

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

May 23, 2021

DAILY BIBLE READINGS 5/23/21—5/29/21

SUNDAY- Acts 2:1-13  
MONDAY- Acts 2:14-28  
TUESDAY- Acts 2:29-47  
WEDNESDAY- Acts 25:1-27  
THURSDAY- Acts 26:1-32  
FRIDAY- Acts 27:1-12  
SATURDAY- Acts 27:13-38



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5/23/21  
8:30am Balsamlund Worship  
9am OSLC Fellowship  
10am OSLC Worship

5/26/21  
9am Quilters

5/30/21  
8:30am Balsamlund Worship  
9am OSLC Fellowship  
10am OSLC Worship

5/31/21  
Office Closed

Pastor Eric will be at Continuing Ed May 24- May 30

## 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- Today May 23rd at 6pm

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

## OSLC Announcements

\* God loves all, mask or no mask! Following updated CDC and state health guidelines, the OSLC council made the decision to lift our mask mandate effective immediately. We continue to be guided by love and respect for our neighbor, whatever choices they may make. We are excited to see your smiling faces at worship this Sunday!

\* Council Minutes are posted on the board between the mail boxes. Previous months council minutes are available in the office.

\* Sebeka Lions Pancake Feed Sunday May 23 8am—Noon. Free will offering.

\*Midweek campfire worships will be on the 1st & 3rd Wednesdays of the month starting June 2nd at 6:30pm. Bring a chair and join us!

**\*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.**

*"When the Advocate comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who comes from the Father, he will testify on my behalf." - John 15:26*

In this part of John's gospel, he's telling his disciples about what will happen after the resurrection and ascension -- essentially what will happen after Jesus is no longer physically with them. He talks about an Advocate, a Spirit of truth, who will join the disciples in their ministry and accompany them as advocates often do.

This Sunday in the church we celebrate Pentecost Sunday when this in-breaking actually happens. On that first Pentecost, the disciples were gathered together in a room and were waiting. They were unsure of where to go and what to do. They knew Jesus had promised to be with them, but they had just seen him ascend to the Father.

How could God be with them and also apart from them?

God's answer is recorded in Acts 2. It speaks of a rather chaotic scene.

They're gathered together and waiting. All of a sudden a rush of wind blows through the house. Tongues of fire ignite over the heads of each person. Everyone begins to testify - to tell the story of how Jesus has impacted their lives. Here's the wild thing: they're all speaking different languages. And even though they're speaking different languages, they understand each other. They receive the testimony from one another in faith and understanding in a way that communicates the presence of the Holy Spirit in uncertain times.

It can be difficult to live in uncertain times, can't it?

It can be difficult to summon the faith to gather in a space and not know what is going to happen. Sure God promised to be present, but what will that presence look like? What will it feel like? What response will it provoke in us or demand of us?

And yet isn't this what we do everyday?

We go about our day not knowing what lies ahead of us. We can plan out every minute of every hour, but the Holy Spirit can still have a way of interrupting even the best laid plans.

One of the most encouraging things for me about Pentecost is the assurance that the Holy Spirit is present, and even works best, in situations that look chaotic to us.

Where we see chaos, the Holy Spirit sees potential.

My prayer for us as we sit on the edge of so many unknowns is that we can summon the faith to sit together in these rooms like they did on the first Pentecost and wait for God to move. It's not easy. We want answers and results on our timeline. But that's not how God works.

But even in the midst of the unknowns and uncertainties, God's Spirit is still moving.

God is still with us.

God is still making all things new.

Thanks be to God.

Grace + Peace,  
Pastor Eric