



God's Grace Never Ends

By the mercies of the LORD we are not consumed, for his compassions do not fail.

²³ They are new every morning. Great is your faithfulness. Lamentations 3:22-23 - EHV

"I just need this to end!" Ever felt that way? Ever felt that way already by noon? When things are going poorly, that thought can be a very real one. When things seem to go from bad to worse as the days, weeks and years progress, a desire for it to end might well be our sentiment. There is something about a new day, a fresh start that seems to put things in perspective and gives renewed energy.

The prophet Jeremiah who was the writer of these words from a book called Lamentations was having more than a bad day. He had experienced a whole bunch of bad days, weeks and years. Enemies of the people of Israel had entered it ruthlessly. They deported most of the people. The cities lay in ruins. The temple of God in Jerusalem had been destroyed. The annihilated nation was the laughingstock of her neighbors. A once proud and mighty country had been reduced to rubble. And the worst part? It was their own fault! Because the people of Judah had turned away from God's Word and the will of the LORD, he had caused this to happen. He had done it that they might wake up and turn from their current path of spiritual destruction.

But then right in the middle of this book of mourning and sadness come words of comfort and hope. God gives words of refreshment and renewal to the broken down and those in despair, **"By the mercies of the LORD we are not consumed, for his compassions do not fail. They are new every morning. Great is your faithfulness."** The LORD hasn't abandoned us! The LORD is full of love and compassion toward us! No matter how faithless we've been, the LORD remains faithful! As a new day and a fresh start are the grace and mercy of God, the unfailing promises of God, centered in the rising Sun of a Savior from sin, gave hope to Jeremiah and any of his countrymen who would give ear and heart to this beautiful message.

Like Jeremiah and the people of Israel, we also have bad days. There are many things that contribute to our bad days. Too often at least some of them are our own fault. A harsh word to a family member causes a rift. A rude email to a co-worker makes a project bog down. A bit of laziness or procrastination puts us behind schedule. A night of partying leads to a day of misery. Apathy to God as we put him on the back burner. The list goes on.

As we come to a realization that we are often to blame for our own difficulties, let's remember these words of comfort and hope from Lamentations. The One promised to them has come to us as the baby born in Bethlehem. The One they awaited to deal with their sin is the Savior Jesus Christ who gave himself as a sacrifice for sin on Calvary's cross. In his forgiveness each day is a new and fresh beginning. And if we happen to be dealing with something that's not particularly our fault, remember the One who has risen from the dead is there to fuel your spirit with his compassionate love and faithful companionship. With the LORD and his promises, every day is a new one and every day is a good one in God's forgiving love!

Pastor Mark Gartner

Pastor Mark Gartner

October 2021

ALTAR GUILD

Nancy Bruhn	920-739-5852
Ginger Kobussen	920-840-2147
Lynn Ziegert	920-585-4434

GREETERS

8:00	Jeff & Cheryl Bohl	10/3
10:30	Eileen Defferding and Nancy Bruhn	
8:00	Gary & Kathy Schabo	10/10
10:30	Stephen and Katie Sielaff	
8:00	Ken and Lorraine Ziegler	10/17
10:30	Phyllis Gresens and Sheryll Techlin	
8:00	Carrie Cleven & Pat Schabo	10/24
10:30	Betty Randall and Diane Schabo	
8:00	Dan & Kathy Kreutzman	10/31
10:30	Eileen Defferding and Nancy Bruhn	

DIVINE CALL FOR AN ASSOCIATE PASTOR On Tuesday August 24, St. John extended a divine Call to Pastor Matthew Schoell who serves at St. Matthew Lutheran Church in Winona, MN. After prayerful deliberations, Pastor Schoell has accepted the Call to serve as Associate Pastor here at St. John. He and his family plan to come here in November. We thank Jesus for sending another Shepherd to serve the flock here at St. John.

BIBLE CLASSES Our regular Sunday morning Bible classes began on Sunday, Sept. 26th at 9:15 am. We will be having a 6 Lesson Bible Class that will help all of us as we think about Friendship Evangelism. This video based Bible Class is entitled, "One by One" and is looking to help equip all of us to reach out to those whom we may know that don't know Jesus and the way to heaven.

Our Monday morning Bible classes resumed Monday, Sept. 13th at 8:00 am. Tuesday evening Bible classes resumed on Tuesday, Sept. 14th at 5:30 pm. We will be doing an overview Bible Study of the books of the Bible from Joshua – 1&2 Chronicles. Our goal is to better acquaint ourselves with the major highpoints of each of these books which will help us to better understand God and his plan of Salvation.

WOMEN OF FAITH All ladies of the congregation are invited to join us Tuesday, October 12th at 1:00 pm for Bible study and LWMS updates.

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY All men of the congregation are invited to join us on Tuesday, October 19th at 9:00 am for Bible study.

WELCOME NEW MEMBER We welcome our brother and sister, Rev. Carlton and Linda Sielaff in faith. Please take some time to welcome them and pray for them.

BANNERS You may have noticed that we have some new banners. We thank the members for their gifts and the family of Lorena Geer for the memorial gift that paid for these new banners.

ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY We will be cleaning our section of Highway 47 on Saturday, October 16 at 8:00 am. Please sign the sheet in the entryway or just come if you can help.

LWMS 2021 FALL RALLY Make plans to attend the Wolf River Circuit's fall rally Saturday, October 16th at Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 752 E. Grandview Road, Hortonville. St. Paul, Stephenville is cohosting. All the ladies in our congregation are members of LWMS (Lutheran Women's Missionary Society). The theme for the fall rally is "Declaring God's Wonders in Every Tongue" Acts 2:11b. The Rev. William Dunn, St. Peter Lutheran Church, Milwaukee will be the guest speaker; his topic is "Language Immersion Training."

Registration begins at 8:15 am (coffee/light snack). Welcome is at 8:45 am, and the opening devotion will be at 8:50 am. After the closing devotion, a lunch will follow at noon. A sign-up sheet is on the counter in the entryway. To help with planning, please sign up if you plan to attend.

You will have the opportunity to support the mission work of the LWMS; a free-will offering will be taken the weekends of September 26th and October 3rd. If you have any questions about LWMS, contact Kathy Schabo at 920-427-2990.

October 2021

CAMM (Central Africa Medical Mission) opened its doors 60 years ago in Zambia and 50 years ago in Malawi. A celebration to thank the Lord for all the blessings that CAMM has received will be held at Grace Lutheran Church, Milwaukee on October 9, 2021. To learn more about this celebration, go to <https://www.camm.us/60-years-of-gods-grace>.

VOLUNTEER SHEETS Enclosed with this newsletter you will find a sheet of fellowship activities. This is a way for all members to be involved in some activity and get to know fellow members. There are many ways you can serve; just check the area in which you are able to help. Even if you signed up last year, please sign up again. Drop completed fellowship sheets in the letter file tray labeled **VOLUNTEER SHEETS** on the counter in the entryway by October 25th.

There is always a need for help with cleaning and altar guild. Each cleaning team cleans once every six weeks with each person on the team cleaning a designated area in the church. For altar guild, you along with a couple of other members serve for one month every seven months.

WELS APPLE VALLEY FOOD PANTRY For October, the food pantry needs peanut butter, boxed mac n cheese, hamburger/chicken/tuna helper meals, canned chicken, canned stews, cookies, crackers, laundry and hand soaps and applesauce. Please drop items off at church by **Friday, October 8, 2021**. Thank you for supporting the food pantry.

GIFTS TO OUR LORD DURING AUGUST

		Expenses
General Fund	\$34,016.00	\$17,213.00
General Fund Year to Date	\$267,237.00	\$236,365.00
Building Fund	\$2,766.00	
Land Development Fund	\$255.00	
Missions (WELS)	\$2,879.00	
Christian Family Solutions	\$410.00	
Institutional Ministries	\$360.00	
FVLHS Operational	\$885.00	
FVLHS Debt Retirement	\$710.00	

“On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with his income.” 1 Corinthians 16:2

MOBILE APP FOR GIVING YOUR OFFERING IS CHANGING

Just a reminder that VANCO, the company we use for online giving through our website is sunsetting the Give Plus app on September 30, 2021. Give Plus allowed you to give directly to St. John through your smart phone. The new **Vanco Mobile** app is replacing Give Plus. Before September 30th, you will need to download the Vanco Mobile app, login/create a username, and then find St. John. This app will allow you to give to whatever fund you so desire, as well as set a one-time offering, or a recurring offering with a specific frequency. If you have any questions, contact Tim Springstroh at trspringstroh@yahoo.com.