

Consider-ables w/Max Lucado

Relying On God's Power

by Max Lucado

For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

Our Lord's prayer has given us a blueprint for the Great House of God. From the living room of our Father to the family room with our friends, we are learning why David longed to *"live in the house of the LORD forever"* (Ps. 23:6). In God's house we have everything we need: a solid foundation, an abundant table, sturdy walls, and an impenetrable roof of grace.

And now, having seen every room and explored each corner, we have one final stop. Not to a new room, but to one we have visited earlier. We return to the chapel. We return to the room of worship. The chapel, remember, is where we stand before God and confess, *"Hallowed be thy name."*

The chapel is the only room in the house of God we visit twice. It's not hard to see why. It does us twice as much good to think about God as it does to think about anyone or anything else. God wants us to begin and end our prayers thinking of him. Jesus is urging us to look at the peak more than we look at the trail. The more we focus up there, the more inspired we are down here.

Some years ago, a sociologist accompanied a group of mountain climbers on an expedition. Among other things, he observed a distinct correlation between cloud cover and contentment. When there was no cloud cover and the peak was in view, the climbers were energetic and cooperative. When the gray clouds eclipsed the view of the mountaintop, though, the climbers were sullen and selfish.

The same thing happens to us. If our eyes are on his majesty there is a bounce in our step. But let our eyes focus on the dirt beneath us and we will grumble about every rock and crevice we must cross. For this reason, Paul urged, *"Don't shuffle along, eyes to the ground, absorbed with the things right in front of you. Look up and be alert to the things going on around Christ—that's where the action is. See things from his perspective"* (Col 3:1-2 MSG). Paul challenges you to *"be alert to the things going on around Christ."* The Psalmist reminds you to do the same, only he uses a different phrase. *"O magnify the LORD with me and let us exalt his name together"* (Ps. 34:3). Magnify. What a wonderful verb to describe what we do in the chapel. When you magnify an object, you enlarge it so that you can understand it. When we magnify God, we do the same. We enlarge our awareness of him so we can understand him more. This is exactly what happens in the chapel of worship—we take our mind off ourselves and set it on God. The emphasis is on him.

"Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever."

Responsive Reading: Psalm 121

ALL: I lift up my eyes to the hills-- from where will my help come?

Jan-Mar: The LORD, who made heaven and earth, is from whom my help comes.

Apr-Jun: *The LORD will not let your foot be moved;*

Jul-Sep: The LORD who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep.

Oct-Dec: *The LORD is your keeper;*

Jan-Mar: The LORD is your shade at your right hand.

Apr-Jun: *The sun shall not strike you by day, nor the moon by night.*

Jul-Sep: The LORD will keep you from all evil; he will keep your life.

Oct-Dec: *The LORD will keep your going out and your coming in forevermore.*

ALL: My help comes from the Lord; he saves me!



Lesson: Numbers 21:4-9

They traveled from Mount Hor along the route to the Red Sea, to go around Edom. But the people grew impatient on the way; they spoke against God and against Moses, and said, *"Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? There is no bread! There is no water! And we detest this miserable food!"*

Then the LORD sent venomous snakes among them; they bit the people and many Israelites died. The people came to Moses and said, *"We sinned when we spoke against the LORD and against you. Pray that the LORD will take the snakes away from us."* So Moses prayed for the people.

The LORD said to Moses, *"Make a snake and put it up on a pole; anyone who is bitten can look at it and live."* So Moses made a bronze snake and put it up on a pole. Then when anyone was bitten by a snake and looked at the bronze snake, they lived.



Gospel: John 3:14-17

[Jesus said to Nicodemus and those who were listening,] *"As Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him."*

Upcoming Events



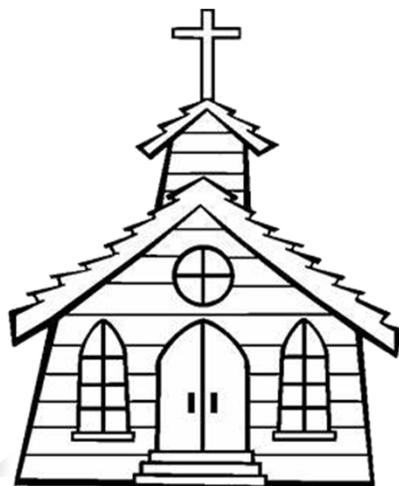
We will join Family Pathways in their March Food & Fund Drive & Minnesota Food Share March Campaign concurrent with our Lenten practices. Please consider contributing either dry/canned goods or financially.

Every Wednesday of Lent, we will gather at **6pm** for *soup and sandwiches*, followed by the Prayer and Learning Services at **7pm**. The topic this year will be on the development of and approach to the Bible. All are welcome to come to any or all the weeks for both supper and service or just one or the other. This all starts Ash Wednesday, 26 February with a service in which we will NOT be burning anything with which to make ashes.



"We received word from the Gideons that our parish donated **\$233.00** - enough to purchase and distribute 43 Bibles"!!!

Engagement Congratulations



For a roster of the congregation, See Pastor Rob!

Upcoming Events ... (Cont'd)

ADULT Confirmation Class



There are some adults in the congregation that have never been confirmed. and both Pr. Rob and the council have decided to offer an Adult Confirmation Class to any in the congregation that would (1) like to become confirmed or (2) like to have more information on Lutheranism, the Bible, and faith in general. If any of these options appeals to you, please see Pr. Rob!



Dan & Angie Gnau
Who've just joined our church!!

GRIN-ABLE(S)...

- Q. What did one blade of grass say to another about the lack of rain?
A. I guess we'll just have to make dew.
- What's the difference between a poorly dressed man on a unicycle and a well-dressed man on a bicycle?Attire.
- Q. How much money does a pirate pay for corn?
A. A buccaneer.
- Q. Which country's capital has the fastest-growing population?
A. Ireland. Every day it's Dublin.
- The machine at the coin factory just suddenly stopped working, with no explanation. It doesn't make any cents!
- Q. What's the difference between a hippo and a Zippo?
A. A hippo is really heavy, and a Zippo is a little lighter.
- Q. Why can't you run through a campground?
A. You can only ran, because it's past tents.



Calendar...

- ✓ Soup n Sandwich – Wednesdays @ 6pm
- ✓ Study/Prayer Service – Wednesdays @ 7pm
- ✓ Next council meeting – March 10th @ 6:30pm
- ✓ Next Communion – March 15th
- ✓ Men's Group meeting – Saturday, March 21 @ 8:30am