

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



For November 26, 2023

DAILY BIBLE READINGS 11/26/23—12/2/23



SUNDAY Psalm 146
MONDAY Psalm 147
TUESDAY Psalm 148
WEDNESDAY Psalm 149
THURSDAY Psalm 150
FRIDAY Mark 1:1-8
SATURDAY Mark 1:9-20

Church Email: oslcclca@wcta.net
Office# 218-837-5831
Janet Eckman SAM
Email: jre227@yahoo.com
Church Website: www.oslcsebek.org
Facebook: [oursaviourssebek](https://www.facebook.com/oursaviourssebek)

WEEKLY CALENDAR

11/26 Time after Pentecost / Lectionary 34

9am Fellowship
9am Sunday School
10am Worship / Jokela Baptism / Private Baptism *after worship*

11/29 Wednesday

9am Quilters
1-5pm Janet Eckman SAM in office
6:30pm Confirmation Class and Christmas decorating.

12/3 First Sunday of Advent

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

Balsamlund Announcements:

If you know of someone who would like a visitation please let the office or Janet Eckman SAM know and we will accommodate the request in the best possible way.

OSLC Announcements:

Fellowship Hall Reservations: 5/5/24, 11am on reserved for the Ness, Connor, & Lee families; Every Monday night till Christmas, 7pm-8:30pm for Northern Lights Choral Choir practice; 1/7/24, 1pm-4pm for a 2pm Concert!

The position for Financial Committee member is filled: Welcome Doug Schwartz. Your knowledge and expertise will compliment the group and the church.

November 29th, Thursday, the Confirmation Class will decorate the church for the Christmas Season. We'd love church members to assist. Show up around 6:30pm!

OSLC Adult Choir begins practicing on Sundays through to Christmas Eve starting November 26th at 9am in the sanctuary. Let the merriment begin!

W/ELCA is requesting funeral coordinators for 2024. 3 ladies per quarter. Please contact the office if you are interested.

December 17th at 10am, Sunday School Christmas Program under the direction of Alicia Strayer, Sunday School Leader. A Potluck meal will follow. Invite your friends and family!

December 24th at 4pm Sunday Christmas Service (no morning Worship/no Fellowship/no Sunday school).

Wadena County Operation Christmas Child Program is in full swing. Maureen has the full list! It is posted on bulletin board by the church offices. Your generosity is greatly appreciated and puts a happy heart in all.

Our sincere condolences to the Jim & Bev Moeller families for the recent death of Robert Arnbrecht. We are sorry for your loss.

11 months are open for assignment for Altar Guild 2024. A sign-up sheet is on the Fellowship Hall table. Hurry up, before all months are taken!

January 7, 2024 @ 2pm, Northern Lights Chorale Concert. Join us!

Giving Thanks. Gratitude.

This year has brought me many things to be grateful for. I am thankful for my family who put up with all the crazy things I do or say and for the support they give me. This year we are missing some with the loss of some loved ones and although that makes us sad, we are thankful for the time we got to spend with them. I am thankful to be able to serve as a Synod Approved Minister for both OSLC and Balsamlund. I am thankful for our Bishop Tesch and for my mentors Pastor Erin, Pastor Angie, and for all of the other SAM's that are on the same journey as I am.

As I think back to past Thanksgiving Days, I think of my Mom's table that was always so full of a thanksgiving feast. To that old oak table my Dad bought when they were first married for \$5 at an auction. It held many filled plates and was surrounded by wonderful people and laughter. I think of my brothers and Dad lining up in the living room and snoozing while the football game was on. I am thankful for each memory.

Giving thanks when things are going well is an easy thing to do but it is much more difficult when we are struggling. For some this may be the first holiday after losing a loved one, the diagnosis of a health issue, the trying to have a baby with each month passing by and that pregnancy test comes back negative, or it may be loss of a job or a financial loss. How do you give thanks when you are just hanging on by bare threads? It is pulling off the covers and getting up and looking at yourself in the mirror and saying I can do this. The wise words someone shared with me after a loss was getting up each day and looking in the mirror and telling yourself "Today is going to be a good day!" I am going to add to that a little bit by saying - "Thank you God for another day to make a difference." It takes courage to give Thanks during the dark times. It takes courage to make it through those dark times. It's at those times that reaching out to Jesus is important. He knows your heart and he is right there beside you. He sees the pain and feels that pain with you. The shortest verse in the Bible is John 35:11 "Jesus Wept."

I am ending with a poem I read - Give Thanksgiving and let Jesus hug you.

A Hug

When sorrow enters life
And Heart strings feel a tug,
Nothing brings more comfort
Than the giving of a hug.
Words, though well intended,
Cannot ever take the place
Of sweet unspoken feelings
Through a tender, warm embrace.
In our arms there is compassion
And the power to impart
The purest form of love
For a hug speaks to the Heart.

-Ron Tranmer

In Faith
Janet Eckman
Synod Approved Minister