



# Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church

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

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## ***DAILY DEVOTIONALS FROM PASTOR SELL*** ***May 9-13***

### **Monday, May 9**

Tired, hot, and sweaty from mowing the lawn, I sat on the lower porch to rest awhile. As I sat, I watched the reflection of the pond on the leaves of a nearby bush. The ripples of the pond flashed across the tree leaves in a slow motion, shimmering, light show. I watched for some minutes, meditating on our task to reflect the love of Christ to the world. I thought about the sun sending its powerful light to the pond and then the water reflecting the light to the leaves. The light was distributed everywhere. As followers of Christ, we know a love and forgiveness that goes beyond our understanding. We must not hold back. We must reflect that love to the world.

### **Tuesday, May 10**

It has been warm enough to sit on the porch and watch the world. There gentle rain fell on the waters of the pond the other day. A splash here, a splash there. There were hundreds of drops hitting the water and making ripples that spread out to touch each other. What a great image of the church! Lots of individuals coming together, engaging each other, sharing their lives in ever widening circles. It is a bit like the old telephone commercial, we are called to “reach out and touch someone.”

### **Wednesday, May 11**

I've been reading the most recent edition of Archeology Magazine. I always enjoy the articles, but this month is particularly interesting because so many of the stories are about individuals and the things they left behind. One story was about a Viking horde found near Galloway, Ireland. It was a large horde so when the archeologists finished their exploration, they ran the metal detector over the area one more time. There was more to be found. As they continued the dig, they found an even bigger horde buried beneath the first. Someone was protecting the stash with a bit of trickery. The horde contained silver ingots, silver arm bands, rings, and many other items. As the horde was studied, the owner was revealed to be a traveler collecting silver from many places in Europe. He/she was a lover of fine things because the horde contained exquisite jewelry. He/she may have been a Christian since there was a large silver pectoral cross and chain. The owner was concerned about the safety of the fortune, but for some reason never returned to claim the treasure.

If information about you was recovered a thousand years from today, would your faith in Jesus be recognized in some way?



### **Thursday, May 12**

I sat across from Anne's desk in Cooper House. On her desk a scented candle burned. I was reminded of the words "Better to light a candle than to curse the darkness." A quick Google search revealed it is attributed to many people including Confucius, Eleanor Roosevelt, Oliver Wendell Holmes, Adlai Stevenson, JFK, Charles Shultz, and many others. No matter who originally wrote it, it is a universal truism. You just need to get out of bed in the dark and stub a toe to know its truth.

We live in a world where there is so much darkness. People criticizing and demeaning others. Negativity and hostility spread everywhere. Jesus calls us to be positive people sharing hope. It doesn't take much to pierce the darkness – just one person daring to strike a match and light the candle of faith and hope.

### **Friday, May 13**

For over a year now there has been a card in the narthex each week to be signed and sent to members of the congregation. The card contains a simple blessing and is signed Zion Lutheran Church. It does not take much time to jot a note or sign your name, but it is a way of reaching out in the name of Jesus. It doesn't matter if you know or remember the recipient, the card means someone was thinking about them and that means a lot. It only takes a few seconds (not minutes or hours) to be part of this ministry, but it may bring hope to someone in need.