



Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church

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

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DAILY DEVOTIONAL FROM PASTOR SELL

Tuesday, December 14

John of the Cross (1542-1591) was born in Spain to a poor, probably Jewish family. At just five foot tall he was not suited for many of the apprenticeship of the day, so he finally worked in a hospital while studying at a Jesuit college. He entered a monastery but suffered many hardships when in leadership he introduced many reforms. Persecuted for his reforms he spent nine months in a small wooden box subsisting on a diet of bread, water, and salted fish. After escaping he spent time hiding in Spain until his death. During his time in hiding who wrote beautiful poetry, liturgical works, and spiritual books.

Here is part of one of his spiritual canticles. “We must then penetrate more deeply into Christ, who, like a rich mine has many pockets containing treasures: however deep we may dig we can never finish finding them all. Indeed, in every pocket new seams of fresh riches are discovered on all sides.”