



Our Saviour's & Balsamlund Lutheran Church; ELCA E-News

For November 29, 2020

DAILY BIBLE READINGS 11/29/20—12/5/20



SUNDAY-Psalm 49
MONDAY- Psalm 144
TUESDAY- Mark 13:1-23
WEDNESDAY- Mark 13:24-37
THURSDAY- Daniel 7:1-14
FRIDAY- Daniel 7:15-28
SATURDAY- Daniel 12:1-13

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11/29/20

10am Worship from Balsamlund on OSLC's Facebook Page

12/2/20

6:30pm 7th Grade Confirmation

12/6/20

10am Worship

As we head into winter, if you are not on Pastor Eric's call list, but would like to be, please contact Dawn at the OSLC office or Pastor Eric's cell phone.

Balsamlund Announcements

**MILESTONE CELEBRATIONS

Communion Milestone Our Communion Milestone is open to youth of any age who would like to participate at God's table. We'll celebrate in worship on December 6th & December 13th.

OSLC Announcements

We are looking for ushers for the next 4 months. If you or your family is able to help out please talk to Janet after Worship, or contact the church office.

We have the tags ready for Operation Christmas Child. If you would like to get a gift for a child, please call the church office at 218-837-5831. All gifts should be in the church office by Dec 7th. Let's bring smiles to some local children's faces this Christmas.

"O that you would tear open the heavens and come down" - Isaiah 64:1

This verse from the prophet Isaiah perfectly sums up the plea of the season of Advent, which begins this Sunday. If we're honest, it sums up our pleas for most of 2020 too, hasn't it?

This year we'll join with our siblings in Christ of the Northwestern Minnesota Synod under the Advent theme "Lord, Stir Us to Dream." The first part of dreaming is lamenting and naming the things that are not as they should be. This is actually what the prophet Isaiah does time and again. We think of prophets as people who see the future. But prophets are actually those who see the present most clearly.

What are the things in our world that you wish could change?

A cure for COVID?
An end to division and divisiveness?
No oppression or injustice?
No hunger or inequality?
No racism or sexism?

I'm sure there are plenty more, right? When we partner with God in dreaming of a world where peace and justice reign, it often leads us to cry out, "O that you would tear open the heavens and come down!"

The first part of this Advent journey always begins with naming the things that are not as they should be - lamenting where we are and what we struggle with. We acknowledge the brokenness that we sit in and may feel closing in on us.

Name these things in prayer. It doesn't have to be anything elaborate. "Hey God. Here's what stinks today: [insert list here]."

We can change what we can't name. So put it into words.

Once we've had a chance to lament where we are, we'll embark on the next step over the next three weeks that will lead us into dreaming and committing to our future together.

God hears our cries. God hears our prayers and our frustrations. God is with us as we wait for the coming of Christ.

As we light candles and wait for God to tear open the heavens, may you be blessed to remember that our laments are not signs of unfaithfulness, but rather are part and parcel of a deep faith and connection to God.

Together we wait. We hope. We lament.

Grace + Peace to you this Advent season,
Pastor Eric