

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



For January 5, 2025

DAILY BIBLE READINGS 1/5/25—1/11/25

SUNDAY Romans 1-2
MONDAY Genesis 1-3
TUESDAY Joshua 1-5
WEDNESDAY Psalm 1-2
THURSDAY Job 1-2
FRIDAY Isaiah 1-6
SATURDAY Matthew 1-2

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OSLC WEEKLY CALENDAR

1/5 Second Sunday after Christmas

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

1/8 Wednesday

9am Quilters
1-5pm, Janet Eckman SAM, in-office
5pm Worship Committee Meeting
5:45 Finance Committee Meeting
6pm Property Committee Meeting
6:30pm Confirmation

1/12 Third Sunday after Christmas

9am Fellowship
9am Sunday School
10am Worship / 2nd Offering for Campership

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.

Confirmation Class is every 4th Wednesday of the month at 6:30pm-7:30pm in the church basement.

Jan 26th, Annual Meeting. Worship time was changed to 10:30am. It is critical for members to plan to attend church this day in order to vote for new members and any resolutions. A Potluck to follow.

OSLC ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Please have all reports for the February 9th annual meeting into the office by January 24th.

Your presence at the Annual Meeting on February 9th is critical to elect new officers & pass any resolutions! *****Please plan to attend*****

Sign-up's for January 2025 coffee servers is filled. Thank you. Let's work on February now. Sign up sheets are out on the Fellowship Hall table.

For any changes to service times or activities due to inclement weather or last minute changes, please watch our Facebook page and we will also update the church answering machine.

Sign-up calendar for Sunday Readers (reading outloud the first & second Sunday scripture readings) for months of Jan & Feb 2025 are on the table in the Fellowship Hall.

Fellowship Hall Reservations: Every first Sunday of the month is reserved for the 4H at 4pm; Jan 14th, 10am-4pm for Homemakers Club (*New Traditions*) ; Jan 26th 12:30-4pm for 4H.

Lions Pancake Feed at the Sebeka Community/Sr Center, Jan 12th, 8am-Noon. Free will offering. Menu: Pancakes, French Toast, & Sausages.

Due to Balsamlund's Annual Meeting on Sunday, Jan 26th, our worship time is moved to 9am, with Sunday School & Fellowship Hour at 10am. *It is critical for members to plan to attend church this day in order to vote for new members and any resolutions.*

January 12th there will be a second offering for Campership.

Have you Found Christmas? Or are you still stuck in Christmas Eve?

Jesus was born (maybe on December 25th) but Christmas just doesn't come on December 25th - it shows up when you allow the miracle of Jesus - of God to enter in your heart. Jesus didn't come into this world with a large parade and marching band, but he came in quietly like a whisper in the wind.

Have you heard Jesus' whisper to you? Have you met him personally and let his light come into your life? Or are you still walking in the Darkness of Christmas Eve.

Have you heard His whisper? Have you seen him in the eyes of the baby Jesus? Have you let His light dawn in your heart? It doesn't have to happen on December 25th although sometimes it does. Christmas came for Mary through the pains of childbirth, in the first cry of her newborn baby. Christmas came for the shepherds in the surprise and fright of a sky filled with angels and a baby lying in a manger. Christmas came for the Wise Men after a long journey, following the lead of a star, but not sure of their destination. But for others Christmas came on an Ordinary Day. Like for Simeon and Anna, Christmas came after a long wait, on an otherwise ordinary day when they saw the baby Jesus in the temple in Jerusalem and understood immediately that this baby was the Messiah. For Peter, Christmas came on the shores of the Sea of Galilee when a man named Jesus stepped into his fishing boat and gently said, "Come, follow me." For the blind man, Christmas came when Jesus rubbed mud on his eyes and literally brought him out of darkness into light.

Yet for many others during the time of Jesus's birth and during this time - Christmas never comes as they never let the light of Jesus into their hearts. They don't ever find hope that entered this world as a baby. We can do all the things - we can go to church - we can worship God - say our prayers and go through all the motions but still we can walk in Darkness. But the good news is you don't have to wait for a date on a calendar - you can have your Christmas moment at any time - and when you do you are forever changed.

How will Christmas come for you?

In Faith,
Janet Eckman

Synod Authorized Minister