

# Off the Cuff by Pastor Gary

## Can We Let God Take Care of Things Now?

December 1, 2016

I for one am thankful that the election and all that accompanies campaigning has been completed (for the most part). The transition of the highest office in our country is now moving forward, the people have voted and after all of this, we need to not only rest in the assurance that God is still in control, but be the kind of people who show others that we believe it.

Why are we so quick to dismiss this fact? God is and always will be in control! In the Alfred, Lord Tennyson poem (1809-1892) "The Charge of The Light Brigade" this verse came into mind, "*Forward, the Light Brigade! Was there a man dismay'd ? Not tho' the soldier knew Someone had blunder'd: Theirs not to make reply, Theirs not to reason why, Theirs but to do & die, Into the valley of Death Rode the six hundred.*" The reason that I point this out is to say that even though we are living in what seems to be like no other time in human history, I am sure that the generations which came before us shared many of the same kinds of sentiments. Thank God we have had strong Theologians and Biblical leaders who haven't lost sight of keeping God's good and great plan for us first and foremost. Like the six hundred, I want to be counted as one of the truly faithful followers. I want to be one who looks to God first before I make any move. Simply knowing that God has this, is enough for me to continue my work with Christ.

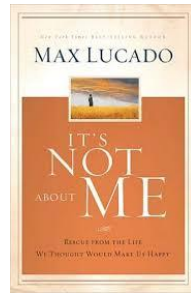
I happen to be of the theology that teaches us that when God is at the center of anything, it can't get any better. Yes, it has been a very interesting and sometimes confusing last couple of years, especially in the political arena. Many of the issues that we are walking through today have been fueled through the direction of the mass media outlets as well as popular social opinions, but I don't necessarily believe that the opinion or reaction of the populous is necessarily the same thing that God is calling us to be in and about. Here are some passages that will hopefully ease any feelings of anxiety for those who may be experiencing them. *2 Timothy 1:9 - New American Standard Bible - Who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was granted us in Christ Jesus from all eternity. Romans 8:28,30 And we know that all things work together for good to them that love the Lord, 1 Thessalonians 4:7 For God has not called us to uncleanness, but to holiness.*

My best advice brothers and sisters is to stand firm on the promise in which God has made to us. Keep our faith centered in Christ, and above everything else, stay in love with God. If we can do this, everything else will be just fine.

As you are, I too shall stay, Christ's servant...Pastor Gary

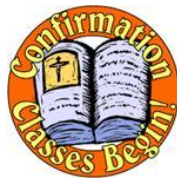
# *It's Not About Me: Rescue from the Life We Thought Would Make Us Happy*

By: Max Lucado



*I want to invite you to join me in a new class that will begin on January 3<sup>rd</sup> and run through January 24<sup>th</sup> 2017! We will be meeting and discussing tidbits and topics that prod our curiosity guided by what Max has written. Some may call this a book-study, but I like to compare it to a faith growing exercise. This is open to anyone who would like to come. I would need to have a headcount so I will know how many books to order by December 21<sup>st</sup>. There will be a signup sheet so look for it. The cost of the class is \$10 to cover the cost of the book but if you need assistance with the fee, there are some scholarships available, just call and ask for one.*

*We will meet on Tuesday evenings beginning @ 6:30pm and get out around 7:30 January 3-24, 2017 here at the church. Led by Pastor Gary.*



Please know that Pastor Gary will begin a new Membership/Confirmation class on January 15<sup>th</sup> 2017 on Sunday Mornings during Sunday School.

Anyone who is 7<sup>th</sup> grade and up is welcome to come and be a part of the class. Pre-Registration is required and must be submitted to the church office by January 8<sup>th</sup> 2017.

Those completing the class will be invited to join the Casey United Methodist Church on Easter Sunday, April 16<sup>th</sup>, 2017.

If you have any further questions, please call the office and speak to Pastor Gary. Thanks.

**Pastor Gary and Ella invite you to join them between the hours of 2 & 4 pm on January 14, 2017 for an "Epiphany" Open House. Light refreshments will be served, no reservations needed. Just drop by, you don't need to knock, just come on in.**



**It's time again for the Visions Circle's Christmas Cookie & Candy Caper and Blitzen's Breakfast**

**Bonanza to be held of Saturday, December 3rd from 8:30– 11 a.m. in fellowship hall. Tickets for the breakfast are \$5 in advance and \$6 at the door for adults, \$3 for children and 10 and under are free.**

**Please see Patty Richards or the church office for tickets.**

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All Church Christmas Program  
**Sunday, December 4 @ 6:30 p.m.**

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***Sunday, December 25<sup>th</sup>***  
***Christmas Day Service***  
***One service at 9:00 a.m.***

**Salvation Army Bell Ringers**

**We are looking for a couple of ringers to be at the Casey IGA on December 20<sup>th</sup> to ring the bell. If you would like to help...Please sign up outside the office.**

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**The Way**

We will **not** be having our contemporary service for the month of December. Please join us again January 8<sup>th</sup> when we return with excitement for 2017!!

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# New Youth Directors!

Be sure to welcome our new youth directors here at Casey UMC!!

Jeremy & Amanda Mumford will be leading our 5-8<sup>th</sup> grades on Sundays from 3:30 – 5:00 p.m.

&

Kyle Simpson will be leading our Sr. High group from 6:00 – 7:30 p.m. on Sundays

They have many ideas in store for the youth in 2017. Join us in celebrating our youth!!

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Angel Tree – Don't forget to send in your angel tree gifts by December 11

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**The church office will be closed**

**December 26 – January 2**

**You may reach Pastor Gary at the parsonage at 932-4482**

**Please leave a message.**

## Thank You

*(The office apologizes for getting these in so late).*

Thanks to everyone who sent cards, flowers, and gifts for my 85<sup>th</sup> birthday. Everything was appreciated. – Carolyn Yocom

Thank you to all of my church friends for the calls, cards and best wishes while I was in the hospital and Heartland. Thank you so very much – Helen Allen

Dear Church Family,

We want to extend our most sincere gratitude for all the support we have received since Gannon's passing. The cards, flowers, food, donations and prayers have meant so much to our family. Thank you all who attended Gannon's Celebration of Life service and to the wonderful team who volunteered their day to help in the kitchen. It means so much to have so many people willing to jump in, make sacrifices and support us in our time of need. Thank you all from the bottom of our hearts. We are truly grateful. – Nick, Mandy, and Gunnar Boles

Dear Church,

Thank you so much for having me come and share my heart for Choices Pregnancy & Health with you. I look forward to connection and working with you more in the days to come. Blessings on you! - Cali, Client Services Director