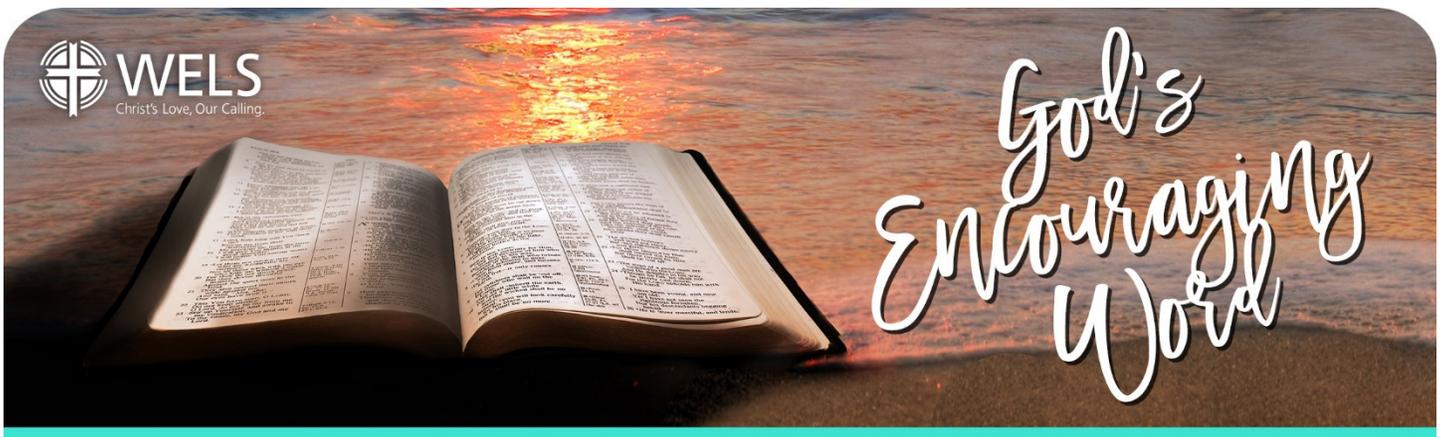


# Beautiful Savior November Newsletter



## God's Encouraging Word ... *when I am suffering*

Are you familiar with tunnel vision? Someone experiencing tunnel vision can see an object directly ahead, but they often fail to notice what's around it. Maybe age or injury has robbed them of their peripheral vision. Maybe they grow fatigued during a long drive. Do you know what that's like?

We're also prone to tunnel vision when we're suffering. Face it, we've all been there. No one is immune from problems and pain. Everyone experiences hurts or hang-ups. But when we're hurting, is the bad all we can see? Do we focus on the problem so much that we ignore everything else? We can see no help. No hope. No good. No God. Do you know what that's like? It's not a happy place to be.

It can be especially tough as we prepare to enter the holiday season. How can we put on a smile for Thanksgiving and pretend that we are just fine?

No need to pretend. Listen to the psalmist: **“My comfort in suffering is this: your promise preserves my life”** (Psalm 119:50). Remember how God worked so wonderfully to solve our greatest problem. The burden of sin we could never carry. The consequence of guilt we could never dodge. The sentence of death we could not avoid. So Jesus stepped in for us and shouldered them all. The cross and the tomb—both empty now—mark Jesus' great victory.

And his victory is your victory. So resist the urge to give in to those feelings of defeat. Don't shrink back in fear. Don't separate yourself from others. Don't become bitter. Don't give up. Otherwise you will miss the help God wants to give you.

All around the problem of suffering, God's help is ready and waiting. *Look up* and find confidence: **“My help comes from the Lord, the maker of heaven and earth”** (Psalm 121). *Look in* to God's word where he promises, **“Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you”** (Hebrews 13:5). *Look back* and recall how God has helped you through past challenges. *Look around* and find Christian friends eager to give you a hand and fold hands for you in prayer. *Look ahead* and see the open heaven God has in store for you through Jesus.

God promises to bring you safely through the tunnel of trouble. Trust his goodness!

\* The above article reprinted with permission from WELS Outreach resources

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*From the pen of the Pastor.* Seasons are changing. We know that we have moved from summer to fall and soon we will be into the season of winter. But did you know that the church year is also changing seasons? We are moving from the Pentecost season, which talks about Christian living, to the End Times season where we focus on the promise of heaven that awaits all believers. Some people don't care for this season because it talks about sin, death and judgment but for everyone who trusts in Jesus as their Savior, this season can be comforting as it brings the picture of heaven into focus. Life in this world is far from perfect but this season of End Times shows us how God makes us perfect through forgiveness and prepares us for his perfect heaven with the gift of faith. May we find peace and comfort in this season of End Times.

**Recent Membership changes.** Zachary and Mackenzie Matzke have joined our congregation by transfer from St. John's Lewiston and Mt Calvary La Crosse. They were just married this past summer and are living in Albert Lea where they both work. When you see them, introduce yourself and welcome them into our church family.

**Finances and attendance.** In October we received \$9442 in offerings against a need of \$9336 (4 weeks). The average attendance in October was 66 per Sunday compared to 65 per Sunday in October 2017. May the Lord encourage us to be faithful in our church attendance and may he continue to bless us and give us a generous heart to share his blessings.

**Women's Bible Study** – What a great opportunity to study God's Word with your sisters in Christ! On Monday, 11/19/2018 at 9:00 AM there is a women's Bible Study where we are looking at the Gospel of Matthew. Come and listen to the discussion or join in as much as you like. No prior knowledge is needed – just a desire to learn more about God's Word.

**Thanksgiving Service** - There will be a service of Thanksgiving on Wednesday, 11/21/2018, at 7:00 pm with fellowship following. Everyone is invited to join us as we thank God for the blessings he has given us throughout the year and continues to give us as we move forward.

**Children's Christmas Service** – It's not too early to start planning. The kids are already starting to learn some of the material in Sunday school. Looking ahead to December, we will have practice on 12/1, 12/8 and 12/15. The Children's Christmas Service will be on Sunday, 12/16/2018 at 9:00 am with a brunch to follow. More information will be in next month's newsletter.

**To Beautiful Savior Members from Dan and Karen Heins:** The special reception held in our honor was very touching. Thanks so much for the beautiful etching of the church building as well as the cake and refreshments. We have enjoyed being members of this congregation for the past 25 years and plan to return in 3 years. We cherish the lasting friendships we have made while here. Please stay in touch. Our new address will be 7704 Stone Wheat Court, Alexandria, VA 22315. Karen's e-mail address is [karenbethheins@gmail.com](mailto:karenbethheins@gmail.com) and Dan's is [postmasterdan@ymail.com](mailto:postmasterdan@ymail.com).