



# Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church

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

Pastor Melody Sell, Interim Pastor  
85 E. Brandt Boulevard  
Landisville, PA 17538  
(717) 898-2911 (o)  
(570) 916-8835 (c)  
prmsell2@ptd.net

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## ***DAILY DEVOTIONAL FROM PASTOR SELL***

### **Friday, December 10**

Lars Olsen Skrefsrud was born in Norway February 4, 1840. A boy from a poor family he had little education and found himself in jail for bank robbery by the age of nineteen. Although he had little formal education, under the care of a Pastor who visited the prison, Lars began to read and study theology. When he was released from prison, he worked his way to the Gossner Missionary Society in Berlin. He lived there until 1863 living on bread, cheese, and water until he left for India. He worked day and night to learn the Santali language and in a little over a year could preach in the language. He translated the Gospels, Small Catechism, hymns, and other works into Santali. He established a school to teach agriculture, irrigation, carpentry, and other useful arts. Returning home in 1873 he was received to acclaim in Germany, England, and Scandinavia. The Church of Norway finally ordained him before he returned to India. He died of a stroke on December 11, 1910. A museum in his honor was established in his hometown and he is remembered in the still growing Federation of Evangelical Lutheran Churches in India.