

Consider-ables w/Max Lucado

Laws of the Lighthouse

by Max Lucado

The first of the year is known for three things: black-eyed peas, bowl games, and lists. Some don't eat black-eyed peas. Others hate football. But everybody likes lists. The Bible certainly has its share of lists. Moses brought one down from the mountain. There are lists of the gifts of the Spirit. Lists of good fruit and bad. Lists of salutations and greetings. Even the disciples' boat got into the action as it listed in the stormy Sea of Galilee. (If you smiled at that, then I've got a list of puns you'd enjoy.) But the greatest day of lists is still New Year's Day. And the number one list is the list I call the Laws of the Lighthouse.

The Laws of the Lighthouse contain more than good ideas, personal preferences, and honest opinions. They are God-given, time-tested truths that define the way you should navigate your life. Observe them and enjoy secure passage. Ignore them and crash against the ragged rocks of reality. Smart move. The wise captain shifts the direction of his craft according to the signal of the lighthouse. A wise person does the same.

Herewith, then, are the lights I look for and the signals I heed:

- Love God more than you fear hell.
- Once a week, let a child take you on a walk.
- Make major decisions in a cemetery.
- When no one is watching, live as if someone is.
- Succeed at home first.
- Don't spend tomorrow's money today.
- Pray twice as much as you fret.
- Listen twice as much as you speak.
- Only harbor a grudge when God does.
- Never outgrow your love of sunsets.
- Treat people like angels; you will meet some and help make some.
- 'Tis wiser to err on the side of generosity than on the side of scrutiny.
- God has forgiven you; you'd be wise to do the same.
- When you can't trace God's hand, trust his heart.
- Toot your own horn and the notes will be flat.
- Don't feel guilty for God's goodness.
- The book of life is lived in chapters, so know your page number.
- Never let the important be the victim of the trivial.
- Live your liturgy



Responsive Reading: Psalm 72:2-14

ALL: May the kings of Tarshish and of the isles render our LORD tribute. May the kings of Sheba and Seba bring gifts. May all kings fall down before Him, all nations give Him service.

MEN: May the mountains yield prosperity for the people, and the hills in righteousness. May he live while the sun endures, and as long as the moon, throughout all generations. May he be like rain that falls on the mown grass, like showers that water the earth.

WOMEN: *May your LORD judge your people with righteousness, and your poor with justice. May he defend the cause of the poor of the people. May he give deliverance to the needy. May he crush the oppressor.*

MEN: He delivers the needy when they call, the poor and those who have no helper. He has pity on the weak and the needy and saves the lives of the needy.

WOMEN: *From oppression and violence he redeems their life; Precious is their blood in his sight.*

ALL: **In his days may righteousness flourish and peace abound, until the moon is no more.**

1st Lesson: Isaiah 60:3-6

Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

Lift up your eyes and look around; they all gather together, they come to you; your sons shall come from far away, and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms. Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and rejoice, because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you, the wealth of the nations shall come to you. A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall come. They shall bring gold and frankincense and shall proclaim the praise of the LORD.

2nd Lesson: Ephesians 3:1-6

The reason that I, Paul, am a prisoner for Christ Jesus is for the sake of you Gentiles -- for surely you have already heard of the commission of God's grace that was given me for you and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words, a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ. ... (1st flyleaf)

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!



The Gideons International

The Gideons will be here to present their ministry during the service on Jan 26th. Salem has supported their mission with both prayers and money for years; please consider being a part of the support this year.



The **Women's Bible Study** meeting at 7:00 on Wed, Jan 15th and every-other Wednesday after that until Lent starts (1/29 and 2/12) (Ash Wednesday is February 29th).

Upcoming Events (Cont'd)



Meets every third Saturday starting January 18th ~



We can use a few more Sunday School teachers (to teach either regularly OR sporadically). If interested, please talk to Pastor Rob!

GRIN-ABLE(S)...



Food-puns.... ☺

- My three favorite things are eating my family and not using commas.
- I was gonna tell a time-traveling joke, but you guys didn't like it.
- Turning to me with some urgency, my sleeping husband stated, "I have to do the cat's taxes!"
- I dreamed I was rocking a baby to sleep. In the morning, my husband, who is bald, told me I patted his head for 30 minutes while repeating, "Go to sleep, baby."
- I discovered a shortcut today. If you put your Fitbit in the dryer, you can get a head start on your steps. I had 3,800 steps in before I put on my pants!
- At the Christmas Eve service at my church, the pastor, quizzing some children about the nativity, asked, "What gifts did the three wise men give the Christ child?" "Gold!" one child yelled. "Frankincense!" shouted another. After a pause, a third asked, "Gift cards?"

Calendar...

- ✓ Church Security Briefing – January 12th following service
- ✓ Next Council Meeting – January 14th @ 6:30pm
- ✓ Women's Bible Study – January 15th @ 7:00pm
- ✓ Men's Group – January 18th @ 8:30am
- ✓ Next Communion – January 19th
- ✓ Gideons visit during service – January 26th
- ✓ Annual Meeting – February 2nd following service