

## Consider-ables w/Max Lucado

### Fear of Worst-Case Scenarios

What's your worst fear? Jesus did more than speak about fear. He faced it. In Mark 14:35-36, Jesus prayed in Gethsemane's garden, "Abba, Father, everything is possible for you. Please take this cup of suffering away from me. Yet I want your will to be done, not mine."

The cup equaled Jesus' worst-case scenario – to be the recipient of God's wrath and to experience isolation from his Father. And what Jesus did with his fear shows us what to do with ours. He prayed! He even requested the prayer support of friends. Jesus' prayer was brief. It was straightforward and trusting. Do likewise. Be specific about your fears. Call them out in prayer. Make them stand before God and take their comeuppance!



### Lesson: Jeremiah 1:6-10

Then I said, "Ah, Lord GOD! Truly I do not know how to speak, for I am only a boy."

But the LORD said to me, "Do not say, 'I am only a boy'; for you shall go to all to whom I send you, and you shall speak whatever I command you. Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you to deliver you, says the LORD."

Then the LORD put out his hand and touched my mouth; and the LORD said to me, "Now I have put my words in your mouth. See, today I appoint you over nations and over kingdoms, to pluck up and to pull down, to destroy and to overthrow, to build and to plant."

### Responsive Reading: I Corinthians 13:1-13

LDR: If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love...

ALL: **You are a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal.**

LDR: And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love...

ALL: **You are nothing.**

LDR: If I were to give away all my possessions, and if I were to hand over my body so that I may boast, but do not have love...

ALL: **You gain nothing.**

NORTH: Love is patient.

SOUTH: Love is kind.

NORTH: Love is not envious.

SOUTH: Love is not boastful.

NORTH: Love is not arrogant. ...



## Responsive Reading. . . (Cont'd)

SOUTH: Love is not rude.

NORTH: Love does not insist on its own way.

SOUTH: Love is not irritable.

NORTH: Love is not resentful.

SOUTH: Love does not rejoice in wrongdoing.

NORTH: Love, rather, rejoices in the truth.

SOUTH: Love bears all things.

NORTH: Love believes all things.

SOUTH: Love hopes all things.

NORTH: Love endures all things.

ALL: **Love never ends.**



### Gospel: Luke 4:21-30

[After Jesus finished reading the passage from Isaiah,] he said to them, "Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing."

Now, all spoke well of him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his mouth. But they also said, "Is not this Joseph's son?"

He said to them, "Doubtless you will quote to me this proverb, 'Doctor, cure yourself!' And you will say, 'Do here also in your hometown the things that we have heard you did at Capernaum.'"

He continued, "Truly I tell you, no prophet is accepted in the prophet's hometown. But the truth is, there were many widows in Israel in the time of Elijah, when the heaven was shut up three years and six months, and there was a severe famine over all the land; yet Elijah was sent to none of them except to a widow at Zarephath in Sidon. There were also many lepers in Israel in the time of the prophet Elisha, and none of them was cleansed except Naaman the Syrian."

When the people of Nazareth heard this, all in the synagogue were filled with rage. They got up, drove him out of the town, and led him to the brow of the hill on which their town was built, so that they might hurl him off the cliff. But he passed through the midst of them and went on his way.





**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 6<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>. 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.

**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.

3. *Solus Christus*, “*Christ Alone*” – Collectively known as “*the solas*,” the three terms below reveal Luther’s emphasis on each concept as an integrated whole, but together they constitute a aster of theological thinking that transformed the world.
4. *Sola gratia*, “*Grace alone*.”
5. *Sola fide*, “*Faith alone*”
6. *Sola scriptura*, “*Word (or Scripture) alone*.”

BE AWARE\_\_

- One is not required to know Latin to be a Lutheran.
- Using Latin terms in regular conversation may label you as a geek and diminish your chances of ever getting a date or having friends.

\_\_(cont’d next week)



## Grin-able(s)...

### Man is Created...

One day, Eve was walking in the garden with the Lord. She said, “*Lord, the garden is wonderful, and the animals and birds provide such joy, but I am still lonely sometimes.*” “*No problem!*” the Lord replied. “*I will make you a man for a companion. He will desire to please you and to be with you. But I have to warn you, he won’t be perfect. He’ll have a difficult time understanding your feelings, will tend to think only of himself, and will stay out late with his bowling buddies.*” “*What’s bowling?*” Eve asked. “*Oh... never mind. I was just getting ahead of myself, sorry.*” “*That’s OK. I think I can handle this ‘man’,*” Eve replied. “*Great, I’ll get right to it!*” God said, and started grabbing some mud and shaping it. Suddenly, the Lord stopped and said to Eve, “*Oh, there’s one other thing about this man I’m making for you.*” “*What’s that?*” asked Eve. “*You’ll have to tell him he was here first.*”

