

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

May 16, 2021

DAILY BIBLE READINGS 5/16/21—5/22/21

SUNDAY- Acts 21:1-16
MONDAY- Acts 21:17-36
TUESDAY- Acts 12:37-22:16
WEDNESDAY- Acts 22:17-29
THURSDAY- Acts 22:30-23:11
FRIDAY- Acts 23:12-35
SATURDAY- Acts 24:1-27



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5/16/21

8:30am Balsamlund Worship
9am OSLC Fellowship
10am OSLC Worship
After Worship Congregational Mtg./Vote
6:30pm Sebek Baccalaureate Service

5/19/21

9am Quilters
5:30pm Council Mtg.

5/22/21

NW MN Synod Assembly

5/23/21

8:30am Balsamlund Worship
9am OSLC Fellowship
10am OSLC Worship

Balsamlund Announcements

*VBS Save the Date! June 20-24 with counselors from Pathways Bible Camp. Watch for more information coming soon.

*Spring Clean-up Indoor- May 23rd at 6pm

*Confirmation Celebration Sunday June 13th at 8:30am.

OSLC Announcements

****Notice**** There will be a congregational meeting May 16, after worship to vote on using up to \$10,000 of the parsonage fund for building repairs. More information went out in a letter this week.

*Baccalaureate Service for all our Graduating Seniors will be on Sunday May 16 at 6:30pm at Friends in Christ Community Church in Sebek.

* We are going back to using hymnal during worship. If you are worshipping with us from home and would like to borrow a hymnal please let the church office know.

***Teachers Needed:** If you are interested in teaching Sunday School and/or VBS, please let Pastor Eric or Dawn know. If you have any questions you can talk to Roxie or Ronnie. Teachers are needed for this Summers VBS as well as next school year. Two teachers will be stepping down for sure so we are in need of volunteers to fill these roles.

*** Sign-up sheets are on the table in the fellowship hall for fellowship servers and ushers. If you have any questions please contact the church office.**

***We will be having the Potato Booth this year during RERD, (July 30-August 1). Please watch for more information coming soon.**

***VBS Save the Date!**

June 20-24 with counselors from Pathways Bible Camp at Balsamlund Lutheran Church. This is open to kids in grades K-6. Watch for more information coming soon.

*"Holy Father, watch over them in your name, the name you gave me,
that they will be one just as we are one." - John 17:11*

In the reading for this Sunday, Jesus is spending some of his last moments before being arrested in prayer. It's fascinating to listen to Jesus praying, isn't it? It's an intimate moment of communication between Parent and Son.

Of all the things that Jesus could have prayed for, this is what he chose: that God's people would be one.

Jesus could have prayed for Christianity to conquer all. He could have asked God to send plagues on Rome to save him from the cross. He could have prayed for anything to happen and God would have done it.

Instead, Jesus prayed that God's people would be one, that we would be united in the name of Jesus.

According to a recent Google search, there are over 45,000 Christian denominations globally. Even within denominations, there are ideological differences. Within individual congregations, there can be conflict and disunity.

Jesus knew this, because he knew that he was praying for humans. We have a well-documented history of making a mess out of things. And yet Jesus persists in praying for unity among us.

Jesus prayed for you. Isn't that remarkable?
Jesus prayed for Our Saviour's.
Jesus prayed for Balsamlund.

He prayed for every one of his followers, that we would focus less on being correct and more on being one. In our best moments, this prayer comes true in our communities.

In our worst moments, we can cause a lot of hurt.

And yet his prayer still persists. His prayer hits us new again each day. He prays that we would be one as we were baptized into one church, one body, one faith.

It's our prayer today as well -- that wherever conflict divides, Jesus would heal.

Lord, pour out your Holy Spirit on your people today. Help us to live with humility, mercy, and love. And make us one as only you can. Amen.

Grace + Peace,
Pastor Eric