A CHRISTIAN VICTORY SERVICE



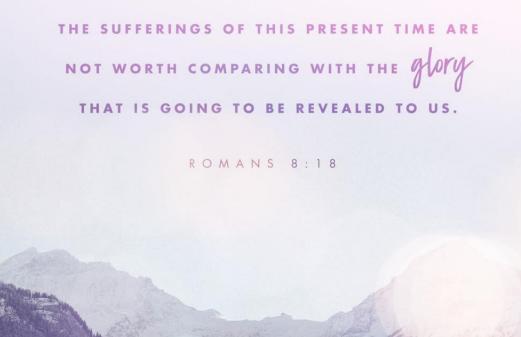
In Loving Memory of





February 24th, 1947 – December 15th, 2023

Baptized in Christ: 1993 Departed to be with Christ: December 15th, 2023



January 14, 2024

St. Stephen Lutheran Church

320 Moorpark Way - Mountain View, California 94041-1600 Member congregation of the Church of the Lutheran Confession (clclutheran.org)

<u>Officiant</u>: Pastor Luke Bernthal

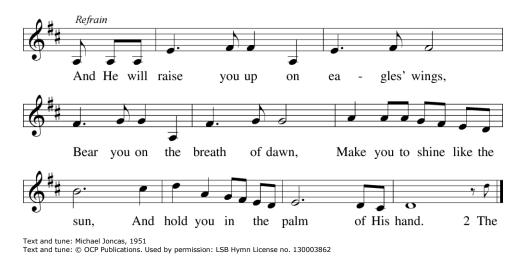
THE INVOCATION & OPENING PRAYER

PASTOR: We begin this victory service in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

We have come together today to worship our Savior, and to remember the grace of God toward our dear brother in Christ, Wayne Bliss. We have come to seek God's comfort in our sorrow, but also to rejoice in the promise of the resurrection. Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, who said, "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest." Let us pray... (Prayer by the pastor)



2



Confession and Absolution

We come before our Holy God recognizing that we are sinful and daily need His forgiveness.

- Image P We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve Him as His dear children. But we have disobeyed Him and deserve only His wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to Him and plead for His mercy.
- Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against You and do not deserve to be called Your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy upon me according to Your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.
- God our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, He has removed your guilt forever. Through faith in Him, which was created in you by the Holy Spirit, you are His own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to His will.
- C Amen.

Kyrie Latin for "O Lord." We approach our Lord with a cry for help in all the needs of our earthly life. W.S. p. 13

Lord have mercy on us. Christ have mercy on us. Lord have mercy on us.

Gloria in Excelsis Latin for "Glory to God in the highest."

Glory to God, we give You thanks and praise; Of heav'nly joy and peace on earth we sing. We worship You, to You our hearts we raise, Lord God, almighty Father, heav'nly King.

Lord Jesus Christ, the Father's only Son, You bore for us the load of this world's sin. O Lamb of God, Your glorious vict'ry won, Receive our prayer, grant us Your peace within.

Alone, O Christ, You only are the Lord, At God's right hand in majesty most high: Who with the Spirit worshiped and adored, With all the heav'nly host we glorify.

RESPONSIVE READING

From the "Resurrection Chapter:" 1 Corinthians 15:51-57

- Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed--
- **G** in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet.
- **P** For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed.
- For the perishable must clothe itself with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality.
- When the perishable has been clothed with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality, then the saying that is written will come true: "Death has been swallowed up in victory."
- **G** "Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?"
- **P** The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law.
- **G** But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

SCRIPTURE READINGS:

The words of this familiar Psalm remind us of the gentle care our Good Shepherd, Jesus, gives us throughout our lifetime and on into our eternal dwelling "in the house of the Lord forever" in heaven.

Psalm 23 (KJV)

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. ² He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters. ³ He restoreth my soul:

he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake. ⁴ Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me. ⁵ Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over. ⁶ Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

Jesus' words at the graveside of His dear friend, Lazarus, give us the comforting assurance that because Jesus is **"the resurrection and the life"** we know that Wayne—and we too—will rise to be with Him forever in heaven on the Last Day.

John 11:25-26 (NKJV)

Jesus said to her [Martha], "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. ²⁶ "And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die. Do you believe this?"

P Blessed are they who hear the Word of God and keep it!

Alleluia and Verse

When God speaks to us in His Word it is natural for us to respond. We sing "Allelujah!"-meaning, "Praise the Lord!"

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! These words are written that we may believe That Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Apostles' Creed We boldly confess what we believe.

W.S. p. 15

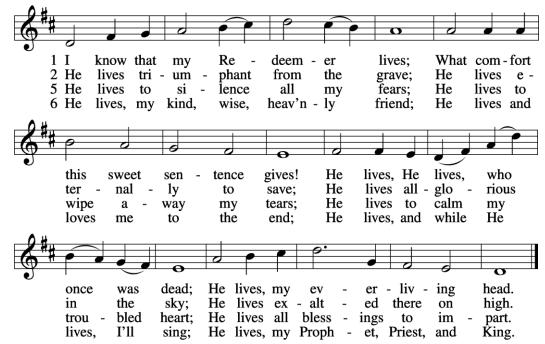
I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried.
He descended into hell.
The third day He rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From there He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.



LSB 461 v. 1, 2, 5-8



7. He lives and grants me daily breath; He lives, and I shall conquer death; He lives my mansion to prepare; He lives to bring me safely there.

8. He lives, all glory to His name! He lives, my Jesus, still the same; Oh, the sweet joy this sentence gives: I know that my Redeemer lives!

Text and tune: Public domain



THE SERMON

Romans 8:18 (NKJV) For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.

Theme: Victory!

Offertory

W.S. p. 16

Create in me a clean heart, O God, And renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from Your presence, Take not Your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of Your salvation. Uphold with Your Spirit free.

Offering We offer our gifts to the Lord, remembering that He has first given to us that we might have to give to Him. (* If you have an offering to give today, please place it in the plate in the church entryway. *) Hymn: 752 Be Still, My Soul



Text: Catharina Amalia Dorothea von Schlegel, 1697–1752; tr. Jane L. Borthwick, 1813–97, alt. Tune: Jean Sibelius, 1865–1957, adapt. Text and tune: Public domain Prayer / Prayer Requests We bring our prayers to God.

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.

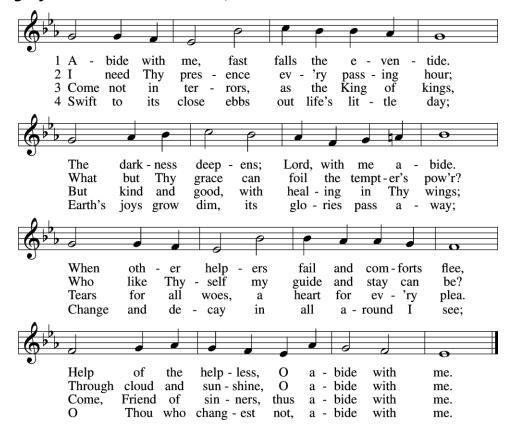
Benediction The blessing given by God for the blessing of His people (Numbers 6:24-26).

P The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and + give you peace.





- I fear no foe with Thee at hand to bless;
 Ills have no weight and tears no bitterness.
 Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy victory?
 I triumph still if Thou abide with me!
- Hold Thou Thy cross before my closing eyes;
 Shine through the gloom, and point me to the skies.
 Heav'n's morning breaks, and earth's vain shadows flee;
 In life, in death, O Lord, abide with me.

Text: Henry F. Lyte, 1793–1847, alt. Tune: William H. Monk, 1823–89 Text and tune: Public domain **Acknowledgments** - Created by Lutheran Service Builder © 2024 Concordia Publishing House. Scripture taken from the New King James Version®. Copyright © 1982 by Thomas Nelson. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Everyone is invited to a light lunch in the fellowship hall following the victory service.

Our Worship Services will be Posted to Our Website Each Sunday Evening. To Watch our Worship Service Online Please Click This Link:

https://www.sslcwest.org/worship.html

Today: 1/14/24	St. Stephen – West (Mt. View): Bible Class – 9am Worship / Wayne Bliss Memorial Victory Service – 10am Fellowship Luncheon – 11am Women's Auxiliary – (after luncheon)
	St. Stephen – East Bay (Hayward): Worship – 1pm Bible Class – 2pm
	Online Worship Services - <u>https://www.sslcwest.org/worship.html</u>
This Week:	<u>Monday</u> – No School at SSLS (MLK Day) <u>Tuesday</u> - Bible Instruction Class (Fenton) (Mt. View) – 11:30am Board of Education Meeting (Zoom) (Mt. View) – 6pm <u>Wednesday</u> – Confirmation Class (Lang) (Mt. View) – 4pm Church Council (Zoom) (Mt. View) – 7pm
Next Sunday: 1/21/24	St. Stephen – West (Mt. View): Bible Study – 9am Worship – 10am
	St. Stephen – East Bay (Hayward): Worship – 1pm Bible Class – 2pm

Immanuel Lutheran College Tour Choir Funding Needed - For many years the ILC Tour Choir (Eau Claire, WI) has been granted a special rate for using a charter bus during their yearly tour in holding concerts at various CLC congregations. This year that rate is being discontinued. After comparing the cost of using various bus companies, the common rate would be approximately \$11,000 higher than expected for budgetary reasons. Normally an offering is collected during the tour which will still happen. But this year CLC President Michael Wilke is authorizing this synod-wide announcement to allow others to share in their support of the Tour Choir. This offering would help offset the extra expense needed for the bus. Therefore, if members of CLC congregations wish to support this, please designate your offering to **"ILC Tour Choir."**

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

By now you have probably seen the announcement of the special collection for the ILC Tour Choir authorized by President Wilke in conjunction with the Board of Regents and the ILC President. Just before Thanksgiving we were hit with an unexpected increase of \$11,000 in bus transportation costs (from \$6000 to \$17000) due both to a sharp increase in costs for motor coach operators and the ending of special financial considerations that our bus company had been providing to us for a number of years. This cost cannot be brought down significantly even by changing routing to make shorter tours because coach companies all have daily minimum charges. It would cost us \$15,000 just to drive around the block for 10 days.

Since the tour this particular year has become a synodical effort in a new way, I will do my best to keep CLC pastors and congregations up to date on what the choir is doing. This is a very important ministry, not just of ILC, but even more of the CLC as a whole. The way we travel to preach the gospel essentially makes it a domestic mission program.

To that end, one of my goals as director of the tour choir is always to visit as many congregations as we can that have not been visited in many years or have never been visited. This year, I am happy to announce that our tour plans will take us to the southeast and, Lord willing, will include stops in Wisconsin, Georgia, Florida, South Carolina, Missouri, and Illinois. Florida in particular has not seen a tour choir in 18 years, as I understand it. The tour dates will be March 9-17, 2024. Details regarding the specific dates and times of individual concerts will be forthcoming as soon as I have them.

I am also working on plans to add a couple more local concerts this year. Onalaska, WI is interested in hosting a concert in their area and I am looking into taking the choir to Eagle Lake, MN for a Sunday morning to make up a concert that was canceled last year because of bad weather.

I ask especially for your prayers on our upcoming spring choir season as we will cross a lot of miles to share the Good News of our Savior in this special way. Select concerts will be available synod-wide to watch either live-streamed or recorded.

In Christ Jesus,

David Schaller, music director - Immanuel Lutheran College, Eau Claire, WI

National Women's Retreat--You're Invited! - Join your Christian sisters near and far at the next virtual retreat held via Zoom on Saturday, January 20th (Noon Eastern / 11:00 a.m. Central / 10:00 a.m. Mountain / 9:00 a.m. Pacific). This year's theme is "Press Pause: God Made Me..." and will highlight the differing gifts that God gave each of us to use to His glory. Register at: <u>http://tinyurl.com/NatRetreat24</u> Questions? Contact <u>teichstadt@gmail.com</u> or 651-398-2386.

<u>**CLC News</u>** - Mr. Dan Roehl *has been called* to be the new professor at Immanuel Lutheran College, Eau Claire, WI, replacing retiring Professor Mark Kranz. <>Pastor Thomas Schuetze of St. Paul Lutheran of Lakewood, CO *is still considering* the calls from Calvary Lutheran of Marquette, MI and St. Peter's Lutheran of Iron River, MI. <> Pastor Aaron Ude of Good Shepherd Lutheran in Rapid City, SD *has returned* the call from Immanuel Lutheran in Mankato, MN. <> Ann Sprengeler, teacher at Faith Lutheran School in Markesan, WI, *will be retiring* from the teaching ministry as of the end of the current school year.</u>

CLC World Missions Prayer List – January 2024

...pray for us, that the word of the Lord may run swiftly and be glorified... 2 Thessalonians 3:1

Missionary Travels – Our missionaries are traveling to several different countries during January and February to visit our fellow brothers and sisters in Christ. On January 7th, Missionary Bruce Naumann returned to Tanzania. On January 12th, Missionary Todd Ohlmann and Board of Missions Chairman Joel Krafft departed for a visit to Togo and Liberia. Part-Time Missionary Pastor Paul Nolting will be heading to Tanzania later in January to teach at Wittenburg Lutheran Theological Seminary while Missionary Naumann visits Kenya and Uganda. Joel Krafft will travel from Liberia to Kenya and join Missionary Naumann, Pastor Jeremia Issangya, and Kinship Chairman and Christian School Instructor Supervisor Ted Quade in Nairobi on Friday, January 26. These men will be visiting Moi's Bridge, Kenya; Iganga, Uganda; and Etago, Kenya, during a 10day trip. At the end of January, Missionary Ohlmann and CLC Board of Doctrine member Pastor Andrew Schaller will travel to the Philippines to conduct an in-person colloquy with Pastor Jordan Palangyos of the Lutheran Autonomous Mission of the Philippines. Please pray for safe and uneventful travels for our missionaries and that the Lord will bless their preaching and teaching of His Word to accomplish His will.

India (Southeast Asia) – In early December, Cyclone Michaung hit the eastern coast of India, causing damage and flooding to the churches of the BELC as well as the Martin Luther Bible School (MLBS) pastor training center. The storm affected eleven out of the fourteen districts of the BELC, resulting in 55 churches and the MLBS being damaged and in need of repair. The Board



of Missions has approved a Kinship disaster relief grant to assist with building repairs and reconstruction. Pray for the Lord's continued protection and provision as our brothers and sisters in Christ begin the clean-up and recovery from this disaster. Ask our Heavenly Father to send His Holy Spirit to give comfort, courage, strength, and hope in His perfect love and plans as they struggle during these trying times. And thank the Lord for the compassionate and generous hearts that provide support through offerings to Kinship.

Myanmar (South Asia) – Pastor Kham recently reported that the Myanmar military had dropped bombs on portions of the city of Kalaymyo. Fortunately, the bombing did not affect the CLC-Myanmar (CLCM) church or orphanage, and there were no injuries to CLCM. However, several private homes, businesses, and church buildings were destroyed or damaged. There were more than twenty people killed and many more injured. February 1 will mark the third anniversary of the military takeover and, thus, three years of civil war. The people of Myanmar and our brothers and sisters in Christ continue to suffer. Please pray for the innocent bystanders caught in this conflict, especially our brothers and sisters in Christ of the CLC-Myanmar. Ask that God's will be done as this conflict continues and that peace may prevail.

Tanzania (East Africa) – Missionary Naumann has returned to Tanzania for the beginning of the new semester of classes at the seminary. Pastor Nolting will be arriving in mid-January to serve as a guest/substitute instructor a the seminary. Pray for God's continued blessings on these efforts to train and send out faithful preachers and teachers of God's saving word in East Africa.

Pakistan – Pastor Tim Daub continues electronic correspondence and instruction to the members of the recently established Lutheran congregation in Pakistan. The Board of Missions has authorized Missionary Ohlmann to join Pastor Daub on a visit to Pakistan. They are tentatively planning a visit for mid-to-late April. Pray for the Lord's continued blessings on the teaching and learning of His word. Give thanks to our Savior for granting us this opportunity and the technology to spread the truth of His word in such a manner.

Nepal (South Asia) – Pastor Raju has experienced partial voice loss for the past few months due to the presence of lesions or nodes on his vocal cords. He has been resting his voice for the past several weeks. A recent examination shows signs of healing. In the upcoming weeks, he will begin voice therapy to aid the recovery and strengthening of his vocal cords. Consequently, the start of Himalayan Bible Institute classes will be postponed until March or April. Applications for the next HBI session are currently being received and reviewed. Please pray for the Lord's healing of Raju's vocal cords, enabling him to continue the work of proclaiming God's word and training faithful workers for His kingdom in Nepal.

The Philippines (Southeast Asia) – Pastor Andrew Schaller, the Board of Doctrine Secretary for the CLC, has finished the correspondence part of the doctrinal colloquy with Pastor Jordan Palangyos and the Lutheran Autonomous Mission in the Philippines (LAMP). In early February, Pastor Schaller, accompanied by Missionary Ohlmann, is scheduled to be in the Philippines to

conduct the in-person portion of the colloquy. Please ask for the Lord's blessings on the colloquy, that it may result in and reveal a unity of faith and teaching that pleases God. Pray that the Lord will provide Pastor Jordan with opportunities and everything he needs to continue proclaiming the Good News of Jesus Christ.

DR Congo (Central Africa) – The Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) remains in a state of unrest and violence after the recent presidential election on December 20th. Pastor Yumba has suggested that the plans for Missionary Ohlmann's visit to the DRC in 2024 should be delayed until security has been restored. Pray for peace and harmony among the people of the DRC as they struggle through these issues. Ask that the Lord's will be fulfilled in this election, and pray for the safety, hope, and courage for our fellow brothers and sisters in the CCLC.

Bangladesh (South Asia) – Pastor Monotosh continues to seek the Lord's blessings in raising funds for constructing a BLCM headquarters, Bible Institute, dormitory, and worship facility on land purchased last year. Pray for the Lord's provision of resources needed for this important building project. Ask for the Lord's continued blessings on the preaching and teaching of His word.

Mission Development Fund – CLC President Mike Wilke writes: "When the convention approved the calling of our third foreign missionary, it determined that the funding of that missionary would come fully from the MDF for the first year. The cost of funding that missionary is about \$80,000 and has impacted other planned MDF projects. Currently, the balance of the MDF is enough to cover the cost of our third foreign missionary for the rest of this fiscal year and a few other essential projects, but without additional funds, we will not be able to fund other planned projects. We have already put a hold on all other projects, including funding Bibles and other Christian literature, churchbuilding assistance, and many planned outreach projects. Pray that the members of the CLC will remember this work in their prayers and their offerings so that we might continue to carry out the work the LORD has set before us and which we have decided to do as a church body."

Missionary Evensen (Togo, West Africa) – Missionary Evensen continues the work of translating Online Theological Studies courses into French for use in training pastors and church leaders in Togo and other French-speaking African countries. Ask for the Lord's continued blessings on this work and pray that the Lord will continue to provide good health and all that is necessary for the spread of the Gospel in Togo.

Missionary Bruce Naumann (Tanzania-East Africa) – Missionary Bruce Naumann has arrived in Tanzania to begin the new semester at Wittenberg Lutheran Theological Seminary. He is set to participate in the CLC visitation team's trip to Kenya and Uganda in late January. His wife Paula will join him in Tanzania in early February. Pray for their safe travels, as well as for the returning students. Ask for our Savior's blessings on the pastors and people of the TZ-CLC as they spread the Gospel of Christ crucified. Follow their blog at <u>clc-tz.blogspot.com</u>.

Missionary Ohlmann – Missionary Ohlmann has upcoming travel plans to Togo, Liberia, The Philippines, Nigeria, Zambia, and Pakistan in the following months. He is also scheduled to serve as the Pastor for the Southeastern CLC Women's Retreat in Charlotte, NC, in mid-February. Pray for the Lord's guidance and blessings on his travel plans and for wisdom, humility, patience, and boldness as he proclaims God's word. Continue to pray for his wife Beth as she cares for her elderly father as he longs for his heavenly home. You can read reports and see pictures here: missionaryohlmann.blogspot.com

Ongoing Opportunities – **please continue to pray** for all of our brothers and sisters in Christ around the world, who, by God's grace, are dedicated to proclaiming the truths of God's saving word for the salvation of souls as they trust the promise of our Savior that His Word will not return to Him void but will accomplish that for which He sent it.

> That Your way may be known on earth, Your salvation among all nations. Psalm 67:2

