

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



For January 17, 2021

DAILY BIBLE READINGS 1/10/2021—1/16/21

SUNDAY-Mark 7:24-37

MONDAY- Mark 8:22-9:1

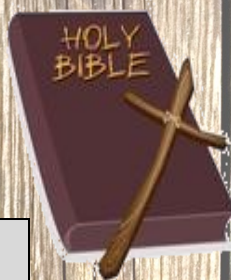
TUESDAY- Mark 9:22-29

WEDNESDAY- Mark 9:30-50

THURSDAY- Mark 10:1-16

FRIDAY- Mark 10:17-34

SATURDAY- Mark 10:35-52



Church email: oslcelca@wcta.net

Office# 218-837-5831

Pastor Eric Email: pastor.eric.clapp@gmail.com

Pastor Eric # 701-261-2394

Church Website: www.oslcsebek.org

1/17/2021

8:30am Balsamlund Worship/ Holy Communion

9:30am OSLC Sunday School

10am OSLC Worship/Holy Communion

1/18/20

7pm Zoom for Be the Bridge

1/20/21

6pm Council Mtg

1/24/2021

8:30am Balsamlund Worship/ Holy Communion

9:30am OSLC Sunday School

10am OSLC Worship

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.

As a way to stay connected through these winter months, we're going to gather on Zoom for a fellowship and conversation around a book we'll read together. The first book we'll read together is **Be the Bridge** by Latasha Morrison. This is a book about how the church has an opportunity to bridge the divides in our world. We'll meet the 1st and 3rd Mondays of the month at 7pm. Our first meeting will be on January 18th to get on the same page moving forward. If you have any questions or are interested in participating, please contact Pastor Eric.

Balsamlund Announcements

****Any items for the annual meeting including reports and letters need to be in the office by February 7th.**

Make-up dates for Milestone Celebrations

January 21- First Bibles presentation (an alternate date for those who didn't get theirs in October).

February 14 & March 7- First Communion, these are two options for those who wish to celebrate First Communion. If you weren't able to be at the service where the class was taught, there is a link on the Balsamlund Facebook page.

Confirmation Class dates- January 31, February 21, March 14, March 28, April 18, May 2, & May 16.

Balsamlund Annual Meeting will be February 28, Worship will be at 10:15am, with Annual Meeting to follow. →

OSLC Announcements

Any items for the OSLC annual meeting including reports & letters need to be in the office ASAP. OSLC Annual Meeting will Be February 14, following worship.

****2021 offering envelopes are in the mail boxes. If you didn't get any and would like envelopes please let the office know.**

**** Financial statements are in the mail boxes.**

I had every intention of continuing with our spiritual practices series that we started last week. I hope you'll allow an interruption for something that I think is important for us to remember as a community. I promise I'll come back with spiritual practices for learning the unforced rhythms of grace next week.

This week, I think it's important to talk about forgiveness. We hear about forgiveness a lot. We hear calls to forgive a lot. But forgiveness is only one part of the equation when wrongdoing has occurred.

Jesus says it like this in Luke's gospel: Be on your guard! If another disciple sins, you must rebuke the offender, and if there is repentance, you must forgive. And if the same person sins against you seven times a day, and turns back to you seven times and says, "I repent," you must forgive. (Luke 17:3-4)

A prerequisite for forgiveness is repentance, an acknowledgment of the wrong that has been done and a commitment to turn from the wrongdoing to go in a different direction.

A lot of times when there has been wrongdoing -- whether in interpersonal relationships, in a family or community, or as a nation -- we hear calls to forgive before the offending person or persons has repented. "Forgive and forget," as the old adage goes.

There is an element of forgiveness that exists in our hearts when we have been wronged that is simply refusing to let another person or their actions keep getting the best of you. But my hope is that this may be more of a last line of defense rather than an immediate response.

In Matthew 18, Jesus lays out a pattern for repentance and forgiveness that is often held up as a model for the church. It goes like this:

Let's say someone wrongs you. You go to them and say, "Hey, you wronged me." There is an open door for repentance and forgiveness right there and hopefully this is the path chosen by both parties.

If not, Jesus says to take it to a small group of other people -- other members of family or friends to see if this step will bring repentance and forgiveness. If it does, great. If it doesn't...

You take it to the broader community. It could be the church, big family as a whole, school board, town council, whatever the next level of the collective group would be to see if this can bring repentance and forgiveness. If it does, great. If it doesn't...

This is when Jesus talks about forgiving someone in your hearts so it doesn't burden you any longer, while also setting a boundary between you and that person and this is key.

Just because you forgive someone, doesn't mean things have to go back to the way they were before, or that there won't continue to be consequences for the wrongdoing.

There can still be boundaries in place so that the possibility of wrongdoing or hurt is lowered in future interactions. Sometimes this is more necessary than others. It certainly depends on the particular relationship and ability of another to repent and hold to their repentance.

Jesus gives us a number of ways forward that are important to consider as we take these journeys toward repentance and forgiveness. These are the foundations and framework for repentance and forgiveness whether between siblings or, oh I don't know, national legislative bodies.

Forgiveness is always possible. But it requires repentance and an acknowledgement of wrongdoing. It's why we begin our worship services with *confession* and forgiveness.

And in that way, I suppose confession and forgiveness can be an unforced rhythm of grace after all.

My hope for us in 2021 is that we, as the church, can continue to seek repentance and forgiveness as models for our society. I hope we can listen and engage with each other with God as our guide. It's a blessing to be seeking first God's kingdom with you.

Grace + Peace,
Pastor Eric