



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

December 12, 2021

DAILY BIBLE READINGS 12/12 – 12/18



SUNDAY- Malachi 1:1-14
MONDAY- Malachi 2:1-17
TUESDAY- Malachi 3:1-18
WEDNESDAY- Malachi 4:1-6
THURSDAY- Psalm 50
FRIDAY- Psalm 76
SATURDAY- Isaiah 7:1-25

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12/12 3rd Sunday of Advent

9am Fellowship
9am Sunday School
10am Youth Group Christmas Program
11:30am -1:30 Youth Group

12/15

9am Quilters, *next session is 1/5/22*
5:45pm Council Mtg
No Youth Group, *see change to 12/12*

12/19 4th Sunday of Advent

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

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

Sunday School Christmas Program rehearsal is Saturday, December 11th, at 9:30am. We will then have the Program the following morning, December 12, at our regular 8:30am 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 or Pastor Clapp's cell phone.

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

***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 Sunday, Dec 12. Let's bring smiles to local children's hearts this Christmas.

*** Youth Group Holiday Poinsettia Fundraiser 2021.** Order forms are 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.**

***We served 114 meals on Thanksgiving Day and raised a generous amount for the Sebeka Food Shelf.** Thank you to the "many hands" who made it a success. Blessings to all who "Paid it Forward".

***The Wednesday Quilters** will have their last session of the year on 12/15, 9am-11am. Afterwards they will gather for lunch at Hub 71. The Quilters group will resume normal activities on January 5, 2022.

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

As we've been moving through the Advent season inching closer to celebrating the birth of Jesus, there's been a devotion that has been at the front of my mind and I wanted to share it with you this week.

It was written by a man named Howard Thurman. He was a pastor and leader in the early 20th Century. He wrote so many powerful meditations and devotions. This is a favorite moving toward Christmas.

What is Christmas?

Christmas is a mood, a quality, a symbol. It is never merely a fact. As a fact it is a date on the calendar – to the believer it is the anniversary of an event in human history. An individual may relate (themselves) meaningfully to the fact or the event, but that would not be Christmas.

The mood of Christmas – what is it? It is a quickening of the presence of other human beings into whose lives a precious part of one's own has been released. It is a memory of other days when into one's path an angel appeared spreading a halo over an ordinary moment or a commonplace event. It is an iridescence of sheer delight that bathes one's whole being with something more wonderful than words can ever tell. Of such is the mood of Christmas.

The quality of Christmas – what is it? It is the fullness with which fruit ripens, blossoms unfold into flowers, and live coals glow in the darkness. It is the richness of vibrant colors – the calm purple of grapes, the exciting redness of tomatoes, the shimmering light on the noiseless stirring of a lake or sunset. It is the sense of plateau with a large rock behind which one may take temporary respite from winds that chill. Of such is the quality of Christmas.

"The symbol of Christmas – what is it? It is the rainbow arched over the roof of the sky when the clouds are heavy with foreboding. It is the cry of life in the newborn babe when, forced from its mother's nest, it claims its right to live. It is the brooding Presence of the Eternal Spirit making crooked paths straight, rough places smooth, tired hearts refreshed, dead hopes stir with newness of life. It is the promise of tomorrow at the close of every day, the movement of life in defiance of death, and the assurance that love is sturdier than hate, that right is more confident than wrong, that good is more permanent than evil."

I hope these words of Pastor Thurman's can impact you as much as they have me.

Happy Advent, everyone!

Grace + Peace,
Pastor Eric