



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

April 24, 2022

DAILY BIBLE READINGS 4/24-4/30



SUNDAY- Romans 11:1-24
MONDAY- Romans 11:25-36
TUESDAY- Romans 12:1-21
WEDNESDAY- Romans 13:1-14
THURSDAY- Romans 14:1-23
FRIDAY- Romans 15:1-13
SATURDAY- Romans 15:14-33

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4/24 Second Sunday of Easter

9am Fellowship
10am Sunday School
10am Worship / Senior Quilts Presentation

4/27 Wednesday

9am Quilters
6:30pm 9th Grade Confirmation Rehearsal

5/1 Third Sunday of Easter

9am Fellowship
9am Sunday School
10am Worship / Confirmation



Balsamlund Announcements: Please continue to watch.

OSLC Announcements:

* **WELCA Spring Gathering, April 26th.** 8am registration/9am Program @ Immanuel Lutheran Church, 403 2nd St SE Wadena. "BE JUST AND KIND" theme. All are welcome to attend.

* **We are happy to announce that we are resuming regular Holy Communion practices.** Red wine and fruit juice options.

* **We started some spring cleaning projects on April 9th.** Special thanks to all who helped to spruce up the church for Easter Sunday services. No sign-up sheet has been set out as of yet. Please watch bulletins for future cleaning projects and dates.

* **Want to serve as Altar Guild?** Sign-up sheet is on the Fellowship table and/or contact the church office. Months open are: June, July, August, September, & November.

* **Please note: Fellowship Hall Reservations** April 30 (10am-5pm), May 1 (11am-2pm), May 12 (10am-3pm), May 21 (TBD).

* **Last Sunday School class is** May 1 @ 9am.

* **Potato Booth July 28, 29, & 30 - It is time to start planning potato booth.** With the Sebeka All School Reunion being held in conjunction with Red Eye River Days we need to decide now if we will be open both Friday and Saturday. Since there are many of us that graduated from Sebeka and would like to participate in our own Class get together, it may be hard for some to volunteer their time. There may also be some All School Reunion activities beyond our individual class gatherings. Sign-up sheets for times will be posted in the Fellowship Hall and we will be looking at having these spots filled by the middle of May so that we can determine how to move forward. It is a lot of hard work that goes into this and the money it brings in helps fund OSLC and helps us with outreach to the community. I enjoy the work, the fellowship we have while working and seeing how our hard work helps us reach out to others. In Faith - Janet Eckman

* **"Thank you" to Brenda Schwartz for** delivering the Easter plants to the church last week.

* **The Sebeka Area Food Shelf thanked** OSLC for the generous & thoughtful gift to the local Food Shelf. The card is pinned on the hallway bulletin board. Blessings to all.

* **Senior Quilt Presentation.** Today, Sunday April 24th, we recognize the high school seniors of our congregation who will be graduating this spring. Graduation is an important time, a time to pause and reflect on how far we have come, and also a time to reflect on where God might be sending us and how Jesus Christ is with us. It is an honor for us to honor you, as you take this important step in your journey through life.

Ava Rose Ahrendt
Kaitlyn Mae Eckman
Gavin Carter Kiser
Eion James Ness
Kyllynn Pearl Warmbold

Parents: Justin & Alicia Ahrendt
Justin & Lacey Eckman
Reggie & Laura Kiser
Quentin & Roxie Ness
Luke & Tammy Warmbold



Think of the people in your life who have helped you along in your faith journey. It could be a parent or grandparent. It could be a pastor or Sunday School teacher. It could be a friend or a neighbor. I suspect we've had a few of these throughout our lives.

There is great wisdom in the community of faith, though one thing we struggle with is what happens when we come upon questions without easy answers. Often, we have been told that questioning means a lack of faith and that questions are to be avoided at all costs.

BELOVED IN CHRIST, I ASSURE YOU THIS IS NOT SO.

We hear a Gospel story this week about Thomas. If you open any children's Bible, you'll undoubtedly see the adjective "doubting" attached to his name like some scarlet letter he is forced to wear for the rest of his life. He's not Curious Thomas. Or even Cautious Thomas. Pastors and other leaders in the church throughout history have interpreted this to mean that it's impossible to be curious *and* faithful at the same time.

Again, beloved, I assure you this is not so.

Throughout John's gospel, Thomas has been all in on following Jesus. Just a few chapters earlier, Jesus sets his sights on Jerusalem and a clash with Roman authorities and Thomas responds, "Let us go too, that we may die with him."

He's ready. He gets it. He knows what's up.

And it is in the midst of his curiosity, of his struggle, that Jesus encounters him. And when Jesus encounters Thomas, it is not with a scolding or diminishment, but with an invitation.

He holds his hands out to Thomas and invites him to trust in the power of God to resurrect the dead.

Questions, it turns out, are nothing more than invitations for God to be present with us as we seek to deepen our faith and, ultimately, become closer in our relationship with Jesus.

This Easter season, may you be blessed with questions that don't have easy answers, and in your questioning may you be drawn closer to God.

Grace + Peace,

Pastor Eric