



Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church

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

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DAILY DEVOTIONALS FROM PASTOR SELL ***April 25-29***

Monday, April 25

A pair of robins has set up housekeeping on the ledge above my front door. They have built an oval nest on a very narrow ledge by the transom windows. It is a doubly protected spot for them, but it is the door I use most of the time. Every time I use that door the male robin swoops down to the sidewalk and carries on like I had kidnapped his offspring. He squawks. He puffs himself up. He struts around like he owns the place. He does, sort of, own his nest, but I want to shout, "I own this house!" Although, some say I should knock the nest down, I can live with it and share my property for a few weeks until the chicks fly away. It is all about patience and sharing.

As Jesus traveled, he encountered many people who intruded on his time. He talked with them, addressed their problems, and healed them. He was patient and willing to share what he had. When people intrude on us, we should be patient too, and understanding. They might only cross our lives for a few moments, but it is important to follow Christ's example.

(P.S. Personally, I find telemarketers, Medicare calls, car warranty salespeople, and solar 'educators' more than annoying, especially after the third call of the day, but I try to be patient.)

Tuesday, April 26

Driving through Mount Joy the other day I became keenly aware of the number of people and skills it takes to make this town such a wonder place to live. There was the lime green GFL garbage truck and the recycling team that came along later; the masons restoring the old furnace near the edge of town; the surveyor who seems to be at the corner by the Post Office every three or four weeks; the person who changes the sign at the Old Square Inn; shop keepers... The list could go on and on. Hundreds of people with a variety of skills all working together. No job or occupation is more important than another.

Martin Luther talked about the vocation of the faithful – each person doing their job with the love of Christ in their heart. Each with the opportunity to share the love of Jesus with the others. I may not know my trash collection team, but I sure do appreciate them.



Wednesday, April 27

Recently I heard an interview with an actor in a film to be released next year called “1883”. It is the story of a group of immigrants traveling westward under the leadership of a Civil War vet. The actor said his favorite line in the show was “Do you know why each group of fighters in the war carries a huge battle flag with them? So, the men can keep track of each other and the general on the hilltop can see what is happening in the battle.” As I listened to the interview, I couldn’t help but reflect on the words of the hymn LIFT HIGH THE CROSS.

*Come Christians, follow where our captain trod.
Our king victorious, Christ, the Son of God.
Led on their way by this triumphant sign,
The hosts in conquering ranks combine.
Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim
Till all the world adore his sacred name.*

Thursday, April 28

A bright red cardinal sat high in the tree behind Cooper House. He sang out his song repeatedly. Perhaps he was trying to attract a mate or maybe he was just singing for the pure joy of it. On my end it was beautiful to hear the music fill this small part of the world.

Each of us has a song to sing about the meaning of Christ in our lives – a song of how our emptiness, loneliness, or fear has been healed by the love of Jesus. Each of us has a story which might bring healing to someone else if we tell it. How do we share our stories?

- By becoming a living example of faith
- Establishing honest relationships
- Being positive in daily life
- Offering fellowship
- Sharing our time and attention
- Getting involved

Friday, April 29

I’ve been preparing for warm weather in the garden. I’ve doing a lot of weed whacking and raking. I bought a couple artemisia plants to put in the urns by the grill and fire pit. I’ve also been preparing to have my windows replaced in July. They are the original 1890 windows, so although a part of me hates to do it, it must be done. As human beings we are always preparing for something.

Life is an adventure in preparing. We prepare for trips. We prepare for school, weddings, babies, etc. Truthfully, we are always preparing for something, even our next meal. We should also prepare for the unexpected, but it is so easy to put that kind of preparation off to a future time. Part of our preparation for the unexpected should be spiritual preparation. When our spirits are strong, we can weather the storms with God on our side.