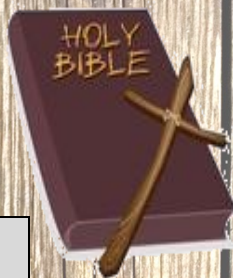


Our Saviour's & Balsamlund Lutheran Church; ELCA E-News



For February 7, 2021

DAILY BIBLE READINGS 2/7/2021—2/13/21



SUNDAY-John 16:16-33
MONDAY- 1 John 1:1-10
TUESDAY- 1John 2:1-17
WEDNESDAY-1 John 2:18-29
THURSDAY- 1John 3:1-10
FRIDAY- 1John 3:11-24
SATURDAY-1 John 4:1-21

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

2/7/2021

8:30am Balsamlund Worship
9:30am OSLC Sunday School
10am OSLC Worship

2/10/21

5pm Finance Mtg.
6:30pm 8th & 9th grade Confirmation

2/14/21

8:30am Balsamlund Worship
9:30am OSLC Sunday School
10am OSLC Worship
Annual Meeting following Worship

*As a way to stay connected through these winter months, we're continuing our Zoom Book study going through Be the Bridge by Latasha Morrison. We meet the 1st and 3rd Mondays of the month at 7pm over Zoom. Our next meeting will be February 15th. If you have any questions or are interested in joining, please contact Pastor Eric.

Balsamlund Announcements

Make-up dates for Balsamlund Milestone Celebrations

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.

Balsamlund Confirmation Class dates- 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

*Annual Reports are in your mail boxes. If you would like them sent out please contact the church office.

*OSLC Annual Meeting will Be February 14, following worship.

***We are looking for members to fill the following:** 3 members for council, 1 youth representative, 6 members for nominating committee, 1 member for financial review committee, 1 member for head usher. If you are interested, please contact Roxie Ness or Dawn in the office.

***You'll notice with your 2020 Annual Report,** you also received a copy of Holden Evening Prayer. This year, for our Lent season, we'll have an online recording of Holden Evening Prayer as a worship option available each Wednesday. We know this is a meaningful service and these songs help us connect with God. Keep an eye out for more Lent mid-week news in the next couple weeks!

***If you are unable or don't feel comfortable joining us inside** for worship, we are now using our FM Transmitter to broadcast Sunday morning worship to the parking lot. Please park upfront facing the front doors to get the best signal from the transmitter. We will also be using this for our Annual Meeting on February 14. We will have ballots for anyone who chooses this option to join the meeting.

"Because of our God's deep compassion, the dawn from on high will break upon us, to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide us on the path of peace." - Luke 1:78-79

This is usually a promise spoken over us in Advent. That makes sense, because it's from Luke's gospel just before the birth story of Jesus. As we prepare our hearts to move into the season of Lent, it's come up for me in a bit of a new way as well.

Often in Lent, we speak of repentance -- the act of turning and returning to God from a pathway of sin. But in this year where our decision-making processes are so fatigued and frayed, where our stress-response cycles of fight/flight/freeze are in their 11th month of overdrive, this begins to feel especially daunting.

One of the things that can help us lower those defenses and give our system a bit of a breather is these spiritual practices that we've been exploring in these first few weeks of 2021. Spiritual practices can remind us -- even momentarily -- of God's presence and can fill us with a sense of present peace and future hope.

I've been returning to Luke 1 often and resting in the promise that God continues to hold us in deep compassion.

Memorizing Scripture is often something that has been relegated to nightmare experiences in confirmation or other times where it has been required to us. But it's also a powerful spiritual practice that can help our brains remember these promises when we get in these stressful fight/flight/freeze situations.

These verses are helpful for me. What's a Bible verse that has been helpful for you? What do you think it would take to memorize it, if you don't have it memorized already?

If you're looking for a place to start, here are some of my favorites that have been helpful to me and may help you as well.

Psalm 46:10 -- "Be still and know that I am God. I will be exalted among the nations. I will be exalted in the earth."

Numbers 6:24-25 -- "The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face to shine upon and be gracious to you; the Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace."

Matthew 28:18-20 -- "Jesus came and said to them, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.'"

If there's a meaningful passage for you, certainly feel free to use that one as well. The above verses are used to give you a bit of a jump start.

I hope diving into the holy scriptures can help bring you a sense of peace and can help bring a spiritual practice to these stressful days.

Know that I continue to pray for you and will be praying this week that you would see the dawn beginning to break from on high. And that God would continue to lead you on a path of peace.

Grace + Peace,
Pastor Eric