



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

DAILY DEVOTIONALS FROM PASTOR SELL ***May 16-20***

Monday, May 16

Sometimes thoughts pop into my head for no reason at all. The other day I realized I don't have a 'junk drawer.' I've had a junk drawer every place I've lived. You know that drawer, usually in the kitchen, where you put little, useful stuff you might need someday – batteries, string, rubber bands, stuff. The truth is I don't have space for a junk drawer. Most things have found an appropriate place to hang out. Batteries of all sizes are in a container in the laundry area along with sewing materials, glue, and other sticky substances. Each has its own container and place. I admit it is easier than rummaging through the junk drawer.

We all have a junk drawer deep in our minds; that place we keep secrets and pain we don't share with others. Sometimes the junk comes out and drives us to depression and despair. Jesus said in Matthew 11 "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light." Trusting Jesus puts the junk of our lives in order by offering us forgiveness, love, and life.

Tuesday, May 17

Romans was one of Martin Luther's favorite biblical books. One passage that stands out for me is 1:16-17 "For I am not ashamed of the gospel; it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who has faith, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed through faith for faith; as it is written," The one who is righteous will live by faith." The word 'power' is particularly interesting; it is the Greek root word for dynamite and dynamic. Think about that – the gospel is the dynamite power of God for salvation!

Let us pray that power is released in us and in Zion as we look to the future.

Wednesday, May 18

The word 'power' is also used in the opening verses of Romans "...the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh and declared to be the Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by the resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord..." (1:3-4). St. Paul is keenly aware of the power of God in and through Jesus. Paul saw that power in his encounter with Jesus on the Damascus Road. He saw that power repeatedly as he traveled preaching the word. Paul wants his followers to be aware of and rejoice in that power of the Gospel.



Thursday, May 19

Romans 8:35 is one of Paul's examples of the power of the Gospel. "Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? ... For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord." Now that is power!

Friday, May 20

Romans 15:13: "May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit."

The life changing power of God is there for each of us. It is there for us in every struggle, big or little. It is with us always and we should give thanks and praise to God.