



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

December 5, 2021

DAILY BIBLE READINGS 12/5 – 12/11



SUNDAY- Isaiah 11:1-16
MONDAY- Isaiah 60:1-22
TUESDAY- Jeremiah 23:1-8
WEDNESDAY- Jeremiah 33:1-18
THURSDAY- Zephaniah 1:1-18
FRIDAY- Zephaniah 2:1-15
SATURDAY- Zephaniah 3:1-20

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

12/5 2nd Sunday of Advent

9am Fellowship
9am Sunday School
10am Worship / Holy Communion

12/8

9am Quilters
5pm Finance Mtg
6:30 Confirmation

12/12 3rd Sunday of Advent

9am Fellowship
10am Youth Group Christmas Service

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

Sunday School Christmas Program Rehearsal will be on Saturday, December 11th, at 9:30am. We will then have the Program the following morning at our regular 8:30 Sunday worship.

Join us for Christmas Eve worship on December 24th at 6:30pm!

OSLC Announcements:

***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** is Saturday, December 11, 2021. 9am-5pm

***We are pleased** to announce that we hired Rita Johnson as the Assistant Administrator.

***Thanks to all who helped with this year's Operation Christmas Child.** All the tags have been filled. The gifts should be wrapped with a gift tag and the child's number. Please have gifts to the church office by Dec 12. Let's bring smiles to some local children's hearts this Christmas.

*** Youth Group Holiday Poinsettia Fundraiser 2021.** Order forms will be available on the table in the fellowship hall, or from the Youth Group. You can also contact the church office. Order deadline is December 12th.

***Join us for Christmas Eve worship on December 24th at 4:00pm!**

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