



# Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church

*Connecting with God; Connecting with Others; Connecting others with God*

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## **Lent 2021 – God’s Lessons All Around Us** *Devotionals from Pastor Sell*

### **JUST LIVING AND THINKING**

#### **Thursday, April 1: Maundy Thursday**

A couple months after I adopted my daughter, the exterior of the church I served was vandalized with vile, racist graffiti. Red and black paint boldly declared there was no place for a mixed-race family. The intent could not be missed. Interestingly within hours the small Jewish community was the first to express its concern and start the effort to clean up the church. Thanks to their efforts and others who came on board later, the mess was cleaned up within a couple of days. The local Jewish community and their national agencies kept track of things until it settled down. I thank God, always, for the willingness of those who stepped up to defend me, my daughter, and the church.

This event comes to mind when I reflect on the events of Holy Week. I see all those people around Jesus who turned away. I see those like Peter who verbally denied what was happening. I see the women who watched in fear. I see those who gave false witness. Each had an opportunity to stand up for Jesus but choose not to.

There is a lot to think about on this Maundy Thursday and Good Friday.