate the calling process, I am announcing that I will retire at the end of this school year (2016)."

The Advent Wreath. The roots of the Advent Wreath may go back to the Middle Ages in Europe; however, in modern times



it was developed by Johann Heinrich Wichern (1808–81), a German theologian who ran a home for poor children in Hamburg, Germany. It became popular in the 20th century. The four candles in the wreath represent the four weeks before the

birth of Jesus. Generally, there are three purple candles (or blue) and one pink candle (or rose); a white candle in the middle symbolizes Christ and is not lit until Christmas Day. Different traditions assign different names to the different candles. Two of the most popular designations are: (1) the Prophets' Candle, the Shepherds' Candle, the Bethlehem Candle, and the Angels' Candle; or, (2) candles for Hope, Peace, Love, and Joy.

St. Andrew, Apostle (30 November). St. Andrew the Apostle,



was the son of John (Jonah) and the brother of Simon Peter. He grew up in Bethsaida by Lake Galilee, where he and his family were fishermen. At the beginning of Jesus' public ministry, they both lived in the same house in Capernaum. Even though Andrew is a Greek name, it was common among the

Jews from the third to second centuries BC.

Before meeting Jesus, Andrew was a disciple of John the Baptist. But after John identified Jesus as “the Lamb of God,” Andrew left John to find Jesus. Andrew then told his brother Peter and the Apostle John about Jesus (John 1,36–42); subsequently, both Andrew and Peter “left all” to follow Jesus.



In the lists of the Apostles, Andrew is always listed among the first four. On each occasion that Andrew is mentioned in the Gospels, he is always bringing someone to Jesus: first, Peter and John; second, the boy with the five bread loaves and two fish at the feeding of the 5,000; third, when Jesus was going to Jerusalem for the last time, a group of Greeks who wanted to see Jesus. Andrew was present for the Last Supper and saw Jesus at His post-resurrection appearances. He was also present at Jesus’ Ascension as well as at Pentecost.

Since Andrew was the first of the Apostles, the Western Church commemorates his feast day on 30 November and this marks the beginning of the Church Year.

No mention of Andrew is made in the New Testament concerning the rest of his life. In his Church History, Eusebius notes that Andrew preached in Scythia; other writers have Andrew preaching in what is today’s Turkey as well as Macedonia and Greece. In Achaia in Greece it was reported that he converted the wife and brother of the Roman governor, Aegeas (or, Aegeates). Aegeas was so enraged by this that he had Andrew arrested and condemned to death by crucifixion. Andrew was bound to a decussated or Saltire cross (shaped like an “X”); he was bound to prolong his agony. The date of his martyrdom is said to be 30 November AD 60,

during the reign of Nero.

Andrew is the patron saint of Scotland and Russia. In Scotland, his Saltire Cross was incorporated into the national flag; this Saltire Cross, along with the Cross of St. George, form the basis of the Union Jack.



Argula von Grumbach, Reformer (ca. 1492 – 30 November 1554). Argula was born into an aristocratic south German family and wrote letters and championed and defended Luther and the reformers.

She was born at Ehrenfels Castle in Bavaria in a staunchly Catholic family (von Stauff) of independent nobility (Freiherren), which meant that they only owed loyalty to the emperor. Argula was taught to read at an early age, and at age ten her father gave her a German Bible (note: Luther’s translation was not the first German Bible), which she read, studied, and memorized, in spite of Franciscans telling her that such reading would only “confuse her.”



Im 1508 in Munich, she became a lady-in-waiting to Queen Kunigunde, the daughter of Emperor Friedrich II. In 1509 her parents died of the plague. In 1516 she married Friedrich von Grumbach, which was a slight social step down for her; he is reported to have been in ill health and died in 1530. With Friedrich, however, she bore four children, of which only the third, Gottfried, survived his parents. Her husband did not share her evangelical beliefs.

By 1522, having read Luther, she began to support the Reformation. She corresponded with Paul Speratus, Andreas

Osiander, and Luther. In 1523 a young theologian named Ingolstadt was arrested for promoting Lutheran views and was arrested. In protest, Argula wrote a longer letter supporting the theologian. In part she wrote: "What have Luther and Melanchthon taught save the Word of God? You have not refuted them." Her letter was published as a pamphlet and enjoyed numerous printings. On account of this, she was shunned by her family and Catholic theologians denounced her as a "whore" and "an unfit mother." In 1530 she was at the imperial Diet in Augsburg and met Luther.

She reportedly died in 1554 in Zeitlitzheim, however, there are reports that indicate that she might have lived until 1563.

Barbara, Martyr (ca. 200s – ca. 4 December 305). According to tradition (in the Golden legend), Barbara was the only daughter of a rich pagan in Nicomedia (a city about 80+ miles East of today's Istanbul).



Her father had her kept at home in a tower to preserve her from outside, worldly influences. She heard about the Gospel, however, and converted to Christianity. After hearing of her conversion, her enraged father handed her over to the provincial prefect to have her executed. Apparently her father himself beheaded her; however, on the way home from the beheading he was struck by lightning and bodily consumed. Because of this association with lightening, and explosive force, she is revered by artillery men, engineers, and miners. The Order of Santa Barbara is a military honor society for both the US Army and US Marines Corps Artillery. The city of Santa Barbara was

named after her by Franciscan missionaries in 1602.

Barbara was first honored in the East and then this devotion spread to the West. Because there are no first-hand accounts of her or her martyrdom in contemporary sources, she was removed from the Roman Calendar in 1969. She is still honored in the East.

John of Damascus, Greek Theologian & Doctor of the Church (ca. 674–76 – 4 December 749). John was an Arab Christian monk and priest who was born and raised in Damascus and died at the Saint Saba monastery near Jerusalem.

John's parents were wealthy Christians in Damascus



and his father served as the chief representative ("Logothete") of the Christian community to the Muslim Caliph. John took over his father's position, but about 716 resigned on account of "the Faith." John may have had to resign or was forced from office when Christian opponents of his views on icons forged

letters that purported to show that he was disloyal to the Caliph.

John then retired to a monastery where he was ordained a priest. He spent the rest of his life at the St. Saba monastery. While there, he did all of his writing.

His most important book was The Font of Wisdom, which was a recapitulation of earlier thought and was divided into three chief parts: Concerning Philosophy; a refutation of heresies; and, the Orthodox Faith. The third part is a comprehensive presentation of the views of the Greek Fathers

and is still a valuable source of orthodox Christian theology.

His other great work was Sacred Parallels, which is a vast compilation of Scriptural and patristic texts of the Christian moral and aesthetic life; however, this work only exists in fragments.

He is noted as a strong supporter of icons and their veneration and as an outgrowth of his Christology he developed an elaborate Mariology, which often went beyond the teachings of Scripture (for example, the sinlessness of Mary and her bodily assumption into heaven).

John also wrote commentaries on books of the Bible, liturgies, and hymns, two of which are in The Lutheran Hymnal: 204, "Come Ye Faithful, Raise the Strain!"; and 205, "The Day of Resurrection."

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF CONCORD
FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT
LARGE CATECHISM, PART III, THE LORD'S PRAYER

"What is God's Kingdom?"

Answer, "Nothing other than what we learned in the Creed: God sent His Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, into the world to redeem and deliver us from the devil's power [1 John 3,8]. He sent Him to bring us to Himself and to govern us as a King of righteousness, life, and salvation against sin, death, and an evil conscience. For this reason He has also given His Holy Spirit, who is to bring these things home to us by His holy Word and to illumine and strengthen us in the faith by His power."

We pray here in the first place that this may happen

with us. We pray that His name may be so praised through God's holy Word and a Christian life that we who have accepted it may abide and daily grow in it, and that it may gain approval and acceptance among other people. We pray



that it may go forth with power throughout the world [2 Thessalonians 3,1]. We pray that many may find entrance into the Kingdom of Grace [John 3,5], be made partakers of redemption [Colossians 1,12-14], and be led to it by the Holy Spirit [Romans 8,14], so that we may all together remain forever in the one Kingdom now begun.

We pray that the Kingdom may come to those who are not yet in it, and, by daily growth that it may come to us who have received it, both now and hereafter in eternal life. (paragraphs 51-53) [Condensed from CONCORDIA: THE LUTHERAN CONFESSIONS, copyright 2006 by CPH. Used by permission. All rights reserved.]