



South Big Horn Lutheran Parish
Grace and Zion Lutheran Churches
Newsletter, December 2018

Dear brethren,

The Fourth Commandment is: *Honour your father and your mother.* And our Catechism teaches us that this means that *we should fear and love God, so that we do not despise or anger our parents and other authorities, but honour them, serve and obey them, love and cherish them.*

From Holy Scripture we learn that this applies also in Church: *Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they are keeping watch over your souls, as those who will have to give account.*

Hebrews 13:17

But in what is it that Christians owe obedience and submission to their Pastors, by the command of God?

Clearly, the authority of a Pastor is a *spiritual* authority bestowed upon him by God, to lead the Christians in the congregation he serves with the Word of God, for the sake of their salvation.

This means that the Pastor is not simply the leader of the congregation; there are matters in which he has no particular authority to claim, not only because he may not have any particular expertise, but also, and more importantly, because even if he may know a lot, his knowledge does not pertain to his office as Pastor.

Even in the life of the Church, some matters are merely matters of this world; in these the Pastor has no particular say. This would apply to most administrative matters, as well as to most financial matters.

On the other hand, even when it comes to finances and administration, Christians must observe love for God and Christian love for the brethren. As such, decisions with regards to administration and finances may have spiritual implications in terms of how people are being treated, and also in terms of the obligation to exercise Christian love to brothers and sisters elsewhere and support the mission of the Church outside of the parish.

And decisions with regards to the décor of the church building, and particularly the sanctuary, may have implications for the expressions of the worship of the congregation, and the impression given to the world by her worship, and the testimony she actually presents to the world. It may even have implications as to *who* it is that is actually being worshipped in the worship of the congregation! As such, it would be highly inappropriate for such decisions to be made without consulting the man entrusted with the responsibility for the spiritual health of the congregation and her members.

As such, the boundaries between spiritual matters and matters that are merely matters of this world will not always be entirely clear. And even the determination as to whether a specific matter is merely a matter of this world or would also have spiritual implications, that determination is in itself a spiritual one to begin with, and must be made in light of the Word of God. In general, this means that it would be the Pastor's responsibility to judge what falls outside of his purview, and what does not; and thus the Pastor should not be kept in the dark in any matters concerning the life of the congregation.

Sincerely

Jais H. Tinglund

Community Christmas Party at Zion on Saturday, December 1, at Noon.

Free will-offerings will be taken at Grace through Advent to support LCMS World Relief recovery efforts after Hurricanes Florence and Michael.

LWML Christmas Party Monday, December 3, 6pm. at Lisa's. After dinner, devotions and decoration of the Christmas tree at Grace. All ladies of the congregations, of all ages, are invited.

Advent Dinners at Grace on Wednesdays, December 5, 12, and 19 at 7 pm.

December 5: Soup and pie served by the LWML.

December 12: Carry-in

December 19: Pork roast served by the Youth.

Free will-offerings will be taken to support LCMS World Relief recovery efforts after Hurricane Florence.

Advent Mid-week Worship at Grace on Wednesdays, December 5, 12, and 19 at 7 pm. Our theme this year will be *Sing to the Lord a New Testament Song*. We shall meditate on the so-called New Testament Canticles, that is: the songs of praise recorded in the Gospel according to Saint Luke as having been sung by some of those who witnessed the coming of the Christ.

Seasonal Sing-Along at Grace on Sunday, December 9, at 6 pm. Bring part of your dinner, and part of everybody else's.

Joint Council Meeting at Grace on Wednesday, December 12, after Advent worship.

Pastor Tinglund shall be gone for a Circuit Pastors' meeting most of Tuesday, December 11.

Christmas Eve Worship at Grace at 4 pm.

Christmas Eve Worship at Zion at 6 pm.

Christmas Day Worship at Grace at 10:30 am.

New Year's worship at Grace on *New Years Eve* at 7 pm.

LWML meets at Grace at 7 pm. on the first Monday of every month except in July, August and September, and on the last Monday of August. All ladies of the congregation are members of the LWML, and thus all ladies of the congregation, of all ages, are not only more than welcome, but also actually invited to attend all LWML meetings - and so are all ladies of Zion.

This we believe

- of the Lutheran Confessions

Hence we believe, teach, and confess that Mary conceived and bore not a mere man and no more, but the true Son of God; therefore she also is rightly called and truly is the mother of God. Hence we also believe, teach, and confess that it was not a mere man who suffered, died, was buried, descended to hell, arose from the dead, ascended into heaven, and was raised to the majesty and almighty power of God for us, but a man whose human nature has such a profound, ineffable union and communion with the Son of God that it has become one person with Him.

Of the Formula Concord, the Epitome

Birthdays in December

- as known to the editor

December 9:

Mary Ann Jensen

December 10:

Robert Klitzke

Gunnar Tankesly

December 12:

Ashtin Hill

Shayne Mazur

December 13:

Carolyn Olin

December 19:

Leif Tanskley

December 24:

Jackie Larsen

December 26:

Terry Cole

December 30:

Jesse Preis

Anniversaries in December

- as known to the editor

December 20:

Guy and Becky Henderson

Zion Financial report, October:

Credits \$ 4,195.80

Debits: \$ 5,473.90

South Big Horn Lutheran Parish

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Grace website:

<http://gracegreybull.ctshost.org>

Zion website:

<http://zionemblem.ctshost.org>

Regular office hours at Grace:

Tuesday-Friday, Noon -1 pm.

Regular Summer Worship Hours,

Zion:

Sundays at 8 am.

Bible Study at 9:15 am.

Grace:

Sundays at 10:30 am.

Bible Study at 11:45 am.

Regular Winter Worship Hours,

October-March

Grace:

Sundays at 8 am.

Bible Study at 9:15 am.

April-September

Zion:

Sundays at 10:30 am.

Bible Study at 11:45 am.