

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



For December 27, 2020

DAILY BIBLE READINGS 12/27/20—1/2/21



SUNDAY-John 1:19-34

MONDAY- Philippians 1:1-30

TUESDAY- Philippians 2:1-30

WEDNESDAY- Philippians 3:1-21

THURSDAY- Philippians 4:1-23

FRIDAY- Colossians 1:1-23

SATURDAY- Colossians 1:24-2:5

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12/27

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

1/3/2021

Worship 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

The OSLC Council has made the decision to resume in-person worship services and Sunday School beginning on January 10th. All previous guidelines for masks and distancing will remain in place until further notice. Thank you for your patience and prayers as we continue to monitor the situation in Wadena County and do what we can to keep everyone safe.

"to you is born this day in the city of David a savior, who is Christ, the Lord"

This is always one of my favorite verses to proclaim in any worship service each year. It's the promise that comes to the shepherds on the night shift (and through them to us) from an angel of the Lord.

I love the universality of it. "To you." Yeah, you. And you. And you. And you. It's for each one of us. It's a promise that continually includes over and over again. It's a promise that brings new life into old and empty routines.

These shepherds were living in the fields keeping watch over their flocks by night, just like they had done so many nights before. And yet this night was different. This night changes history.

As we've been moving through this year, I've been thinking about how this year seems like a pivot point for us as well. Just as nothing was the same for those shepherds - indeed for the whole world - after that night, it seems like very little will be the same for us after this year as well.

And yet.

The promise still holds. To you is born this day in the city of David a savior, who is Christ, the Lord.

Last month, I was reading through a book of essays by author James Baldwin and came across a quote that stunned me, and feels quite appropriate for Christmas this year.

*"An old world is dying, and a new one, kicking in the belly of its mother, time, announces that it is ready to be born. This birth will not be easy, and many of us are doomed to discovery that we are exceedingly clumsy midwives. No matter, so long as we accept that our responsibility is to the newborn: the acceptance of responsibility contains the key to the necessarily evolving skill." **

That promise of a child born this day is all well and good. But I think many of us often feel like exceedingly clumsy midwives in the face of such a promise.

And yet or, as Baldwin says, "No matter."

Because while this promise is *to us*, it is not only *about us*.

There's this newborn in it with us.

So when we feel like exceedingly clumsy midwives and we aren't sure the next right thing, no matter. Our responsibility is to the newborn.

Our job is simply to walk with the newborn king.

Our job is simply to be present in the midst of our exceeding clumsiness.

Because we are part of this story, but we are not the hero. That's God. God is the one who acts, the one who is born, the one who saves.

And *that* is certainly the good news we need this Christmas.

Grace + Peace,
Pastor Eric

* From James Baldwin's *No Name in the Street*