

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

September 19, 2021

DAILY BIBLE READINGS 9/19/21—9/25/21



SUNDAY- Proverbs 28:1-28  
MONDAY- Proverbs 129:1-27  
TUESDAY- Ecclesiastes 1:1-18  
WEDNESDAY- Ecclesiastes 2:1-26  
THURSDAY- Ecclesiastes 3:1-22  
FRIDAY- Ecclesiastes 4:1-16  
SATURDAY- Ecclesiastes 5:1-20

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

9/22/21  
9am Quilters  
Balsamlund Confirmation @6:30pm

9/26/21  
8:30am Balsamlund Worship  
9am Fellowship  
9am Sunday School  
10am OSLC Worship  
Fall Kickoff Pot Luck

Church email: [osclca@wcta.net](mailto:osclca@wcta.net)  
Office# 218-837-5831  
Pastor Eric Email: [pastor.eric.clapp@gmail.com](mailto:pastor.eric.clapp@gmail.com)  
Pastor Eric # 701-261-2394  
Church Website: [www.oslcsebek.org](http://www.oslcsebek.org)

## Balsamlund Announcements

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

## OSLC Announcements

### \*Up-Coming Dates!

--SHYG 1st Wednesday of the month 6:30-7:30pm  
Confirmation class 2nd Wednesday of the month 6:30-7:30pm  
-Youth Group 3rd Wednesday of the month (time to be determined)

\* 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.

\*Donations for the Fall Bazaar can be dropped off during normal office hours Monday through Thursday 8am-3pm, or Friday 1pm-8pm and Saturday morning after 8am.

\*We're having our Fall Kickoff Pot Luck on Sunday September 26th following worship. Bring a main dish or a side to share and we'll see you there!

**\* 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.**

"An author named Tish Harrison Warren wrote online the other day reminding me of a powerful point in C.S. Lewis's classic religious text "The Screwtape Letters." In it, a demon named Screwtape coaches his upstart demon nephew on how to effectively tempt and ultimately condemn his "patient."

There's a particular coaching session where Uncle Screwtape coaches his nephew on using fatigue to discourage his patient. I've been thinking about it a lot lately for the way I think it illuminates some of our fatigue with the onslaught of things in our world that impact us -- from COVID to political disagreements to fighting among families... there is no shortage of things we're tired of, amen?

Here's how Screwtape coaches his nephew. (*It's important to remember that they're demons here.*) He says, "To produce the best results from the patient's fatigue, you must feed him with false hopes.... Exaggerate his weariness by making him think it will soon be over."

Lewis is highlighting for us that fatigue generally does one of two things in us: it either brings us closer through gentleness and kindness, or it drives us apart through impatience and anger. When our fatigue goes on for longer than we anticipate, it can cause us great disappointment.

Screwtape says, "It is not fatigue simply as such that produces the anger, but unexpected demands on a [person] already tired."

We feel this, don't we?

We see this in our neighbors and in ourselves, don't we?

Anger simmers and stews inside of us until it has no choice but to boil over.

So what do we do with our anger?  
What do we do with our disappointment?  
What do we do with our fatigue?

We grieve that things aren't as we'd like them to be.  
We admit our disappointment and fatigue.  
We come clean that we are just worn out.

In the gospel according to Matthew, we get a sense that Jesus understands this fatigue on our discipleship journey.

He invites us to him so that he can restore us to who God created us to be.

He says, "Come to me all who are weary and burdened and I will give you rest."

Doesn't that sound nice?

Following what Jesus says, our first step is to admit we are weary and burdened. The second is to move toward him -- through prayer, conversation, rest, singing, being in nature, whatever you do to connect to God. Do that.

Because in doing that, the anger that rises from our fatigue softens.

We are met by the grace of God and we are strengthened to pay that grace forward to those around us.

That's the beauty of grace.

Know that wherever you are on this journey, you are never too far gone for the grace and mercy of God. And neither are the people you disagree with.

Grace + Peace,  
Pastor Eric