

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

November 28, 2021

DAILY BIBLE READINGS 11/28/21—12/4/21



SUNDAY- Jeremiah 10:1-16
MONDAY- Psalm 21
TUESDAY- Psalm 24
WEDNESDAY- Psalm 130
THURSDAY- Luke 21:5-19
FRIDAY- Luke 21:20-38
SATURDAY- Daniel 12:1-13

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

11/28/21 First Sunday of Advent

8:30am Balsamlund Worship
9am Fellowship
9am Sunday School
10am Worship / Jokela Baptism

12/1/21

9am Quilters
11am WELCA Mtg
5pm Worship Committee Mtg
6:30pm SHYG

12/5/21 Second Sunday of Advent

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

Balsamlund Announcements : Confirmation is held every 4th Wednesday of the month.

OSLC Announcements:

*If you have any questions or are interested in applying for the administrative assistant position please contact Council President Rich Gronlund.

*We are looking for someone to head up the Adult Vocal Choir and the Bell Choir. If you are interested in helping out with one or both of these groups please contact Pastor Eric for more info.

*As we head into winter, if you are not on Pastor Eric's call list, but would like to be, please contact Rita at the OSLC office @ 218-837-5831 or Pastor Eric's cell phone @ 701-261-2394.

*Sebeka Santa Days will be Saturday, December 11, 2021. 9am-5pm

*Thank you to everyone who helped with the Community Thanksgiving Day dinner. A special thank you goes to the trio coordinating efforts, Heide M, Alicia A, and Janet E, plus a host of others who assisted including the Pastor and his daughter Lily. We appreciate the food donations and monetary contributions. Hopefully we can return to a "Dine-in" meal next season.

*We have the tags ready for Operation Christmas Child. If you would like to get a gift for a child, please choose a number between 1 and 20. Call the church office to inquire how many Gift Numbers are left or talk to Maureen. All gifts should be wrapped with a gift card and to the church by Dec 12th. Let's bring smiles & joy to some local children's hearts this Christmas.

One of my favorite kids books to read with Lily and Milo is a book by author & illustrator Mo Willems called "Waiting is Not Easy."

In this book, Gerald the Elephant and Piggie the... Pig have to wait for a surprise to come, but guess what? It turns out that waiting is not easy.

I love it because as relatable as it is for a 7 and a 3 year old (who struggle with waiting plenty on their own), we can relate to it too, can't we? Waiting is not something that comes to us naturally.

There's a spirit that animates us that says "Go! Grab life by the horns! Make each day count! Carpe diem!" It's this cultural attitude that can tell us that waiting is actually a waste of time.

This is one of the reasons I love the season of Advent in the church. It's the dawning of a new church year.

And we start our new church year by... waiting.

As we move into Luke's gospel, it's comforting to know that we aren't the only ones who are waiting.

Zechariah and Elizabeth are waiting.

Mary is waiting.

Simeon and Anna are waiting.

The opening chapters of the gospel is the story of people waiting.

Throughout the Psalms, we hear an attitude of waiting: "My soul waits for the Lord. I count on his word. My soul is longing for the Lord more than a watchman for daybreak."

This song of waiting has reverberated throughout Israel's history, so Zechariah, Elizabeth, Mary, Simeon, and Anna have plenty of company in the ancestors in faith.

And so do we.

So I wonder....

What is something you are waiting for this Advent season?

How does it feel to wait?

The Jewish theologian Simone Weil says, "Waiting patiently in expectation is the foundation of the spiritual life."

Waiting patiently is difficult because our world is full of other, different, and competing messages. But when we can tune those messages out and hone in on what God is doing in this season, when we can listen to the stories of God's people waiting for the birth of Jesus, we can sense God's presence in our waiting too.

We can sense the steadfastness and faithfulness of God in this season as well.

Gerald and Piggie are right that waiting is not easy. But it is where we begin our Advent journey together.

Grace + Peace,
Pastor Eric