

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

June 27, 2021

DAILY BIBLE READINGS 6/27/21—7/3/21

SUNDAY- Revelation 6:1-17
MONDAY- Revelation 7:1-17
TUESDAY- Revelation 8:1-13
WEDNESDAY- Revelation 9:1-12
THURSDAY- Revelation 10:1-11
FRIDAY- Revelation 11:1-19
SATURDAY- Revelation 14:1-20



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6/27/21
8:30am Balsamlund Worship
9am OSLC Fellowship
10am OSLC Worship

6/30/21
9am Ladies Coffee Hub 71

7/4/21
8:30am Balsamlund Worship
NO OSLC Fellowship
10am OSLC Worship

Balsamlund Announcements

*Thank you to everyone who made Day Camp such a success this past week! We had so much fun!

*Pastor Eric will be gone June 23- July 1. Please contact the church office or a member of council for any pastoral emergencies.

OSLC Announcements

* Due to the lack of volunteers signing up for fellowship servers, there may not be fellowship every Sunday. If you are interested in signing up please see the sign-up sheets on the table in the fellowship hall or contact the church office.

*The Potato Booth will July 31, from 10am to 10pm. Please see sign up sheets that are on the table in the fellowship hall for volunteers needed to help set up, manning the booth, assisting at the Church and clean up. Donations are also needed for items listed as well as monetary. To sign-up please contact the church office or add to the sign-up list on the table in the fellowship hall. Watch Facebook for up dated lists of what is still needed. Please join us in making this another successful year with the Potato Booth. Janet Eckman

*Summer office hours will be as follow Monday 9am-2pm, Tuesday 8-3, Wednesday 8-3, Thursday 8-3, Friday closed.

*We will not be having fellowship at OSLC on Sunday July 4.

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

***Midweek campfire worships will be on the 1st & 3rd Wednesdays of the month. Bring a chair and join us!**

We're moving into Week 4 of our series through the 7 characteristics of goodness culture in community and in church.

Here's a recap of where we've been.

Week 1: Nurture empathy

Week 2: Nurture grace

Week 3: Nurture a people-first perspective

Now, in week 4, we come to another aspect of goodness culture: nurturing truth.

As a dad who has a 6 and a 2 year old at home, we hear **a lot** of truth.

We hear what they thought about dinner (they didn't like the mushrooms.)

We hear whether they want to take a bath (they don't.)

We hear whether they were kind at daycare or not (mostly yes.)

Or I remember one time I encountered a group of kids playing Red Light/Green Light outside my office and one of them said, "Hey you're the pastor from Vacation Bible School!"

I said, "Yes I am. That was so fun!"

She looked me dead in the eye and said, "It wasn't *that* fun!"

KIDS ARE SO GOOD AT NURTURING TRUTH!

But along the way we find it harder and harder to pursue the truth, because the truth is often hard to hear. Truth tends to complicate the narratives we want to believe about ourselves. Truth can throw an awful wrench in our lives and the lives of those we love.

If we want to tell the truth, we first have to know what the truth is.

Christianity makes a pretty wild claim that truth is not a thing or an idea, but rather that truth is a person -- particularly that truth is embodied in the person of Jesus Christ.

In John's gospel, Jesus says, "I am the way, the truth, and the life."

We believe that it's by the power of the Holy Spirit that we can learn the truth about who God is and who we are. Once we learn the truth, we can begin to embody that truth in a way that follows after Jesus.

What does embodying the truth look like in our lives?

Scott McKnight and Laura Barringer have 5 ideas from their book, *A Church Called Tov*.

1. It looks like affirming truth tellers.
2. It looks like being willing to name the things we've done wrong and the ways we've messed up -- we do this every week in church during the confession.
3. We confess our complicity in systems that oppress and subjugate other people.
4. We acknowledge the harm done and we ask for forgiveness.
5. We acknowledge the desire and intention to change.

Through this whole process, we embrace the truth that God holds us in love even when we mess things up. And that following Jesus as our savior means striving for truth, nurturing truth in our relationships through admitting when we screw up and doing our best to do better moving forward.

This is hard work. And it's work that can often be uncomfortable to do.

But Jesus, again in John's gospel, reminds us that we will know the truth, and that it's the truth that will set us free.

Grace + Peace,
Pastor Eric