



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

Easter 2021

Devotionals from Pastor Sell

Wednesday, May 5

I like balsamic vinegar. Other than white vinegar for cleaning, balsamic is usually what I use, so I was interested in the brief documentary on this special vinegar when it appeared on the TV. The real balsamic, made in Modena, Italy, is a process which can take as long as 12, 18, or 25 years. The rich, thick flavor of the aged balsamic is just delightful.

There is an interesting centuries old tradition in Modena. When a child is born, a barrel is marked with the child's name and filled with the new vinegar. The barrel is carefully tended for 25 years so the aged product can be given on the wedding day, ensuring the couple will have the best to use. The gift was started even though there was no guarantee the giver would still be alive to give it personally.

Martin Luther was once asked what he would do if he knew he would die the next day. Luther responded he would plant an apple tree for the people of the future. I didn't plant an apple tree this year, I planted rhubarb! It won't be big enough to harvest this year, but in a few years there will be more than enough. It's all about looking ahead. Just as I have been blessed with mature gardens, I hope future owners will enjoy the rhubarb.

Jesus looked ahead. Yes, he looked toward the journey to Jerusalem and the crucifixion, but he also looked ahead to the resurrection. He talked to his disciples on several occasions about the death and resurrection ahead. The disciples didn't "get it" until after the resurrection. We live after the resurrection and can look to the future with faith and confidence.

(Warm strawberries with a drizzle of balsamic vinegar syrup are calling me to the kitchen.)