



Our Saviour's & Balsamlund

Lutheran Church; ELCA

E-News

March 20, 2022

DAILY BIBLE READINGS 3/20—3/26



SUNDAY- Psalm 77
 MONDAY- Psalm 88
 TUESDAY- Psalm 90
 WEDNESDAY- Psalm 91
 THURSDAY- Psalm 102
 FRIDAY- Daniel 9:1-19
 SATURDAY- Daniel 9:20-27

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3/20 Third Sunday in Lent

9am Fellowship
 9am Sunday School
 10am Worship / Holy Communion
 Council Meeting after Worship

3/23 Wednesday

9am Quilters
 5:30pm Lent Soup & Sandwich Supper
 6:30pm Holden Evening Prayer Service

3/27 Fourth Sunday in Lent

9am Fellowship
 9am Sunday School
 10 am Worship

Balsamlund Announcements :

- **Confirmation** is every 4th Wednesday of the month.
- **Lenten Midweek 'Thursday' Services:** March 17, 24, 31, & April 7.
 Lent Soup/Sandwich Supper @ 5:30pm & Holden Evening Prayer Service @ 6pm. Everyone is welcome!

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.
- * **A special "Thank You" to the Church Council** for hosting last Wednesday's Lenten Soup & Supper meal. The meal was fantastic, as was the service afterwards. View Sunday's & Lent's via Facebook.
- * **If you are interested** in being on the church council as the **Financial Secretary/Bookkeeper**, please contact Council President Richard Gronlund and/or the office.
- * **For any changes to service times or** activities due to weather or last minute changes, please watch our Facebook page and we will also update the church answering machine.

- * **Offering envelopes.** It's not too late to request envelopes for 2022, please let Rita know.
 - * **Want to serve as Altar Guild?** Sign-up sheet is on the Fellowship table. You can leave a message on the office phone to sign up too. Months open are June, July, August, September, & November.
 - * **Fellowship Servers are needed for March 27th.**
- Wednesday's—March 16, 23, 30, & April 6**, join us...
- Lent Soup & Sandwich Suppers @ 5:30pm**
Holden Evening Prayer Services @ 6:30pm.
- Everyone is welcome!**
- * **Please Note: The Fellowship Hall reservations:** April 3rd after the worship service & April 30th.



What does it mean to pray for God's kingdom to be near?

When Jesus taught his disciples to pray, one of the first actions or moves for which we pray is for God's kingdom to come near us.

This is the opposite direction that most of us are used to thinking about when we think about the kingdom of God. We grew up learning that the kingdom of God was somewhere *out there* or *up there* or somehow someplace else.

For so long, we've been taught that God's kingdom is a place that exists outside of our world where we go if we are good enough for God. Sound familiar?

Yet whenever Jesus taught about the kingdom of God, he used such earthly things.

A mustard seed.

A father who had two sons.

A gardener spreading seeds on the ground.

A shepherd who has 99 out of 100 sheep.

The kingdom of God is mentioned over 80 times in the New Testament. Jesus is constantly talking about what God's kingdom looks like and he uses these earthly examples for a reason.

Jesus invites us to pray for God's kingdom to come because the grace, mercy, and love that are fully present in God's kingdom can be glimpsed here and now. We pray for God's kingdom to come near so that those things can be seen and made real here in our midst.

Where is the kingdom of God in our world?

It's where we reach for mercy instead of punishment.

It's where we reach for restoration instead of outrage.

This is how God's kingdom is made real among us.

When we pray for this, we fix our attention on the things that bring mercy and restoration to us and to our community. That's what God's kingdom looks like when it shows up among us.

Grace + Peace,

Pastor Eric