



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

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November 2021

ALTAR GUILD

Marsha Liewergen 920-202-3804
Melissa Price 920-735-9223
Katie Voight 920-572-6637

GREETERS

8:00	Mitch and Ginger Kobussen	11/7
10:30	Mike and Ardice VanDerPerren	
8:00	Cathy Puls and Marilyn Wilson	11/14
10:30	Stephen and Katie Sielaff	
8:00	Ken and Lorraine Ziegler	11/21
10:30	Phyllis Gresens and Sheryll Techlin	
6:30pm	Dan and Kathy Kreutzman	11/24
9:00am	Nancy Bruhn and Eileen Defferding	11/25
8:00	Gary and Kathy Schabo	11/28
10:30	Betty Randall and Diane Schabo	

WITH THE LORD The Lord, in his infinite wisdom and love, called home to his eternal glory, our sister in Christ, Monica Minzlaff on Tuesday morning, October 12th. A Christian funeral service was held at St. John on Monday, October 18th at 11:00 am. While we mourn, we also rejoice that Monica is enjoying eternal life with her Savior. "Be faithful, even to the point of death, and I will give you the crown of life." (Revelation 2:10).

INSTALLATION OF PASTOR MATTHEW SCHOELL The installation of Pastor Schoell to serve here at St. John as associate pastor will be held during the 10:30 am service on November 14th. A dinner to welcome Pastor and Heidie Schoell and Hudson, Emmaline and Cody will be held immediately after the installation service. We will have a potluck meal; chicken will be catered in.

Make plans to meet and welcome Pastor and Heidie Schoell and their family on November 14th. Please sign the sheet in the entryway.

BIBLE CLASSES Sunday, October 24th we start a new Bible Study on the book of Galatians.

Our Monday/Tuesday Bible class is continuing the overview of "Joshua – 1 & 2 Chronicles."

DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME Daylight Saving Time ends on the morning of November 7th. Remember to set your clocks back one hour Saturday night and get an extra hour of sleep.

WOMEN OF FAITH All ladies of the congregation are invited to join us Tuesday, November 9th 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, November 16th at 9:00 am for Bible study.

THANKSGIVING WORSHIP Services will be held Wednesday evening, November 24th at 6:30 pm with a pie fellowship to follow in the lower level of church. Bring a pie and join us for fellowship and pie. Thanksgiving Day worship will be held at 9:00 am Thursday, November 25th.

PRODUCE We need produce – apples, squash, pumpkins, potatoes, ears of corn, etc. (Please no corn stalks) to decorate the altar for Thanksgiving. Please bring these items to church by 10:00 am Saturday, November 20th. After the Thanksgiving service, you can take your produce home.

CHURCH COUNCIL The newly elected member of the Council is: **Scott Lemke – Secretary. Tim Springstroh** has been confirmed as **Treasurer** for another year. The other Council men are: **Pat Gowey –President, Randy Rickert – Vice President, Scott Mahnke – Secretary** and **Brian Biettler – Head Trustee**. We thank **Scott Mahnke**, outgoing Secretary, for his years of service.

CHRISTMAS CARDS The Women of Faith will have boxed Christmas cards for sale again this year beginning the first weekend in November. The boxes are all marked with their price and it is self-service. There will also be a few individual cards for sale in the card rack for those who don't need a full box.

WELS APPLE VALLEY FOOD PANTRY For November, the food pantry needs canned chicken, canned stews and chunky soups, crackers (buttery / cheese flavored, no saltines please at this time) canned mandarin oranges and fruit cocktail/mixed fruit, cookies, bath tissue, facial tissue, napkins and paper toweling. The food pantry does not distribute expired or damaged non-perishables. Please drop items off at church by **Friday, November 12th**. Thank you for supporting the food pantry.

November 2021

GIFTS TO OUR LORD DURING SEPTEMBER

		Expenses
General Fund	\$23,642.00	\$20,997.00
General Fund Year to Date	\$290,879.00	\$257,362.00
Building Fund	\$1,732.00	
Land Development Fund	\$112.00	
Missions (WELS)	\$1,877.50	
Christian Family Solutions	\$425.00	
Institutional Ministries	\$230.00	
FVLHS Operational	\$980.00	
FVLHS Debt Retirement	\$730.00	

"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

VOLUNTEER SHEETS Thank you to all who completed and returned volunteer sheets. If you did not fill out a volunteer sheet and you want to help with a St. John activity, contact Nancy Bruhn at 920-733-1307 or email church.office@stjohn-appleton.org by November 8th. Or you can fill out a volunteer sheet; extra sheets are on the counter in the entryway.

LOOKING AHEAD Our Advent mid-week services will be on **December 1, 8, and 15** at **10:30 am** and **6:30 pm**. We pray that are planning to attend these mid-week services during Advent.

