



# Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church

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

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## ***DAILY DEVOTIONALS FROM PASTOR SELL*** ***May 23-27***

### **Monday, May 23**

I recently became aware of the work of Dr. Angela Duckworth, a psychologist at the University of Pennsylvania. Dr. Duckworth has done extensive work on the issues of motivation and ‘grit.’ Her studies reveal “individuals high in grit were able to maintain their determination and motivation over long periods despite experiences with failure and adversity.” (Duckworth, AL; Peterson, C; Matthews, MD; Kelly, DR (June 2007. “Grit: Perseverance and Passion for Long Term Goals” Journal of Personality and Psychology) It seems grit and the ability to stick to a task are more important in life than IQ, wealth, or other factors.

Jesus had grit and motivation. He had failures and disappointments. Some people didn’t like him. His disciples often did not understand him. Overwhelming demands were forced upon him, but he did not give up. Jesus had grit.

As Christians we have the power of the Holy Spirit to support our grit. Day by day the Spirit calls us to remember Jesus’ example and move ahead in spite of perceived obstacles.

### **Tuesday, May 24**

A bird pooped on me! I was putting books in my car after Bible study when I felt something hit my back. I looked down to see splashes of white appearing on my car door. Then I felt it – the slow ooze of wetness flowing along my shoulder blade. A bird pooped on me!

It happens in life when people get mad at us or make false accusations about us, or start rumors, we feel like we have been “pooped” on. Frequently it is unjustified or the result of misunderstanding. It is not pleasant.

Jesus was often questioned by the Pharisees and Sadducees of his day. They questioned his words and his deeds and ultimately caused his death. Each time, however, Jesus responds calmly and moves on because he has a higher calling and mission. He does not become bogged down by the negative.

When you get “pooped on” remember you are a child of God. You have been called in baptism. You have a higher mission in life.

### **Wednesday, May 25**

Recently the traffic light at the Esbenshade intersection near the Sheetz fell. I got there shortly after it happened. The huge light fell leaving shrapnel all over the place. Luckily no one was hurt. The driver of a tanker truck was directing several men moving the pieces out of the road. Long lines of cars in all four directions waited until they could safely move. What was interesting was there seemed to be a kind of ESP or telepathy between the drivers. Three or four cars in one lane would move, then everybody would stop and another group of cars would move. Fifty or more cars somehow coordinated traffic without a light or communication. No blasting horns. No people wildly screaming.

In our crazy, mixed-up world with some many voices shouting and demanding their own way it is encouraging to see people cooperate and coordinate without a designated leader or 'boss.' As Christians we look to the example of Jesus and are filled with the Holy Spirit. We have goals and direction. We are to share the love of God and reach out to those around us.

### **Thursday, May 26**

The robins nesting above my front door have matured and flown away. The nest is empty. It is sad. I miss seeing them grow.

Life has many times when the nest seems empty; those first few days of kindergarten; high school graduation; the last wave as they leave on the honeymoon. The nest seems empty when we move and leave our longtime friends behind. The nest seems empty when we don't see familiar faces in worship. When the nest seems empty, we need to remember we are still all part of God's family. Here or there, in this world or the next we are still one. Pray for the family of God and remember he binds us together in Christ.

### **Friday, May 27**

You missed it! Yesterday was Ascension Day. For many Christians it was just another day. It was the middle of the week and churches rarely hold Ascension Day services any more. Ascension Day brings the Easter season to a close as we head toward Pentecost and the Church's half year. In the days ahead we will hear of the coming of the Holy Spirit, the mission of the church, and our role as baptized disciples. We will be challenged to not only hear the Good News but to be doers of the Gospel. As the angels said to the disciples at the Ascension "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up to heaven?" (Acts 1:11) The question is just as valid today as it has been for 2000 years.