

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

We also learn from this, however, that is with regards to the *salvation* of the Christians entrusted to his care that the Pastor is responsible before God and will have to give account.

This means that the Pastor is not just in general the "leader" of the congregation, and he should not have the final say in all matters. And if the Pastor would tyrannically insist on having the final say in matters that do not fall under his responsibility, the offence he might cause by doing so could actually very well prove detrimental to tranquillity and order in the congregation, and even to the faith of some. Rather, the Pastor's responsibility is to lead the congregation with the guidance given in the Word of God, as it is entrusted to His Church in Holy Scripture.

Of course, questions might arise in the life of any congregation to which the Word of God does not provide any clear or clear-cut answers. To clarify whether or not it does, though, requires study of Holy Scripture itself.

And in this, it would fall under the Pastor's responsibility to guide the congregation.

Furthermore, when it comes to making decisions in matters to which Holy Scripture provides no answers, the *manner* in which such decisions are made, and how they are implemented, will often be just as important as exactly which decisions it is that are being made; things that are not in themselves sinful can be done in sinful ways, for sinful reasons or with a sinful attitude, or in situations where Christian love would call for different decisions; as such, such decisions can *become* sinful or otherwise jeopardise the spiritual welfare of Christians.

Of course, the determination of whether or not this is the case in a specific situation will often be a matter of mere human discernment and judgement. But even such discernment can be made *informed* by Holy Scripture as well as *not* informed by it.

In Holy Scripture we also find the Apostle exercising such judgement. *I have no command from the Lord, but I give my judgement as one who by the Lord's mercy is trustworthy (...)* And I think that I, too, have the Spirit of God.

I Corinthians 7:25, 40

What this means is that even when exercising discernment and judgement in matters to which Holy Scripture gives no clear answer, Christians should take their lead from being taught the Word of God; the guidance of the man appointed by God to guide the Christians entrusted to him should not be left out of consideration.

Sincerely

Jais H. Tinglund

Thank you to all who thought of us with greetings, gifts and goodness for Christmas. It is and remains a privilege and a joy to live and serve among you. *Father and Mrs. T*

Pastor Tinglund shall be gone for a family matter on Wednesday, January 9th, but should be available most of the time on cell phone 605-228-9216.

A different worship service: On Tuesday, January 15, the Pastors of the Yellowstone Circuit shall meet at Grace. The meeting will begin at 10 mm. with Communion worship, to which the members of the congregations are invited - all worship conducted in our churches, is, by all right, the worship of the congregation! This worship service will follow a ritual based on the ancient Saint John Chrysostom Liturgy, which is being used by most Eastern Orthodox churches, although modified to reflect more accurately Biblical truth as confessed by our Lutheran Church.

Pastor Tinglund shall not be gone, technically speaking, but shall nevertheless be unavailable for most of Tuesday, January 15th due to a Circuit Pastors' meeting.

Pastor Tinglund shall be gone Wednesday, January 23 through Thursday, January 24, for a District Circuit Visitors' Meeting. Messages can be left at cell phone 605-228-9216. Should an urgent need for pastoral assistance arise, feel free to call Pastor Korb of Worland at 307-388-4044.

Tell the Good News About Jesus Convocation at Trinity Lutheran Church in Casper Friday, January 25th, through Saturday, January 26th. The theme for the convocation is *Lutheran Worship Matters*. For more information, see folders available in the Narthex at Church, or the District Newsletter.

Voters' Meeting at Grace Sunday, January 27th, after worship.

Voters' Meeting at Zion Sunday, January 27th, after worship, with a **catered** dinner, sponsored by Thrivent.

LWML Meeting at Grace Monday, February 4, at 7 pm.

Super Bowl Sunday Subway Sandwiches for Sunday, February 3, will be prepared by the youth for you to pick up after church on that day. Be on the lookout for the opportunity to place your order.

LWML meets at Grace at 7 pm. on the first Monday of every month except in January, July, August and September, *and* on the **last** Monday of August. All ladies of the congregation are in principle 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.

Just so we do not forget:

What do you believe about the Office of the Keys?

I believe that when the called ministers of Christ deal with us by His divine command, in particular when they exclude openly unrepentant sinners from the Christian congregation and absolve those who repent of their sins and want to do better, this is just as valid and certain, even in Heaven, as if Christ our dear Lord dealt with us Himself. *Of the Small Catechism*

Birthdays in January

- as known to the editor

January 1:

Judie Deepe

January 3:

Trenton Frazier

January 11:

Connie Werbelow

January 17:

Christa Corbin,

January 19:

Kathy DeWitt

January 21:

Leroy Klitzke

January 23:

Larry Larsen

January 30:

Becky Henderson

Anniversaries in January

- as known to the editor

January 11:

Todd and Connie Werbelow

South Big Horn Lutheran Parish

Pastor Jais H. Tinglund

409 5th Avenue

Greybull

WY 82426

Phone: 307-765-2865

e-mail: tinglund@nvc.net

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.

