

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

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Organist: Elizabeth Karp

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**The Third Last Sunday of the Church Year – 6
November 2016**

A Service with Holy Communion

Liturgy — Page 15 in The Lutheran Hymnal

(visitors are asked to speak with the Pastor before communing)

HYMNS: 602 It Is Not Death To Die
616 Forever With The Lord (1-4 & 5-8)
562 Round Me Falls the Night

Sermon Text: 1 Thessalonians 4,13-18

Sermon Theme: Hope In Jesus Always Gives Comfort

1. Hopelessness Apart From Christ
2. Hope In Christ
3. Hope In Jesus Always Gives Comfort

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!

⁵ Since his days are determined,
The number of his months is with You;
And his limits You have set so that he cannot pass.
⁶ Turn 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 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



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

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!

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Lessons for 13 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

Weekly Scripture Verse: Behold, now is “the acceptable time,” behold, now is “the day of salvation.” (2 Corinthians 6,2)

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

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

Bible Study. Hayward – Tuesday, 8 November, at 1:30 p.m.
Stockton, Tuesday, 29 November, at 2 p.m.

(Note: There should be a Bible Study in Hayward on Tuesday, 15 November, but Pastor Karp may have to report for jury duty. While he can dial in to find out his status on Monday evening, there is the possibility that if he is not summoned for a morning session he could be summoned for an afternoon session.)

Thanksgiving Day Service – we will have a Thanksgiving Day Service in Hayward on **Thursday, 24 November, at 9 a.m.**

ILL. In your prayers, please remember Nancy and Roy Cameron; Jean Niblett; Marlene Clappier; Sue (the Karps’ neighbor who is undergoing chemotherapy), Don Drews; Richard and Beth Hocker; Ruth Scheuermann; Pr. Doug Priestap (Florida); Pr. Steven Karp; Mary Ryan (of Eau Claire, WI); Deena; Peter; Kaylee Ude; Warren; Cynthia (Dr. Richard’s sister).



Dual Parish and Call News: On 10/30, voters from both St. Stephen East Bay and St. Stephen West Bay met in a joint meeting facilitated by conference visitor, Pastor David Reim. The purpose of the meeting was to move forward with plans to call a single pastor to a dual parish setting. It was formally decided that the pastoral expenses would be divided 70/30, with St. Stephen East Bay contributing 30% due to its smaller size. The total pastoral compensation package (salary, parsonage, retirement, medical, travel, etc.) was \$82,820, which would mean that St. Stephen East Bay would contribute ~\$24,846. It was unsettled whether or not our congregation would incur additional expenses due to the additional travel mileage expenses.

The voters of each congregation issued a Divine Call to Pastor Luke Bernthal, currently serving in Valentine, NE. As the call process may take a long time if calls are returned, each congregation also issued a call to retired pastor and former CLC president, Daniel Fleischer, to serve as vacancy pastor. Vacancy pastor compensation would also be divided 70/30, which includes \$1200/month salary, travel reimbursement, furnished accommodations, and utilities. Both Luke Bernthal and Daniel Fleischer were contacted by telephone and subsequently provided with the call documents and the 2015 annual reports of each congregation. Please include in your prayers for our church that the Holy Ghost would give them guidance in to how best serve God's Kingdom here on earth.

The possibility of a 'Dual Parish Agreement' was briefly discussed at the meeting, which would include the establishment of a 'Joint Dual Parish Committee' to annually review compensation revisions, the pastor's needs, and each congregation's needs. Due to time constraints, this agreement and committee will be further discussed at each

congregations' voters meeting.

If anyone would like copies of the call documents or a draft copy of the Dual Parish Agreement, please contact Timothy Blank.

Call News. The Rev. Michael Gurath, pastor of Holy Cross Lutheran, Phoenix, AZ, has returned the Call to Zion Lutheran, Lawrenceville, GA. The Rev. David Baker, pastor of Our Redeemer's Lutheran, Red Wing, MN, has returned the Call to Rock of Ages Lutheran, Grand Rapids, MI. The Rev. Todd Ohlmann, pastor of Faith Lutheran, Manchester, MO, has accepted the Call to become the full time CLC Visiting Missionary. Foreign Missionary Matthew Ude has accepted the Call to Faith Lutheran, Markesan, WI. St. Stephen Lutheran, Mountain View, and St. Stephen Lutheran, Hayward, CA, have called the Rev. Luke Bernthal, pastor of Grace Lutheran, Valentine, NE, Peace Lutheran, Mission, and St. Paul's Lutheran, White River, SD.

Handout – President Eichstadt's November Pastoral Letter
- November 2016 Church Calendar

Health Update. On Tuesday 1 November, Pastor Karp went to UCSF for a follow-up MRI and subsequent appointment with his radiation oncologist. The MRI indicated that the brain tumor may have shrunk by an infinitesimal amount. The oncologist thought this is a good sign and the next appointment will be six months from now.

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



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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.

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 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



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

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 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, but 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 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 at 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.

Ten Commandment Diagnostic Questions. The Ten Commandments show us the perfect will of God, and thus they show us our sin. There is a long tradition in the Christian Church of using the Commandments to teach us

how to repent of our sins. Here is an abbreviated list of self-diagnostic questions:

1. What am I afraid of?
2. How are my prayers?
3. What is my attitude toward worship?
4. What is my attitude toward authority?
5. Am I angry?
6. Am I chaste?
7. Am I generous?
8. Am I bitter?
- 9 & 10. Am I happy? (Or, if you have to, "Am I content?")

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.