

Unshakable Hope

In the introduction to “Unshakable Hope: Building Our Lives on the Promises of God” Max Lucado writes “The heroes in the Bible came from all walks of life: rulers, servants, teachers, doctors. They were male, female, single, and married. Yet one common denominator united them: they built their lives on the promises of God. Because of God’s promises, Noah believed in rain before *rain* was a word. Because of God’s promises, Abraham left a good home for one he’d never seen. Because of God’s promises, Joshua led two million people into enemy territory. Because of God’s promises, David conked a giant, Peter rose from the ashes of regret, and Paul found a grace worth dying for.”



People are people. And people haven’t changed much in the last 4,000 years. Circumstances have changed. Technology has changed. But people haven’t changed. We want a place to belong. We need to feel like our lives matter. We need to have something to live for. Life is full of problems and pain. The specifics might have changed, but the types of problems haven’t changed much. We have problems in relationships. Family life is complicated. Work can be a drag. Money doesn’t stretch to the end of the month. We worry about how we will survive.

It is a great comfort to us and a source of strength when we realize that we have a lot in common with the characters in the Bible. And I call them characters advisedly. They were characters. They had idiosyncrasies. They were many times shortsighted. They fouled up their lives as well as those of others. They were a mess. Sometimes they made poor choices. Many times they were the victims of other people’s choices. They could have given up on life, but they did not. They put their trust in God and they got through it. And when they failed to trust, like when Abraham and Sarah didn’t trust God’s promise of a son and tried to ‘help God along’ by having Hagar bear a child for Abraham, they eventually figured it out and confessed they tried to do it without God. They repented and got their priorities back in order.

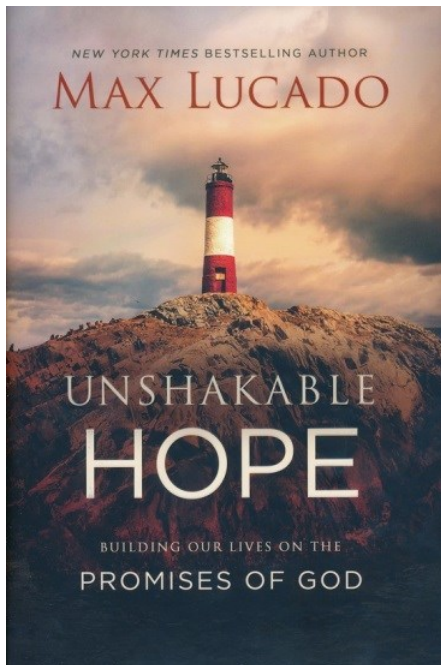
The better we know their stories, the more we can see we have things in common with them and the more we can learn from their mistakes and live by their good examples. It is through their stories and teaching that we learn who God is. In knowing their stories and examining our own experiences, we learn that God is trustworthy. We learn that God is for us, not against us. We learn that God wants us to thrive and live well. God doesn’t want us to suffer. And suffer is what we will do when we try to live on our own rather than turn our lives over to the care of God. We will suffer unless we surrender to the will of the One who has our best interests at heart. Don’t get me wrong. We will have hard times. That is just part of life. But with faith, hard times don’t equal suffering. There is a difference. We’ll talk more about that in class.

Our class “Unshakable Hope” starts on Saturday, October 12 at 10am to noon. This will be a discussion oriented class. Bring your Bibles, bring the book, and bring your willingness to tell your stories about how you have trusted in the promises or not trusted in them. We can learn from each other. We can bless each other. We will grow stronger together as we learn more deeply how God works and why faith matters.

Blessings to you, Pastor Karla

ADULT STUDY COMING!

Thanks to all who filled out the survey regarding what to study. 19 surveys were returned and an equal number wanted to study Max Lucado's *Unshakable Hope* and Peter Enns' *How The Bible Actually Works* so we'll do both! We'll take on *Unshakable Hope* first, and then after the first of the year, we will start looking at *How the Bible Actually Works*. An equal number wanted the study to be every other week and once a month, so we'll compromise and meet twice a month, on the Second and Fourth Saturdays of the month.



**Starting Saturday,
October 12 at 10:00 a.m. – Noon**

The course is free but you should buy the book in your preferred format. *Unshakable Hope* by Max Lucado. A sign-up sheet is available in the Narthex or contact the office to be added. (858) 277-6572 or email: Church@gethsemanesd.org

**Classes will be Oct. 12 & 26, Nov. 9 & 23,
Dec. 14 & 28**

All are welcome!
Bring a friend or family member with you...

AGAPE Building Project

Are you Creative? Have new Ideas?
Architecturally inclined?

We are soliciting innovative ideas for the upcoming project of our new building. We would like to know what you think. Any input about student needs, physical aspects to include, or atmospheric vibes would be greatly appreciated!

Contact engageagape@gmail.com with any suggestions or come talk with us in person!



DID YOU KNOW...

- ◆ Check out the update from Joetta Koishor that is posted on the Narthex bulletin board—their new address is 1133 Eastridge Dr., Decatur, IN 46733

- ◆ Our little fig tree is producing a bumper crop and they are ripe for the picking. Please help yourselves.

- ◆ Check out the new stepping stone path as you enter from the parking lot of “BELIEVE”, “PEACE”, “FAITH”, and “HOPE” created by Arlene Blood. Thank you for sharing your creativity with us.



BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS



Sunday, October 6
8:00 a.m. &
9:30 a.m. Services

Bring your animals to church! We'll be remembering St. Francis of Assisi who taught a love of all creation, so we'll demonstrate that with a blessing for all creatures great and small. All animals welcome, but they should be securely leashed or crated. We'll have a 'Memorial Table' for pictures of those pets who are no longer with us. This will be at both services.

All are welcome!
 Bring friends and family with you...

October
Happy
Birthday



Cyndi Jones	1st
Ed Stockton	2nd
Bruce Davidson	6th
Judy Nagy	11th
Deb Hoistad	17th
Dottie Burger	22nd
Pam Hartley	23rd

SUBSTANCE ABUSE RESOURCE GUIDE

Virtually no extended family in America is left untouched by the pain of addiction. If you or a loved one is struggling, know you are not alone. There is no reason to be ashamed. Addiction happens. In many ways, addiction is like cancer, caused by a mix of lifestyle, genetic and unknown factors. The main thing to know is there is help for you.

The following link is a guide that provides comprehensive information on topics like, available care options, financial support, and free resources that are available in California. Part of the reason this guide was compiled is stated in their publicity:

"We are a group of medical professionals here at [Help.org](http://www.help.org) and based on conversations we have had with addiction experts across the US, the vast majority of people who need treatment for substance abuse disorders do not seek it. Though there are many barriers that discourage people from getting the help they need, cost is a significant factor."

<https://www.help.org/drug-and-alcohol-rehab-centers-in-california/>

I know that suffering in silence might seem like the strong thing to do, but it will not get you anything but more pain. This link has many resources and facts for your awareness and benefit. If you need help with your own addiction or that of a loved one and want to talk, please don't hesitate to call Pastor Karla (858)883-8038.

ELCA FEDERAL CHAPLAINCY SCHOLARSHIP

We have achieved the status of a Medallion Congregation. If you haven't made your contribution to this worthwhile cause you still have time. Our collection deadline is Veteran's Day, November 11th. Checks are still being accepted to GLC with a note Chaplain Scholarship. A gift of any amount will be gratefully accepted, every little bit helps; it all adds up. You still have time to meet the deadline.

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

Phone: (858) 277-6572 - Fax: (858) 277-6511
Preschool: (858) 277-7710

Check out our Website
at
www.gethsemanesd.org

Gethsemane Lutheran Church...
grounded in the gospel, anchored in Word
and Sacrament, traditional yet creative,
seeking to be God's people in this time and
place.



Did you brave the labyrinth walk
in the heat of August?

As the days cool pick a beautiful
evening or check out a moon lit
night. The Labyrinth is available
to everyone 24/7.

Weekly Opportunities

Worship with us each

Sunday in October

8:00 a.m. Contemplative

Communion Service

9:30 a.m. Classic

Communion Service

October 27th is Gospel Sunday

Monday

10:30 a.m. Text Study

Tuesday

12:30 p.m. Centering Prayer