

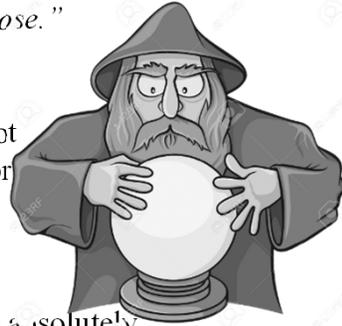
All Things Work for Good

___by Max Lucado

“And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.”

(Romans 8:28)

We know... There are so many things we do not know. We do not know if the economy will dip or if our team will win. We do not know what our spouse is thinking or how our kids will turn out. We don't even know “*what we ought to pray*” (Romans 8:26). But according to Paul, we can be absolutely certain about four things. We know...



1. *God works.* He is busy behind the scenes, above the fray, within the fury. He



hasn't checked out or moved on. He is ceaseless and tireless. He never stops working.

2. *God works for the good.* Not for our comfort or pleasure or entertainment, but for our ultimate good. Since He is the ultimate good, would we expect anything less?

3. *God works for the good of those who love him.* Behold the benefit of loving God! Make His story your story, and your story takes on a happy ending. Guaranteed. Being the author of our salvation, He writes a salvation theme into our biography.

4. *God works in all things.* *Panta*, in Greek. Like “panoramic” or “panacea” or “pandemic.” *All-inclusive. God works, not through a few things or through the good things, best things, or easy things. But in ‘all things’* God works.

Responsive Reading: Psalm 19:7-10

Jan-Jun The law of the LORD is perfect, reviving the soul;
Jul-Dec *the decrees of the LORD are sure, making wise the simple;*

Jan-Jun The precepts of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart;
Jul-Dec *the commandment of the LORD is clear, enlightening the eyes;*

Jan-Jun The fear of the LORD is pure, enduring forever;
Jul-Dec *the ordinances of the LORD are true and righteous altogether.*

Jan-Jun This is to be desired more than gold, even more than fine gold;
Jul-Dec *they are sweeter also than honey, then the drippings of the honeycomb.*

ALL: **Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable to you, O LORD, my rock and my redeemer.**

Lesson: I Corinthians 12:14-20

The body does not consist of one member but of many. If the foot would say, “*Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body,*” that would not make it any less a part of the body. And if the ear would say, “*Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body,*” that would not make it any less a part of the body. If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole body were hearing, where would the sense of smell be?

But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. If all were a single member, where would the body be? As it is, there are many members, yet one body.

Gospel: Luke 4:14-21

Jesus, filled with the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding country. He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone.

When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written:

“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives...



Gospel... (cont'd)

and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."

And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. Then he began to say to them, *"Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing."*



Shalom Thrift Store – Please consider volunteering to work at Shalom (Cambridge) – your efforts provide donations to Salem from Shalom!

Women's Bible Study Group – Pr. Ellen has begun a new session of her growing-more-popular study group to discuss "holy relationships." These sessions are informal and interesting and you won't be disappointed in the outcome. There are two sessions left before Lent and they are February 6th and 20th. Women of all ages are heartily welcomed!!

Parish Tithing – Also referred to as "Benevolences" is where we, as a parish, share with various charitable institutions that we support and/or are associated with. Prior to the church annual meeting is the best time to receive your input and ideas on where to donate as a congregation. Please share your ideas with a council member before Feb. 3!

Church Council Membership – The time is fast arriving where the **Annual Meeting (February 3)** will seek new members for the church council. This year there are **3** seats becoming available. Anyone who has been a member for at least 1 year and is over 18 can become a council member. Won't **YOU** please consider it? It's fun, interesting, and puts you in the driver's seat of Salem's future!

Women's Pregnancy Support – We will once again support pregnant women through the Baby Bottle Campaign. Proceeds raised from now through the end of February will go to Options For Women (a pregnancy resource center in North Branch). Please consider putting a donation (loose change, bills, checks) into the large baby bottles on the table in the entryway.

Newsletter – A new newsletter out soon and emailed to those whose email addresses are on file. It will also be available for download via the church website (as well as past issues and in addition to past and present Sunday bulletins). Print copies will be available in the narthex as well.

Church News... (cont'd)

Men's Bible Study – a men's group will start meeting on the 2nd Saturdays of each month from 8:30 to 9:30 for a discussion/book study on living passionately for God. Brunch-like food will be served. Please express your interest to either Pr. Rob or to Hans, who will be facilitating it.



Lutheran-ables... From "The Lutheran Handbook II" Complicated Lutheran Theological Terms in Latin

Lutheran theologians like to throw around Latin phrases as they argue the finer points of the original "evangelical" theology. This is partly because Latin was the official language of Luther's day and all scholarly writing was done in it, and partly because theologians like to sound smarter than you. Memorize the following phrases to impress (or alienate) your friends.

1. *Adiaphora* – "*Indifferent things*". This term refers to the Lutheran idea that one is free to adopt or not adopt nonessential, that is, human traditions. That includes the tradition of using Latin in theological discussion.
2. *Deus absconditus; Deus revelatus* – "*The Hidden God*"; *The revealed God*." These terms refer to God's exceptional talent at playing hide-and-go-seek. ____ (*cont'd next week*)



Grin-able(s)...

Rotten Eggs...

The elderly pastor was searching his closet for his collar before church one Sunday morning. In the back of the closet, he found a small box containing 3 eggs and 100 \$1 bills. He called his wife into the closet to ask her about the box and its contents.

Embarrassed, she admitted having hidden the box there for their entire 30 years of marriage. Disappointed and hurt, the pastor asked her, "*WHY?*" The wife replied that she hadn't wanted to hurt his feelings. He asked her how the box could have hurt his feelings. She said that every time during their marriage that he had delivered a poor sermon, she had placed an egg in the box. The pastor felt that 3 poor sermons in 30 years was certainly nothing to feel bad about, so he asked her what the \$100 was for.

She replied, "*Each time I got a dozen eggs, I sold them to the neighbors for \$1.*"

