

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

For December 13, 2020

DAILY BIBLE READINGS 12/13/20—12/19/20

SUNDAY-Revelation 19:11-21

MONDAY- Malachi 1:1-14

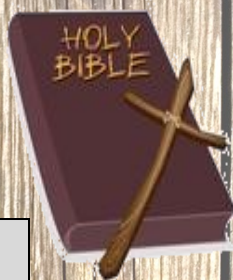
TUESDAY- Malachi 2:1-17

WEDNESDAY- Malachi 3:1-18

THURSDAY- Malachi 4:1-6

FRIDAY- Isaiah 7:1-25

SATURDAY- Isaiah 8:1-20



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12/13/20

10am Worship from Balsamlund on OSLC's Facebook page

12/20/20

10am Worship from OSLC on OSLC's Facebook page

6:30pm OSLC Council Meeting on Zoom

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

Because of the steep rise of COVID cases in our area, our milestone celebrations are postponed until a later date. We'll keep you updated as we go along.

## OSLC Announcements

Thanks everyone who helped and donated gifts to Operation Christmas Child! We delivered 40 gifts for some kids in Wadena County.

Due to the rise in the number of cases and the Sebek School going with distant learning model till the end of Christmas break, we will continuing with our on-line worship till the end of December.

For Christmas Eve Worship we will have two outdoor worship services around a bonfire at 4:00 and 6:00pm. These will be brief services - 20 to 30 minutes - but will allow us to be able to gather in a safe way on Christmas Eve. We will also have the FM Transmitter running for those who would like to be there and stay in their cars. Simply tune to FM 93.9 and join in. For those who would like to worship around the fire, we'll ask you to park near the sheds in the back of the parking lot to make room for those who wish to remain in their cars. We are asking that folks who gather outside wear masks and keep distance from those who are not in their household. We'll do our best to have several fire pits and heaters available for folks to enable distance, while keeping warm. We will also have a recorded online worship option for anyone who will be out of town or who doesn't wish to worship in the parking lot.

I don't know about you, but in this season of Advent, the thing that I miss most is being able to safely sing together. Advent hymns are some of my very favorite because they sing of a longing that's so tangible right now in our world - a longing to be delivered from this suspension of time, waiting for God's presence to be known.

The words of these hymns are still powerful prayers for us in this time as we wait.

Take "Come Thou Long Expected Jesus".

*Come, thou long expected Jesus,  
born to set thy people free;  
from our fears and sins release us;  
let us find our rest in thee.  
Israel's strength and consolation,  
hope of all the earth thou art,  
dear desire of ev'ry nation,  
joy of ev'ry longing heart.*

What a powerful prayer in this season of Advent.

Perhaps my favorite verse of any Advent hymn comes from a hymn called "Each Winter as the Year Grows Older."

*Yet I believe beyond believing  
that life can spring from death;  
that faith can flower from our grieving,  
that we can catch our breath  
and turn transfixed by faith.*

And consider the promise of perhaps the most well-known and loved Advent hymn: "O Come, O Come Emmanuel". The refrain carries such a powerful promise for us today.

*Rejoice! Rejoice!  
Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.*

So in this season of Advent, Beloved family of God, whatever griefs you are feeling, whatever burdens you are carrying today, may your heart feel a bit of relief at this promise: receive what joy there is to be found in this season. Because God, indeed, *shall* come to God's people.

And for that, we rejoice.

Grace + Peace,  
Pastor Eric