

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

For August 16, 2020

DAILY BIBLE READINGS 8/16/20—8/22/20

SUNDAY, Jonah 1:1-17
MONDAY, Jonah 2:1-10
TUESDAY, Jonah 3:1-10
WEDNESDAY, Jonah 4:1-11
THURSDAY, Zechariah 1:1-18
FRIDAY, Zechariah 2:1-15
SATURDAY, Zechariah 3:1-20



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August 2020

ATTENDANCE :
Weekly General offering : 8/13 \$200.00
Weekly Vanco offering : 8/10 \$535.00
Monthly Vanco offering :
Total weekly offering \$735.00
Weekly Set-aside : \$73.50

Weekly Offering Needed: \$2,488

8/16
10am OSLC Parking Lot Worship

8/19
6pm Council Mtg

8/23
10am OSLC Parking Lot Worship

*Being that this coming Sunday is the 3rd Sunday of the month, our Smart Team has decided to celebrate Holy Communion this Sunday in a bit of a different way. By the Fellowship Hall doors - where our offering basket usually is - we will have hand sanitizer, baskets with communion wafers in ziploc bags, and individually packaged grape juice cups. We'll invite you to first use the hand sanitizer, then grab the number of wafers and communion cups for people worshipping in your car. During the service Pastor Eric will invite you to raise the wafer and cup for the blessing prior to receiving communion. Thank you for being patient as we experiment with new ways to worship together!

*Our Smart Team has created a survey as we look ahead to the fall and winter months. It's only 2 questions long with a space for additional comments. We are asking everyone who is able to please fill it out for your household to help us plan our ministry the best we can for these times. Thank you!

**The link can be found in the body of this email.

*We'll also broadcast the Prayer of the Day, scripture reading, and sermon over FB Live on the OSLC Facebook page starting a little bit after 10:00, for those who would rather stay home.

***IMPORTANT NOTE:** All of this is subject to your comfort level and risk for your health and the health of others. If you're not comfortable joining us in-person yet, that is 100% okay. We would love to have you join us online!

There's a story that Luke tells where two sisters, Mary and Martha, invite in Jesus and his disciples out of hospitality. When Jesus and the disciples enter the main room of the house, Martha is smack dab in the middle of her to-do list. She's running making sure everything is prepared correctly, done right, that they are received as hospitably as they can be.

Mary, on the other hand, chooses to abandon the to-do list and simply sit at the feet of Jesus and learn from him, spend time with him, be near him. Martha gets upset - and how many of us would join her in such a situation?

She protests to Jesus that her sister has abandoned her to do all the work. Jesus looks at her gently and says to her, "you are worried and upset about many things, but few things are needed -- or indeed only one."

Now this is where most pastors would tell you to "have a Mary heart in a Martha world" as the book title some years ago implores us. But I won't do that.

We have capacities for both of these inside of us. We have great capacities for action and reflection. It's been helpful for me to think of these as seasons we all experience and that God invites us into. There are seasons for rest. There are seasons for action. We are most often compelled to remain in motion, remain active, keep busy because that's what our world tells us is best.

But Martha's busy-ness was disconnected from Jesus.

"You are worried and upset about many things, but few things are needed -- indeed only one."

There are times to be restful. There are times to act. But where we can thrive is when each of these is rooted and grounded in the love and presence of Jesus.

When our actions or our rest are disconnected from the love and presence of Jesus is when we feel like we're spinning the wheels but getting nowhere or when we sleep for 10 hours, but are not restored.

As we keep moving through this stressful time, let's try to find those connection points to Jesus. Maybe it's taking a walk and talking to God about the joys and frustrations of your day. Maybe it's doing chores while listening to worship music. Maybe it's saying a prayer of thanksgiving for another day as you wake up in the morning or lie down at night.

It doesn't have to be a lot. But these touchpoints are what keep us connected to God when we feel like we're spinning out of control. They ground us in God's love and presence as we move through these days.

I'll close with a prayer and invite you to make it yours if you'd like to be more intentional about prayer, but don't know where to start.

Loving God, thank you for the gift of life today. Help us to stay connected to you in the ups and downs of our day. Help us to lean on you in struggle and celebrate with you in joy. You anchor us in the storms of life and give us hope for a new day. Amen.

Grace + Peace,
Pastor Eric