



Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church

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

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DAILY DEVOTIONALS FROM PASTOR SELL ***May 30-June 3***

Monday, May 30

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, May 31

I spent part of the evening weed whacking the yard which has become a bit overgrown with the recent rainy days. As I buzzed the weeds away, I became aware of the wide variety of weeds that there were. There was a lot of 'sticky willie' which seems to grow everywhere after the rain. There were clovers, long spindly plants, and tall fleshy weeds. I counted over 30 kinds of weeds. While I am sure God has a plan for each of those kinds of weeds, I would rather not have them in my garden.

God provides great diversity in almost everything he creates. Hundreds of different plants and flowers. Trees of every kind. Birds, fish, vegetables, and fruits. God even creates a multitude of different people with different customs and ideas. They are tall and short, skinny and fat. They have different skin tones, eyes, and hair, but they are all God's children and he loves them all, always.



Sticky Willie



Wednesday, June 1

I sat at the Centerville intersection waiting for the light to change when I started counting the number of traffic lights. Fourteen traffic fixtures. Then I became fascinated by the number of individual lights. I quit counting at 60. How many lights or warning signs does it take to make people stop for the “other guy?” Why do we need so many?

Over the years I have heard people say “Why read the Bible? It’s just rereading the same old stories.” The Bible is the story of real people facing real struggles. It is the story of joys and sorrows, of the highs and lows of life. We need to hear their stories and seek their wisdom to guide our lives.

If we can listen to our favorite songs a hundred times, we can hear the old, old stories from time to time and gain new insights for life.

Thursday, June 2

In just a few days Zion will vote on a candidate to fill its pastorate. It is a task the congregation has completed many times in its history. It is the most important task a congregation is asked to do. It is a task that requires thought, prayer, and honesty.

Take a few moments and read I Timothy 4:6-16. These are St. Paul’s word to a young pastor outlining how to be a good servant of Jesus Christ.

1 Timothy 4:6-16:

⁶If you point these things out to the brothers and sisters, you will be a good minister of Christ Jesus, nourished on the truths of the faith and of the good teaching that you have followed. ⁷Have nothing to do with godless myths and old wives’ tales; rather, train yourself to be godly. ⁸For physical training is of some value, but godliness has value for all things, holding promise for both the present life and the life to come. ⁹This is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance. ¹⁰That is why we labor and strive, because we have put our hope in the living God, who is the Savior of all people, and especially of those who believe.

¹¹Command and teach these things. ¹²Don’t let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity. ¹³Until I come, devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to preaching and to teaching. ¹⁴Do not neglect your gift, which was given you through prophecy when the body of elders laid their hands on you.

¹⁵Be diligent in these matters; give yourself wholly to them, so that everyone may see your progress. ¹⁶Watch your life and doctrine closely. Persevere in them, because if you do, you will save both yourself and your hearers.

Friday, June 3

It was just after 3am. The crescent moon shone through the clouds, hovering over the roof of the house across my lawn. A few crickets chirped in the distance and the koi pond babbled. All the still even though I live in the center of the city. It was like that silent night long ago. The stillness said God is present; God is blessing you with a new day in which to experience his creation. God’s presence is with you now and always.