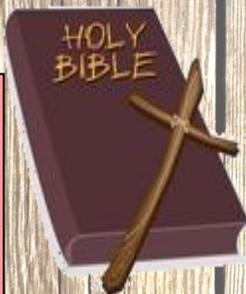


Our Saviour's Lutheran Church; ELCA Sebeka, MN E-News

For April 19, 2020

DAILY BIBLE READINGS 4/19/20—4/25/20

SUNDAY, Hebrews 1:1-14
MONDAY, Hebrews 2:1-18
TUESDAY, Hebrews 3:1-19
WEDNESDAY, Hebrews 4:1-13
THURSDAY, Hebrews 4:14-5:10
FRIDAY, Hebrews 5:11-6:12
SATURDAY, Hebrews 6:13-20



Rejoice

HE IS RISEN

Church email: oslcelca@wcta.net

Office# 218-837-5831

Pastor Eric Email: pastor.eric.clapp@gmail.com

Pastor Eric # 701-261-2394

Church Website: www.oslcsebeka.org

April 2020

ATTENDANCE :

Weekly General offering : 4/10 \$1190.00

Weekly Vanco offering : 4/13 \$525.00

Total weekly offering \$1715.00

Weekly Set-aside : \$171.50

Weekly Offering Needed: \$2,488

*If you would like to sign up for Vanco please call the church office or email the church at oslcelca@wcta.net.

*If you need anything please feel free to contact us via call, text or email.

Pastor Eric has invited you to OSLC/Balsamlund Fellowship

Time: Apr 19, 2020 10:30 AM CT

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4578544402?pwd=WkxKZVpPMWpUVzZiRmNJVmZWVytzd09>

Meeting ID: 457 854 4402

Password: 050818

One tap mobile

+13126266799,,4578544402#,,#,050818# US (Chicago)

+19292056099,,4578544402#,,#,050818# US (New York)

Dial by your location

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

Meeting ID: 457 854 4402

Password: 050818

Pastor Eric invites you to OSLC Youth Group

Time: Tuesday, April 21st at 3:00pm CT

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4578544402?pwd=WkxKZVpPMWpUVzZiRmNJVmZWVytzd09>

Meeting ID: 457 854 4402

Password: 050818

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A Sermon for the Northwestern Minnesota Synod for the 2nd Sunday of Easter, 2020
From Bishop Bill Tesch

John 20:19-23

Dear Ones in Christ of the Northwestern MN Synod, Greetings on behalf of 223 worshiping communities and over 90,000 Christians of the ELCA across our territory.

While we cannot be together face to face, we know that from Wheaton to Roosevelt to Bemidji to Moorhead we have been on this path together.

We are church together.

Like the disciples afraid and huddled in that room behind locked doors we have been together in our fear - and like those disciples looking up, mouths agape, staring in wonder at their risen Lord, we are together in our faith. And we are breathing together, sometimes, for sure, with uneasy breaths, but still we breathe together the peace, the peace that passes understanding.

Not peace like the world gives, not the easy peace of "this too shall pass," or "we'll get that economy humming soon!" - no, the peace that only Jesus can give us. MY peace, says Jesus, I give YOU. You there, in your closet, or your kitchen or your living room, your bedroom - Jesus breathes his peace on you.

Last week with my Holy Week message we seized the truth that the resurrection of Jesus was cosmic in scope, infinitely greater than this global crisis. We affirmed that Jesus is God entering into the very structure of God's creation, into this dance of death into life - and doing so in the child born to Mary in Bethlehem.

But this week, we move from the cosmic to the personal. The disciples were afraid.

What could be more personal than our fear?

We've been staying safe at home. We do it out of love, neighborliness, citizenship, yes, but also, let's be honest, out of fear - maybe not fear for our own health, but fear for loved ones or that if we contributed to the spread it would tear more deeply into the fabric of our society. So like the disciples we stay safe at home.

Now I know that not all of you ARE safe at home. Some of you are unsafe because someone in your household makes it so. If that's true for you, know that it does not have to stay that way. There are safe places. Call, text, email, FB message your pastor - call the number at the bottom of the screen, call me. We'll work hard to get you to safety. Yeah, fear - it is deeply personal, isn't it? We all have our own unique cast of fears. All of them have been coming out to play these weeks, often in the middle of sleepless nights.

And so, this is where Jesus finds us and breathes upon us his peace.

Our ancient siblings, the disciples, were staying safe at home. We can assume that the danger was real; they were still in the same locked room a week after Jesus appeared to them! But eventually the danger passed, the stay safe mandate repealed, and the people who emerged from that locked room were not the same people who went into it.

Siblings in Christ, when we emerge from our locked rooms, when our stay safe at home order is lifted, we will emerge as different people from the people who went in!

This time is like a chrysalis, a cocoon in which the holy spirit is breathing in us, breathing for us, shaping us into the beautiful creature she would have us be for the sake of the healing of the world.

For a while now, we have been a church that has been wholly devoted, investing everything we have: our imagination, our time, our energy our money into sharing this reconciling love of Jesus with our neighbor. When backed into a corner, we found that our Gospel could not be held back.

And our will to be of some good use to our neighbor could not be contained by a little pandemic. We have demonstrated that we can be the people of God for the healing of the world that God is calling us to be in this 21st century.

I've seen the love of Christ at work through you.

People of peace expressing gratitude for each other. Ordering your lives so that you do not inadvertently hurt our neighbor.

Tailoring your message so that it is not so laden with insider language, so that neighbors surfing Facebook or YouTube can walk right in, feel welcome and hear the good news for them.

And we are learning anew about the real risks to the vulnerable in our communities: to the poor, to people of color, the elderly, our native neighbors. We confess that we have not always been attentive to the vulnerable ones, the thin places, preferring instead the comfort of our familiar friends and the ways we always did it before. But no more! And we have learned anew that our work matters most when we keep the main thing the main thing. That there is no question about relevancy of effectiveness when we focus on using our tools - ancient and new - to share the peace of God through Jesus Christ.

Once the stay safe at home mandate was lifted for the disciples, they went out as people who were certain that the risen Christ was with them, and who were completely invested in the reconciliation of the world through the good news about Jesus Christ. He sent them out with good news of peace with God through Jesus Christ to tend to the healing of the world: Forgiving sins or withholding forgiveness for a time, if that was the best way to tend to relationship. And so he sends us.

When we emerge from this moment, we will come out as people who know that Christ is with us, that his faithful love will always find us, that his peace is stronger than fear, and the powerful Holy Spirit will guide us be wholly devoted to loving Jesus and loving our neighbor. And now thanks be to God through our Lord Jesus Christ who is risen from the dead and who breaths peace into our lives and into our world even now. Amen.