



# 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*

### **LESSONS FROM THE POND**

#### **February 17: Ash Wednesday**

Probably like me, most of you learned about hibernation in grade school. I have to admit it has always sounded a little odd to sleep the winter away – except maybe when I really needed a snow day. Now in retirement I have a koi pond and I am marveling at the mystery of hibernation. You see koi begin their hibernation as the weather cools. They get slow and sluggish, and eat a lot less. As the weather approaches freezing they head to the bottom of the pond and wait. They are not totally motionless. They will slowly wiggle a tail or a fin from time to time. The fish stay side by side about two inches apart. As I watch from near the waterfall I wonder about their incredible patience as they wait for the warmth of the Spring.

We human beings tend not to be so patient. We live in a hurry up, get it done world. We talk about needing to do two things at once and needing 30 hours in a day to get done what needs to be done. There is, however, something to learn from the patience of the fish. We need to take a little time each day to just sit and wonder at the magic of it all. It does need to be a long pause in our day, just a time to reflect on all of God’s wonderful gifts. They are out there right before our eyes.