

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

September 12, 2021

DAILY BIBLE READINGS 9/12/21—9/18/21

SUNDAY- Proverbs 18:1-24
MONDAY- Proverbs 19:1-29
TUESDAY- Proverbs 20:1-30
WEDNESDAY- Proverbs 21:1-31
THURSDAY- Proverbs 25:1-28
FRIDAY- Proverbs 26:1-18
SATURDAY- Proverbs 27:1-17



Church email: oscelca@wcta.net
Office# 218-837-5831
Pastor Eric Email: pastor.eric.clapp@gmail.com
Pastor Eric # 701-261-2394
Church Website: www.oslcsebek.org

9/12/21
8:30am Balsamlund Worship
9am Fellowship
9am Sunday School
10am OSLC Worship/ Backpack Blessing

9/15/21
9am Quilters
5:45pm Council Mtg.
6:30pm Youth Group

9/18/21
8:30am Balsamlund Worship
9am Fellowship
9am Sunday School
10am OSLC Worship/ Holy Communion

Balsamlund Announcements

-Balsamlund Confirmation Class will be the 4th Wednesday of the month at 6:30pm.

OSLC Announcements

*Up-Coming Dates!

- Confirmation class 2nd Wednesday of the month 6:30-7:30pm
- SHYG 1st Wednesday of the month 6:30-7:30pm
- Youth Group 3rd Wednesday of the month (time to be determined)
- Sunday School will start on Sunday September 12. Snack at 9am and class at 9:15am.
- We will also be having a Backpack Blessing during worship on this day!

* WELCA will be having a meeting the first Wednesday of the month at 11am. If you would like to join WELCA, you are welcome to attend a meeting, or contact a member or the church office.

*Sebeka United Methodist Church is hosting a Annual Women's Salad Luncheon, on Wednesday September 15 @ noon. Free will offering, all women are invited to attend. Elizabeth Pierson will be the guest Speaker.

*We are looking for someone to take the lead of the Bell Choir and the Adult Vocal Choir. If you are interested contact Pastor Eric!

* Fall Bazaar will be October 9, from 9am to 12:30pm. Raffle prizes include: Handmade Quilt, (2) 1/4 beef, Gift certificates, Gift baskets and more. Tickets will be available at Community First Bank or OSLC WELCA member. They can also be purchased the day of the Bazaar. Lunch items include Variety of Soups, Finnish Flatbread, Fresh Pie and Ice Cream. Lunch will be a free will offering. We welcome any items to sell : Crafts, Handmade items, Baked goods, Canned goods, Fresh produce, Local gift certificates, Gift baskets, Pies for the kitchen and to sell. If you have any questions please contact a member of WELCA or the Church office.

*The Youth Group will be having a garage sale on Super Saturday September 18. If you have items you would like to donate for the sale, please contact the church office or Alicia Ahrendt, to make arrangements for dropping off items.

"We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be made visible in our bodies." - 2 Corinthians 4:8-10

I have to tell you up front that this has been a tough one to think about writing.

As we approach 19 months since COVID has disrupted our daily lives, and as we approach the 20th anniversary of the September 11th attacks in New York and Washington DC, things seem a little heavier than usual.

I was in class the morning of September 11th, 2001. Someone interrupted class to tell us to turn on the TV, that a plane had crashed into a building in New York City. I thought simultaneously, "Oh no!" and also "What kind of pilot doesn't see a building in front of them?" I just didn't understand.

We turned on the tv and within a minute, we watched the second plane hit.

We all have our stories of where we were that day and what we did in the days to follow. It's important to share those stories for two reasons: 1) So that we remember that we are not alone in experiencing tragedy. Everyone has their own story and experience within this larger story of September 11th. And 2) Telling the story helps us place this tragedy in its context as having happened in the past.

When we deal with difficult and traumatic things, our sense of time is upended. Telling stories helps us put things back in their proper time and place, so that we can move forward and build resilience in our lives.

This is work that's not new to us.

The Apostle Paul and all of the ancestors in faith who came before were experts in this. Paul wrote those words that began our devotion to a community trying to make sense of the cross, trying to make sense of their persecution in light of who Jesus is.

They were pressed, but not crushed.
Perplexed, but not driven to despair.
Persecuted, but not forsaken.
Struck down, but not destroyed.

The same is true for you and I.

We have things that happen in our lives that press us or perplex us, that may leave us feeling persecuted or struck down. But the grace of Jesus reaches out to us in those times of struggle and loss and carries us through.

It's the powerful line in the old, old hymn: "Grace has brought us safe thus far, and grace will lead us home."

We remember in prayer the thousands of lives taken on September 11th, 2001.
We remember the hundreds of thousands of lives that have been taken in the wars and battles since.
We remember the hundreds of thousands of lives of those who have died from COVID.

We remember them all.

We hold the names of those in the communion of saints in our hearts. And we wait with hope for the day to come when God will wipe every tear from our eyes.

In the meantime, we wait with each other. We hope with each other. We comfort one another in our griefs and sorrows. And we hold onto the promise that grace has, indeed, brought us safe thus far. And that grace will lead us home.

Grace + Peace,
Pastor Eric