



South Big Horn Lutheran Parish
Grace and Zion Lutheran Churches
Newsletter, January 2020

Dear brethren,

The Fifth Commandment is: *You shall not murder.* This Commandment points to how God is a God of life, and how particularly precious human life is to God, having been made, as we, are in His image, and for His love.

Over the last half century, the sanctity of human life, and particularly that of the very young children, has become one of the most important political issues for Christians. How could it not be, when Christians are faced with such a tremendous evils as the massacre of the unborn, the glaring failure of courts and government to protect the innocent, and the slaughter of children recently having been turned into a cultural, and virtually cultic, celebration apparently primarily to promote a political agenda?

The important part that abortion plays in the so-called culture wars, and in politics, can easily blind Christians to the important fact that the sanctity of life is not only a political issue; that it is first and foremost a *spiritual* issue which pertains to our life with God.

The sanctity of human life and the knowledge that human life is precious to God must compel Christians not only to oppose abortion politically; at a much more basic level, they obligate Christians to seek and support and live in a *culture celebrating life.*

A Christian culture of celebrating life involves seeing all human life as precious and worth protecting. It involves helping create circumstances for those affected by unwanted pregnancies be capable and comfortable to let their children live.

It is often said by those who support the slaughter of young children that those who oppose it only about children care until they are born. Now, this is obviously belied by the efforts of Christian and other pro-life agencies in terms of both adoption and assistance to single mothers.

Nevertheless, the accusation does present a question to the consciences of Christians: can it in any way be said to be true that the sanctity of life to me is only a matter of opposing abortion as a symbol of being Christian and Conservative, or worse: of my contempt for Liberals? For a Christian, there is some inconsistency in supporting political measures against abortion while at the same time being indifferent or even opposed to any and all political efforts to create circumstances to make the lives of poor unwed mothers less miserable and so prevent abortions!

First and foremost, though, a Christian culture of celebrating life begins in our own hearts and minds, and in our own lives, with seeing and treating children not only as precious to God, but also as His precious gifts to us. A Christian culture of celebrating life would encourage young people to marry and have children. and many of them. And a Christian culture of celebrating people would teach us to see all people as precious gifts of God to us - however challenging this might be with regards to some of the people we know, who, if nothing else, serve to teach us how the life to which God calls us is one of patience and suffering sacrifice in love and trust toward God!

Sincerely,
Jais H. Tinglund

Advent Dinner at Grace on Wednesday, December 18, at 6 pm. The youth will serve pork loin with mashed potatoes. A free-will offering will be taken to support the youth work.

Advent Mid-week Worship at Grace on Wednesday, December 18, at 7 pm. Our theme this year has been *The only Son from Heaven, but not the only son*. We have meditated 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.

Lutheran Worship at Wyoming Retirement Center on Thursday, December 19, at 3 pm.

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 (well, again, you know) 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.

Lutheran Worship at Wyoming Retirement Center on Thursday, January 23, at 3 pm.

Voters' Meeting at Zion Sunday, January 19, (according to a **revision** of our schedule) after worship with lunch, sponsored by Thrivent.

Voters' Meeting at Grace Sunday, January 26, after worship.

Lutheran Worship at Bonnie Bluejacket Nursing Home on Thursday, January 31, at 3 pm.

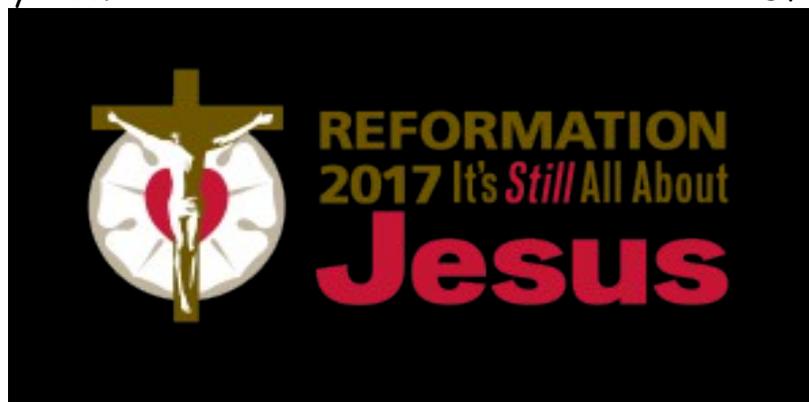
Zion Finance Report, November:

Debits: \$ 5,920.24; Credits: \$ 3,567.61 + Missions: \$ 2,285

Just so we do not forget:

I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true Man, born of the Virgin Mary, is my Lord, who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, purchased and won me from all sin, from death, and from the power of the devil; not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death, that I may be His own and live under Him in His Kingdom and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence and blessedness, just as He is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity. This is most certainly true.

Of the Small Catechism



Birthdays in January

- as known to the editor

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

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.

Of the Formula Concord, the Epitome

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 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 at Grace - and so are all ladies of Zion!