

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

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 Second Sunday After The Epiphany – 15 January
2017

Liturgy — Page 5 in The Lutheran Hymnal

HYMNS: 134 Songs Of Thankfulness And Praise
395 O God, Thou Faithful God (1-4 & 5-8)
412 May We Thy Percepts, Lord, Fulfill

Sermon Text: Romans 12,6-16

Sermon Theme: God's Forgiving Love Seals The Cracks

1. The Wax Of God's Love
2. Cling To The Good And Hate The Evil
3. Sincerity Means Action

INTROIT: All the earth shall worship You: and shall sing unto You, O God. They shall sing unto Your name: O You most high. Make a joyful noise unto God, all you lands: sing forth the honor of His name, make His praise glorious.
Glory be to the Father ...

COLLECT: O Lord God, heavenly Father, during His time on earth You permitted the glory of Your Son to be revealed through signs and wonders: we pray You, fill us with Your grace so that we increasingly trust His strength and lovingkindness, which fill our lives with joy; through our Lord Jesus Christ, Who with You and the Holy Ghost, lives and reigns, ever the One true God, world without end.
Amen.

Old Testament

Deuteronomy 18,15-22

[And Moses called all Israel, and said unto them:]
“The LORD your God will raise up for you a Prophet like me from among you, from your countrymen, you shall listen to Him. ¹⁶ This is according to all that you asked of the LORD your God in Horeb on the day of the assembly, saying, ‘Let me not hear again the voice of the LORD my

God, let me not see this great fire anymore, or I will die.’¹⁷ The LORD said to me, ‘They have spoken well.’¹⁸ I will raise up a Prophet from among their countrymen like you, and I will put My Words in His mouth, and He shall speak to them all that I command Him.’¹⁹ It shall come about that whoever will not listen to My Words which He shall speak in My name, I Myself will require it of him.’²⁰ But the prophet who speaks a word presumptuously in My name which I have not commanded him to speak, or which he speaks in the name of other gods, that prophet shall die.’²¹ You may say in your heart, ‘How will we know the Word which the LORD has not spoken?’²² When a prophet speaks in the name of the LORD, if the thing does not come about or come true, that is the thing which the LORD has not spoken. The prophet has spoken it presumptuously; you shall not be afraid of him.”

Epistle

Romans 12,6-16

Since we have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, each of us is to exercise them accordingly: if prophecy, according to the proportion of his faith;⁷ if service, in his serving; or he who teaches, in his teaching;⁸ or he who exhorts, in his exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness.

⁹ Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil; cling to what is good.¹⁰ Be devoted to one another in brotherly love; give preference to one another in honor;¹¹ not lagging behind in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord;¹² rejoicing in hope, persevering in tribulation, devoted to prayer,¹³ contributing to the needs of the saints, practicing hospitality.

¹⁴ Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse.¹⁵ Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep.¹⁶ Be of the same mind toward one another; do not be haughty in mind, but associate with the lowly. Do not be wise in your own estimation.

GRADUAL

All the earth will worship You, O LORD;

And will sing praises to Your name.

Great is the LORD, and highly to be praised;

And His greatness is unsearchable.

One generation shall praise Your works to another,

And shall declare Your mighty acts.

On the glorious splendor of Your majesty,

And on Your wonderful works, I will meditate.

And men shall speak of the power of Your awesome acts;

And I will tell of Your greatness.

They shall eagerly utter the memory of Your abundant goodness,

And shall joyfully shout of Your righteousness.

Hallelujah! Oh praise the Lord, all you nations, and laud Him all you people.

For His merciful kindness is great toward us, and the truth of the Lord endures forever. [sing triple Hallelujah]

The Holy Gospel

John 2,1-11

Response: Glory be to Thee, O Lord!

And on the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee; and the mother of Jesus was there;² and Jesus also was invited, and His disciples, to the wedding.³ And when

the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to Him, “They have no wine.”⁴ And Jesus said to her, “Woman, what do I have to do with you? My hour has not yet come.”⁵ His mother said to the servants, “Whatever He says to you, do it.”⁶ Now there were six stone waterpots set there for the



Jewish custom of purification, containing twenty or thirty gallons each.⁷

Jesus said to them, “Fill the waterpots with water,” And they began to fill

them to the brim.⁸ And He said to them, “Draw some out now, and take it to the headwaiter.” And they took it to him.⁹ And when the headwaiter tasted the water which had become wine, and did not know where it had come from (but the servants who drew the water knew), the headwaiter called the bridegroom,¹⁰ and said to him, “Every man serves the good wine first, and then when men have drunk freely, then that which is poorer; you have kept the good wine until now.”¹¹ This beginning of His signs Jesus did in Cana of Galilee, and manifested His glory, and His disciples believed in Him. [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 22 January —The Third Sunday After The Epiphany

Old Testament: Isaiah 43,1-3
Epistle: Romans 13,8.10
The Holy Gospel: Matthew 8,23,27

Weekly Scripture Verse: For the Law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. (John 1,17)

Today’s **Gradual** consists of selected verses from and Psalms 145 and 66.

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

Bible Study - Hayward - Tuesday, 17 January, at 1:30 p.m.
Stockton - Tuesday, 24 January, at 1 p.m.

ILL. In your prayers, please remember Nancy and Roy Cameron; Jean Niblett; 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; Jane Dimpel; Sara Pfeiffer.



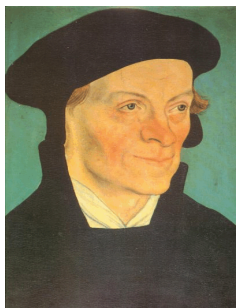
Call News: The Rev. George Dummann, First Lutheran, Faulkton, SD, has accepted the Call from Salem Lutheran, Eagle Lake, MN. The Tri-parish, consisting of Grace Lutheran, Valentine, NE, Peace Lutheran, Mission, and St. Paul’s Lutheran, White River, SD, has called the Rev. Neal Radical, pastor of Luther Memorial, Fond du Lac WI. Mt. Zion Lutheran, Madison Heights MI, has called the Rev. Rob Sauers, pastor of Bethel Lutheran, Morris, MN.

Pastor Bernthal's Installation – Pastor Bernthal will be installed at a joint service in Mountain View at 10 a.m. on Sunday, 29 January. Pastor Karp will officiate.

Hayward Worship Time Changes – On Sunday, 5 February, the worship time for the Sunday service in Hayward will change to 1 p.m.

Pastor Karp's Retirement – My retirement will become effective after Pastor Bernthal is installed on 29 January.

Georg Spalatin, Reformer (17 January 1484 – 16 January 1543). Spalatin's real name was Burckhardt and he was born at Spalt (near Nuremberg). He studied at law and theology at Erfurt and Wittenberg, but quit his legal studies at Erfurt in 1505 to become a teacher in the cloister at Georgenthal. In 1507 he became pastor at Hohenkirchen and in 1508 was consecrated as a priest. In 1509 he became the tutor to Prince John Frederick, the son of Frederick the Wise of Saxony.



Portrait of Spalatin in 1537 by Lucas Cranach the Elder

From 1511 to 1516 he taught Princes Otto and Ernst of Brunswick-Luenenberg at Wittenberg and in 1512 became the librarian of the Elector's castle library. From 1516 he became the most trusted counselor of Frederick the Wise (privy secretary, historiographer, father confessor, and court chaplain). He was particularly responsible for church and university affairs. It was this function that enabled him to give great assistance to the

cause of Luther, whom he had come to know in 1513. He gained the Elector's good will for Luther, served as go-between, and always stood at Luther's side with his good

counsel. The correspondence between him and Luther is extensive. As pastor of Altenberg, where he had been a member of the monastery chapter since 1511, he reformed the city and monastery in 1525. From 1526 he participated in visitations which led to the introduction of the Reformation in the electorate of Saxony. Later he took part in the visitation held in the duchy of Saxony. After Frederick's death in 1525, he served his successors in drafting the Augsburg Confession. "Annals of Saxony" is his most important literary work. His translations of the Latin works of Luther, Erasmus, and Melancthon became note-worthy. He died in Altenberg and is buried in the walls of the St. Bartholomew Church. (Source: *The Encyclopedia of the Lutheran Church*, N-Z [Minneapolis: Augsburg Publishing House, 1965]: 2244)

Hans Sachs, German Poet & Supporter of the Reformation (5 November 1494 - 19 January 1576). By profession, Sachs was a shoemaker and by avocation he was

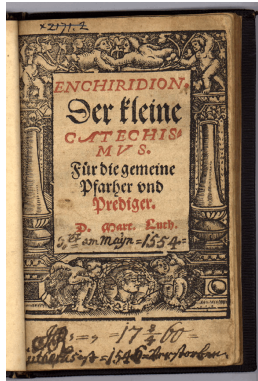


a poet and song writer. He was born in Nuremberg, attended Latin school, and at age fourteen apprenticed as a shoemaker, a trade which he pursued for his entire life. Over the course of his life he wrote some 6636 poems and over 200 dramatic works. He was known as a Meistersinger, or master song writer. With the coming of the Reformation he became an ardent

supporter of Luther and in 1523 wrote an allegorical poem in support of Luther, "The Nightingale of Wittenberg." in 1527 he and Andreas Osiander wrote a polemical pamphlet against the papacy. He was a major influence in winning Nuremberg for the Reformation. Although some of his songs and tunes became hymns, none are included in either modern German

or English Lutheran hymnals. After becoming a master shoemaker, Sachs married Kunigunde Creutzer in 1519; after her death he remarried; however, neither union was blessed with children. He is considered to be the outstanding poet of sixteenth-century Germany. In Wagner's 1868 opera, "The Meistersingers of Nuremberg," Hans Sachs, is one of the main characters.

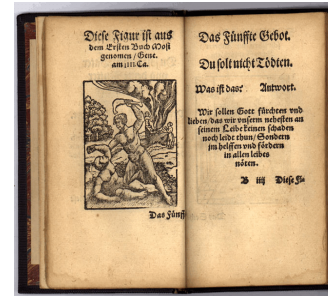
Luther's Small Catechism (20 January 1529). In 1529, after one of the great disappointments of his life, Martin Luther wrote his Small Catechism, a simple manual of instruction in the Christian faith. In 1527-28, Luther and his associates were asked by their prince to inspect the churches of Saxony. The results were profoundly disappointing. Ignorance reigned among the clergy and laity alike, and the schools were in ruins. To meet the need for popular instruction Luther immediately drew up wall charts containing explanations in



simple language of the Ten Commandments, The Apostles' Creed, and the Lord's Prayer. When his colleagues delayed writing a more complete explanation, Luther pulled together his charts and published them as a simple explanation of the faith.

Luther intended his Small Catechism to be an aid for family worship. In its preface, he condemned parents who, by neglecting the Christian education of their children, had become "the worst enemies of God and man." Almost all of the Catechism's sections begin with remarks directed toward the head of the house (for example: "The Ten Commandments in the plain form in which the head of the family shall teach it to his household").

The Catechism contains nine sections, each in a series of questions and answers. These sections, according to Luther's order, treat the Ten Commandments, the Apostles' Creed, the Lord's Prayer, Baptism, Confession and Absolution, and the Lord's Supper. They also include instructions for morning and evening prayers, grace at meals, and a "Table of Duties" made up of various Scriptural passages "selected for various estates and conditions of men, by which they may be admonished to do their respective duties."



Explanation of the Fifth Commandment in a 1554 edition of Luther's Small Catechism

do their respective duties."

Much of the influence of Lutheranism around the world may be traced to the success of the Small Catechism in expressing the profound truths of the Christian faith in a language that all can understand. Unlike virtually all Reformed catechisms and the Roman Catholic catechism, Luther places the Ten Commandments before describing the work of Christ; this shows us the demands of the Law, which we cannot fulfill, and then gives us our Savior, Christ, Who on our behalf has fulfilled all of the Law's demands. The Catechism's exposition of the Creed focuses on the free gift of salvation in Christ. The explanations of Baptism and the Lord's Supper show how these are true Means of Grace which give forgiveness, in which God gives us life and salvation (Source: Mark A. Noll, "Luther's Small Catechism," in Evangelical Dictionary of Theology, ed. Walter A. Elwell, Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 1984: 670)