



Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church

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

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DAILY DEVOTIONALS FROM PASTOR SELL ***June 6-10***

Monday, June 6

I had been told that Joanne Grim had a beautiful rhododendron bush in her yard but I did not see it in bloom until last week. I was stunned. It was over two stories tall and at least thirty feet in diameter. It was totally covered in pink flowers. Gorgeous and magnificent do not begin to describe the sight. It was truly glorious.

The Bible frequently talks about God's glory. Moses glowed after being in the partial glory of the Lord. Isaiah 40 talks about "the glory of the Lord will be revealed, and all people will see it together." Joanne's bush gave me just a tiny glimpse of the meaning of glory.

Tuesday, June 7

Driving past Harvey's BBQ in Mount Joy on the way to Zion the smell of slow cooking meat filled the car. It was unusual because Mount Joy frequently smells of chocolate. Oh, it smelled so good. It was 9am and I had had breakfast, but now I craved smoked brisket. Smells can be so enticing – bread fresh from the oven; flowers in bloom; spices and herbs blooming in a warm pan. A smell can grab us and change our mindset for a few minutes.

I wondered if people would be more excited about communion if the smell of fresh baking bread and grapes drifted through the church just before the that portion of the liturgy. Communion is the most important part of the Sunday worship. Here we meet Jesus personally. Here we encounter the divine. Here we hear our call to discipleship. Here we are forgiven and renewed.

Wednesday, June 8

On one of those 90-degree days I had to add water to the fishpond. The water in the pond must have been quite warm since the fish were at the very bottom of the pond. I placed the hose at the edge of the pond and turned on the cool water. I did not expect the reaction of the fish. The big fish swam right over to the cool water, rolled over and over as if enjoying the relief. Then it was around and around the pond, in and out of the refreshing cool water.

Baptism is like that! We can be weighed down by the burdens of life, but when we remember our baptism and bask in the love of God in Jesus life, death, and resurrection it is like freedom and new life. We are refreshed and renewed. We can face life again because we know we can return again and again to that blessed feeling. Thanks be to God.



Thursday, June 9

Recently the birds have been pecking at the grass in the lawn. At first, I assumed they were after grubs and seeds, but as I walked around, I saw hundreds and hundreds of wild strawberries among the green grass. That is what the birds were after, the juicy, bright red berries.

Gathering with others is a bit like that. We come for the best – the words of life and hope. We come to hear there is a purpose for our life. We hear again that “God so loved the world that he sent the Son, that whoever believes in him should have eternal life.”

Friday, June 10

This Sunday we celebrate the Holy Trinity. It is the only time during the year we celebrate a theological idea rather than an event in Jesus’ life or his teaching. The trinity is probably one of the most difficult concepts to contemplate. The church has struggled with it since day one. There have been battles over it and millions of words written to explain it. The Athanasian Creed was written to define the trinity, but it is very long and complicated. Although it is one of the three important creeds of the church, it is only recommended for use once a year on Holy Trinity Sunday.

The Trinity is a way of outlining the broad scope of the work of God. God the creator and father. Jesus the Son and redeemer. The Spirit of power and empowerment.