

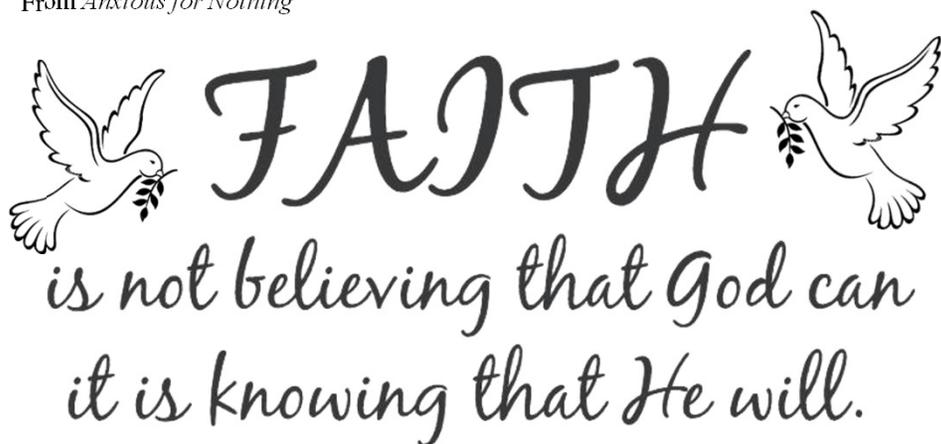
Consider-ables w/Max Lucado

God's Higher Purpose

No moment, event, or detail falls outside of God's supervision. God is the one who "causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous" (Matthew 5:45 NIV). He isn't making up this plan as he goes along. Daniel 5:21 says, "*The Most-High God rules the kingdom of men and sets over it whom he will.*"

So, if God is in charge, why does he permit challenges to come our way? Wouldn't an almighty God prevent them? Not if they serve his higher purpose. The ultimate example is the death of Christ on the cross! Everyone thought the life of Jesus was over. Jesus was dead and buried, but God raised him from the dead. God took the crucifixion of Friday and turned it into the celebration of Sunday. Can he not do a reversal for you?

From *Anxious for Nothing*



Unceasing Prayer

by Max Lucado

Unceasing prayer may sound complicated, but it needn't be that way. Do this. Think of prayer less as an activity for God and more as an awareness of God. Seek to live in uninterrupted awareness. As you stand in line to register your car, think, "*Thank you, Lord, for being here.*" In the grocery store as you shop, think, "*Your presence, my King, I welcome.*" As you wash the dishes, worship your Maker.

Brother Lawrence called himself the "*lord of all pots and pans.*" He wrote, "*The time of busy-ness does not with me differ from the time of prayer; and in the clatter of my kitchen, while several persons are calling for different things, I possess God in as great tranquility as if I were upon knees at the blessed sacrament.*"

So talk to God, always. Besides, it makes more sense to talk to God than mumble to yourself.

Responsive Reading: Hebrews 2:10-11

Men: It was fitting that God,

Women: *for whom and through whom all things exist,*

ALL: **should make the winner of their salvation perfect through sufferings.**

Men: The one who sanctifies

Women: *and those who are sanctified*

ALL: **all have one Father.**

LDR: For this reason Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters

Lesson: Isaiah 63:7-9

I will recount the gracious deeds of the LORD, the praiseworthy acts of the LORD, because of all that the LORD has done for us, and the great favor to the house of Israel that he has shown them according to his mercy, according to the abundance of his steadfast love.

He said, "*Surely they are my people, children who will not deal falsely*"; and he became their savior in all their distress. It was no messenger or angel but his presence that saved them; in his love and in his pity, he redeemed them; he lifted them up and carried them all the days of old.

Gospel: Matthew 25:31-40

Jesus said, "*When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left.*"

He continued, "*Then the king will say to those at his right hand, 'Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.'*"

"*Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?'*"

"*And the king will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.'*"

upcoming Events

Church council & Membership...

At the Annual Meeting in February 2020 (First Sunday) we will be looking for four (four seats are becoming available) new council members. IF you have been a member for one year as of this winter, are 18 years old, and are interested in serving as a council member, please talk to either Pr. Rob or Kevin Almendinger (council president), or one of the other council members (listed on the north wall of the community room, near the calendar in the corner).



We will also be needing a new church treasurer. If you are interested in assuming this role, please see Pr. Rob or Diane Youngquist.



Please mark your calendars – On Sunday, January 12th, we will have a representative of the Isanti County Sheriff's Office give a presentation on church security. The sheriff has been very responsive to our request we should fill the church in appreciation!



Big Thank
You!

music: Becky, Eden, Emily...

tree: Almendingers, Duane,
Mitch, Lee...

decorations: Della....

bulletin: Jerry...

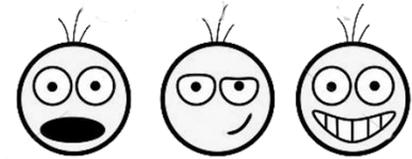
candles: Joan, Duane, Diane

upcoming Events (Cont'd)



There are new
signup sheets on the
office door ---
(hint hint) 😊

GRIN-ABLE(S)...



Food-puns.... 😊

- My neighbor texted me, "I just made synonym buns!" I texted back, "You mean like grammar use to make?" I haven't heard from her since.
- Did you see the movie about the hot dog? It was an Oscar wiener.
- Q. What did the hot dog say when his friend passed him in the race?
A. Wow, I relish the fact that you've mustard the strength to ketchup to me.
- Q. How do you keep intruders out of a castle made of cheese?
A. Moatzarella.
- Q. What do you call a fake noodle?
A. An impasta.
- Q: Why do watermelons have fancy weddings? A: Because they cantaloupe.
- Did you hear about the Italian chef with a terminal illness? He pastaway.
- Boy, I just got hit in the head with a can of soda. I was lucky it was a soft drink.

Calendar...

- ✓ Next Council Meeting – January 14th @ 6:30pm
- ✓ Church Security Briefing – January 12th following service
- ✓ Next Communion – January 19th
- ✓ Gideons visit during service – January 26th
- ✓ Annual Meeting – February 2nd following service