

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

For February 21, 2021

DAILY BIBLE READINGS 2/21/21—2/27/21

SUNDAY- Ephesians 1:1-23  
MONDAY- Ephesians 2:1-22  
TUESDAY- Ephesians 3:1-21  
WEDNESDAY- Ephesians 4:1-16  
THURSDAY- Ephesians 4:17-32  
FRIDAY- Ephesians 5:1-20  
SATURDAY- Ephesians 5:21-33



# LENT

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2/21/21

8:30am Balsamlund Worship / Confirmation Class  
9:30am OSLC Sunday School  
10am OSLC Worship  
Annual Meeting following Worship  
Council Mtg after Annual Mtg.

2/22/21

6pm Balsamlund Council Mtg

2/24/21

7pm OSLC Lenten Service

2/28/21

NO OSLC Sunday School  
9am OSLC Worship  
10:15am Balsamlund Worship / Annual Mtg.

\*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 March 1st. If you have any questions or are interested in joining, please contact Pastor Eric.

## Balsamlund Announcements

### Make-up dates for Balsamlund Milestone Celebrations

March 7- **First Communion**, 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

\*OSLC Annual Meeting will Be February 21, following worship.

**\*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.

**\*The annual meeting will also be available via Zoom at 10:30am on Sunday** for folks who want to attend in the parking lot.

My family wasn't very church-y growing up. My parents took me to Sunday School because it's what you did. I was baptized when I was 12 before confirmation started because if I was going to affirm my baptism, I first needed to have a baptism to affirm.

I got involved in church when I was in high school, after I was confirmed, when a woman named Kim reached out to ask me to join a youth group she was putting together at our church. I didn't have a good reason not to, so I said yes.

Even through all of my wandering and lukewarm engagement, I never felt that God was far from me. Even though I wasn't baptized until I was 12, I didn't feel God being *more* present with me after that. God was just as close to me at 12 as at 11 or 8 or 4.

Because, as Lutherans, what we celebrate at baptism is GOD'S action rather than our own. And God has continually been the one acting throughout my life. My hunch is as you look back through your life, this is the case with you as well.

This week in Scripture, we'll hear three short stories all tied together by God's presence. They come from Mark's gospel and Mark doesn't beat around the bush with a lot of details. Mark gets right to the point.

Within six verses, Jesus is baptized, driven into the wilderness to be tempted by Satan, and then comes back into Galilee to announce the Good News that God's reign has come near.

That's a rollercoaster of a ride in six short verses!

And the common thread between them all is the presence and guidance of God the entire way through these foundational events in the ministry of Jesus.

As we begin our season of Lent, we're tired.

We're in month 11 of a pandemic that just won't quit.

We're coming out of a brutal cold snap that wears anyone down.

We're so tired of the division and the fighting in our country and we just want it to stop.

If it feels like it's hard right now it's because it is hard right now.

But we move into the season of Lent ready to sense God's presence with us through every peak and valley. We're ready to see what God has in store for us. We're ready to see again and again and again how God continues to show up in our community and in the world.

Again and again we need God.

Again and again God shows up.

Thanks be to God!

Have a wonderful week, everyone!

Grace + Peace,  
Pastor Eric