

Consider-ables w/Max Lucado

The Gift of Hope

by Max Lucado

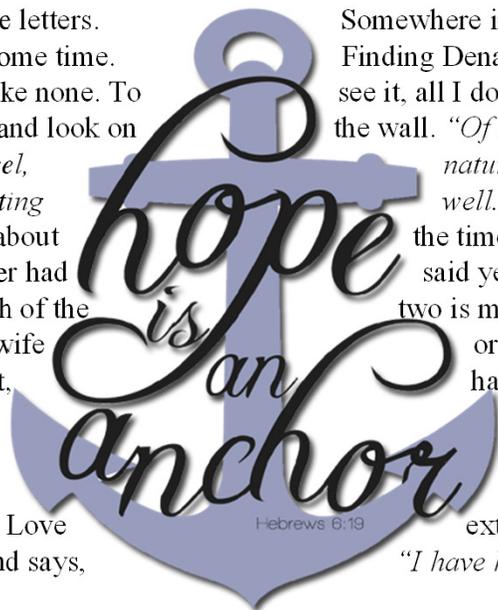
The aspiring young author was in need of hope. More than one person had told him to give up. "Getting published is impossible," one mentor said. "Unless you are a national celebrity, publishers won't talk to you." Another warned, "Writing takes too much time. Besides, you don't want all your thoughts on paper."

Initially he listened. He agreed that writing was a waste of effort and turned his attention to other projects. But somehow the pen and pad were bourbon and Coke to the word-a-holic. He'd rather write than read. So he wrote. How many nights did he pass on that couch in the corner of the apartment reshuffling his deck of verbs and nouns? And how many hours did his wife sit with him? He wordsmithing. She cross-stitching. Finally a manuscript was finished. Crude and laden with mistakes but finished.

She gave him the shove. "Send it out. What's the harm?" So out it went. Mailed to fifteen different publishers. While the couple waited, he wrote. While he wrote, she stitched. Neither expecting much, both hoping everything. Responses began to fill the mailbox. "I'm sorry, but we don't accept unsolicited manuscripts." "We must return your work. Best of luck." "Our catalog doesn't have room for unpublished authors."

I still have those letters. They would take some time. However, they would take none. To from this monitor and look on which the wise excel, masterpiece is writing She gave it to me about arrived. A publisher had also framed. Which of the The gift from my wife publisher? The gift, giving the gift, hope.

Love does that. Love to the loved one and says,



Somewhere in a file. Finding Finding Denalyn's cross-stitch, see it, all I do is lift my eyes the wall. "Of all those arts in nature's chief well." the time the fifteenth letter said yes. That letter is two is more meaningful? or the letter from the hands down. For in Denalyn gave

extends an olive leaf "I have hope in you."

Responsive Reading: Psalm 112:1-4

**ALL: Praise the LORD!
Happy are those who fear the LORD,
who greatly delight in his commandments.**

1-7: Their descendants will be mighty in the land.
8-15: The generation of the upright will be blessed.
16-24: Wealth and riches are in their houses.
25-31: Their righteousness endures forever.

ALL: They rise in the darkness as a light for the upright!



Christ breaks the yoke of injustice...

Lesson: Isaiah 58:6-8, 10

[The Lord chooses to have us] loose the bonds of injustice, undo the thongs of the yoke, let the oppressed go free, and break every yoke. [He wants us] to share our bread with the hungry, to bring the homeless poor into our house, to cover others when we see the naked, and to not to hide ourselves from our own kin?

Then our light shall break forth like the dawn! If we offer food to the hungry and satisfy the needs of the afflicted, then our light shall rise in the darkness and our gloom will be like the noonday.

Gospel: Matthew 5:13-16

Jesus was teaching his disciples:

"You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything but is thrown out and trampled under foot. You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven."

Upcoming Events



You may have noticed a much-improved sound coming from the organ...which is **NEW!!**

Gratitude...

Many, many thanks to Duane and Mitch for helping with the new organ setup and disposing of the old one; Conrad for his invaluable help in setting things up and moving speakers, and Dennis for supervising and being so supportive!



Women's Bible Study
next meeting, Wednesday, February 12th !!



Meets every third Saturday! Next one is February 15th at 8:30am!



We aren't too far away from Lent, which means our Wednesday night Soup/Sandwich suppers (6pm) and learning/prayer service (7pm) will start up again! These will start on Feb. 26th with an Ash Wednesday service. For the remainder of Wednesdays of Lent, Pr. Rob is looking for input on the topic. Possible topics are on the development and an overview of the Bible, on the sacramental nature and acts of our Church, or on the content of the Confirmation Process. Other suggestions are also welcome. Please offer your preference to Pr. Rob.



Upcoming Events ... (Cont'd)

Gratitude...

Many, many thanks to Pam Olson and posthumous thanks to Lee for their faithful service on the council! Welcome to Jenna Olson and Nick Williams for joining the council!!



It's again time for the Annual Buffalo Dinner at First Lutheran Church in Rush City. It's on Feb. 22nd between 4:00 and 7:00pm!

Pastor Slim – The new address for Slim is:
Merlin Seel
Willows of Arbor Lake
11955 80th Ave. N. Apt. 218
Maple Grove, MN 55369

A note/card of encouragement is always welcome

GRIN-ABLE(S)...

- What do you call a thieving alligator? A Crookodile
- What do you call a bee that can't make up its mind? A Maybe
- What do you call a pig that does karate? Pork chop
- If you were a fruit, you'd be a fine-apple
- I love you from my head tomatoes

Q: What do you call an everyday potato?

A: A commentator

Q: What do you call a lazy kangaroo?

A: A pouch potato

Q: What do you call an owl that does magic tricks?

A: Hoodini

Q: Why did the banana go to the doctor?

A: It wasn't peeling well

Q: What do you call a classy fish?

A: Sofishticated



Calendar...

- ✓ Next council meeting – February 11th @ 6:30pm
- ✓ Next communion – February 23rd
- ✓ Ash Wednesday Service – February 26th @ 7