



South Big Horn Lutheran Parish
Grace and Zion Lutheran Churches
Newsletter, December 2019

Dear brethren,

The Fifth Commandment is: *You shall not murder*. This Commandment points to how God is a God of life, in general, and how precious *human* life in particular is to God. And since Holy Scripture teaches so clearly that each and every human being is known to God, as one of His most beloved creatures, this commandment pertains to each and every human being from the very first moment of his or her existence, so that the slaying of any human being, also the yet unborn, goes against His good will and is evil in His sight.

For the last half century, it has become common to see the sanctity of human life, and particularly the sanctity of the life of very young children, as primarily a political question.

And with abortion having become an established legal practice in most of the so-called civilised world, and the political efforts to impose the practice upon less developed nations, the sanctity of human life cannot but be *also* a political issue.

It is worth remembering, though, that it is *more* than a political issue; that the sanctity of human life is first and foremost a *spiritual* issue, and an *ethical* and *moral* one.

There is much to say for the notion that the Church should not teach politics. The task of the Church of Christ is to testify to His love, and to call sinners to live in His love, in accordance with His will. It would be entirely wrong for her, however, not to do so on this or that particular issue, simply because unbelievers have declared those issues political.

The Church of Christ must, as her duty to her Master, lay it upon the hearts and minds of Christians not only to let their own children live, and encourage unbelievers to do so as well, so that they can come to know the love of God and live a life in His love, but also to do all they can to shield and protect the lives of the unborn in any and all ways that are legally open to them, and otherwise not contrary to the will of God as taught in Holy Scripture.

For Christians to be indifferent to the tremendous evil that the modern massacre on unborn children is to make themselves complicit in murder. And to do so out of fealty to one's politician or party of preference is idolatry, also, as it is to accept the idea that because unbelievers have declared this issue a political one, Christians are free to disregard the Word and will of God.

The argument that morality cannot be legislated is obvious nonsense. Nobody believes that an act being immoral and unethical, or prohibited in Holy Scripture, means that it *must* be made or kept legal: although all Democrat Senators voted this year that it should be legal to leave unwanted children to die after birth, none has yet demanded that the wilful or neglectful murder of adults be legal, or incest, or stealing, even though all such actions are not only immoral, but also prohibited in Holy Scripture and condemned by most religions. And the sanctity of human life is a political issue, as well as a moral one, on which the Church of Christ must speak, and on which Christians must hear and obey God.

Sincerely,
Jais H. Tinglund

Lutheran Worship at Wyoming Retirement Center on Thursday, November 21, at 3 pm.

Thanksgiving worship at Grace on Wednesday, November 27 at 7 pm.

Thanksgiving worship at Zion Thursday, November 28, 10:30 am.

Community Christmas Party at Zion Saturday, November 30, at Noon.

LWML Christmas Party at Lisa's on Monday, December 2. at 6 pm.

Advent Dinners at Grace on Wednesdays, December 4, 11, and 18, at 6 pm.

December 4: *Soup and pie served by the LWML*

December 11: *Carry-in*

December 18: *Pork loin with mashed potatoes served by the Youth*

Advent Mid-week Worship at Grace on Wednesdays, December 4, 14, and 18, at 7 pm. Our theme this year will be *The only Son from Heaven, but not the Only Son*. We shall meditate on how examples of the status of other sons in Holy Scripture reflect the significance of our Lord Jesus being from eternity the Son of God.

Joint Council Meeting at Grace on Wednesday, December 4, after Advent Worship.

Lutheran worship at Bonnie Bluejacket Nursing home Thursday, December 5, at 3 pm.

Seasonal sing-along at the Parsonage on Sunday, December 8, beginning at 6 pm. Bring part of your dinner, and everybody else's.

A different worship service: On Tuesday, December 10, the Pastors of the Yellowstone Circuit shall meet at Grace. The meeting will begin at 10 am. 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 service will follow a ritual based on the ancient Saint John Chrysostom Liturgy, is being used by most Eastern Orthodox churches, although modified to reflect the Gospel more accurately.

Pastor Tinglund shall be busy, if not technically gone, for a Circuit Pastors' meeting most of Tuesday, December 10. Messages can be left at cell phone 605-228-9216, which will be checked regularly.

Christmas Eve Worship at Grace on Christmas Eve (sorry, if that is confusing!) at 4 pm.

Christmas Eve Worship at Zion on Christmas Eve (sorry, again, if that is confusing!) at 6 pm.

Christmas Morning Worship at Grace on Christmas Morning (well, you know) at 10:30 am.

New Year's Worship at Grace on New Year's Eve at 7 pm.

Epiphany Worship at Grace on Monday, January 6, at 7 pm. Coffee and cookies to follow.

LWML Meeting at Grace on Monday, January 6, following Epiphany Worship and coffee and cookies.

Just so we do not forget:

How does God's Kingdom come?

God's Kingdom comes when our heavenly Father gives us His Holy Spirit, so that by His grace we believe His holy Word and lead godly lives here in time and there in eternity.

Of the Small Catechism

Birthdays in December

- as known to the editor:

December 9:

Mary Ann Jensen

December 10:

Robert Klitzke

Gunnar Tanksley

December 12:

Ashtyn 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 4:

Jerold and Jennifer Preis

December 20:

Guy and Becky Henderson

Zion Finance Report, October:

Debits: \$ 4,243.08; Credits: \$ 4,450.44

South Big Horn Lutheran Parish

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<http://gracegreybull.ctshost.org>

Zion website:

<http://zionemblem.ctshost.org>

Regular office hours at Grace:

Tuesday-Friday, Noon -1 pm.

Regular 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.

LWML usually meets at Grace on the first Monday of every month at 7 pm., except in July, August and September, and also on the last Monday of August. All ladies of the congregation are members of the LWML, and as such 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.

