



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

For December 20, 2020

DAILY BIBLE READINGS 12/20/20—12/26/20



SUNDAY-Isaiah 8:21-9:7

MONDAY- Luke 1:1-25

TUESDAY- Luke 1:26-56

WEDNESDAY- Luke 1:57-80

THURSDAY- Luke 2:1-20

FRIDAY- John 1:1-18

SATURDAY- Luke 2:21-52

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Church Website: www.oslcsebek.org

12/20 4th Sunday of Advent

10am Worship from OSLC on OSLC's

Facebook Page

6:30pm OSLC Council Meeting on Zoom

12/24

4pm & 6pm Christmas Eve outdoor worship
around a bonfire.

12/27

Virtual Worship led by Northwestern MN Synod
on OSLC's Facebook Page

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

OSLC Announcements

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 continue 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.

"In the last days it will be, God declares,
that I will pour out my Spirit upon all people,
and your children shall prophesy;
your young ones shall see visions,
and your old ones shall dream dreams." - Acts 2:17

One of the traditions we hold with our kids is that at the breakfast table every morning, we ask each other if we had any dreams the night before. If any of us have, there is time and space to share them with everyone. Sometimes it's a chance for Lily - our six-year-old - to tell us the most fantastical story she can possibly imagine. But sometimes it can also give us insight around our hopes or anxieties that we may be facing, but unable to name.

Has that ever happened to you - where something you hope for or are nervous about becomes manifest in your dreams?

My hunch is that this has happened to a number of us. When we talk about dreams, we often talk about the things we experience in our sleep.

But then there is another kind of dream. There are dreams that we dream with eyes wide open. Futures we long for, hope for, dare to speak out loud to others close to us.

These are the kinds of dreams that we hear about in the Acts reading on Pentecost: *dreaming with eyes wide open*.

With your eyes wide open, looking to the future, what do you dream of for your church community? What do you dream of for the Church (Big C) together?

I think during our COVID year, we have dreamed of desired futures in new and unexpected ways. We dream of being able to gather together in worship again. We dream of singing together, gathering around God's table to receive communion together, and all manner of other things that we may have taken for granted before this year.

But I also wonder about what kind of dreams we may have for the church beyond loosening of the COVID restrictions. When we dream about what God may be doing here in our community, what kind of dreams do we dream?

Mary responded to God's call by dreaming of a world where God humbles the proud and uplifts the lowly. Oftentimes, we dream of a world where no one goes hungry or without sustainable housing. We dream of a world where people are treated fairly and justly.

One of the things that happens time and again in Scripture is that those who dream are daring enough to speak their dreams aloud, and then they partner with God to help make those dreams a reality.

I wonder what those dreams are for us and our community.

I wonder what ways we could partner with God to make those dreams a reality for our neighbors and our community.

I wonder what God could do in our lives if we dared to speak our dreams out loud.

May God bless you as we dream together.

Grace + Peace,
Pastor Eric