



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

Dear brethren,

The Fifth Commandment is: *You shall not murder.* With this Commandment God declares human life to be sacred, and precious to Him, and Himself to be the only rightful Lord and Master of human life.

As all His Commandments this one also applies to all human beings, and not only to Christians; for, as the first three Commandments teach us, all human beings owe it to God to be Christian, to have Him alone as their God, and to worship Him, that is: to call upon Him in prayer and praise, and to receive His salvation on (at least) a weekly basis in worship, in so far as possible.

As such, this Commandment also comes with the implication that secular society and is under the obligation to protect human life in its legislation and administration; it is evil when society fails to protect those in need of protection and allows for the slaughter of unborn children, as is currently the case in this country, or those recently born, or the sick and the elderly, as is now the case in quite a few states.

Another issue with regards is that of capital punishment. It is often said that those who oppose the slaughter of the unborn, and the recently born, and the sick and elderly, bound in their conscience by the Commandment of God, are all hypocrites, because some of them do not object equally insistently to capital punishment.

It is important in this regard, however, to observe what God actually teaches in Holy Scripture with regards not only to capital punishment, but to secular authority altogether.

As the holy Apostle Paul calls for submission to secular authorities, he writes of the one in authority, that *he is God's servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword in vain. For he is the servant of God, an avenger who carries out God's wrath on the wrongdoer.*

Romans 13:4

In applying deadly force, the government acts on God's behalf to protect the innocent and punish the wrongdoer. Or in other words, again, when the government puts evildoers to death, the perspective of Holy Scripture is that it is God Himself who thereby protects the innocent by executing punishment on the evil and threatening punishment on those who would otherwise be tempted to do evil.

This is what Luther means when he writes in the Large Catechism that *God and government are not included in this Commandment.* By having the government threaten severe punishment on those who threaten the lives of the innocent, God protects the innocent. And by having the government actually exact such punishment on murderers, he deters and protects those tempted to commit murder from following through on the temptation, and thus He protects both the lives of the innocent and those who would otherwise make themselves guilty.

As such, there is no inherent hypocrisy in on the one hand opposing the slaughter of the innocent, and on the other not the slaughter of the guilty. Both *can* represent obedience to the Word and will of God.

Sincerely

Jais H. Tinglund

Lenten Dinners at Grace on Wednesdays, March 25, at 6 pm.

March 25: Pizza dinner - served by the Youth

April 1: **Canceled**

Lenten Worship at Grace on Wednesdays, March 25 and April 1, at 7 pm. Our theme this year is **His blood and His Baptism**. In light of the Passion of Christ, by which He has won eternal life for sinners doomed to eternal death, we meditate upon how the eternal life He has won for us given to us in Baptism.

Lutheran Worship at Wyoming Retirement Center on Thursday, March 26, at 3 pm. Members of the congregations are invited to participate, as is everybody else.

Lutheran Worship at Bonnie Bluejacket Nursing Home on Thursday, April 2, at 3 pm. Members of the congregations are invited to participate, as is everybody else.

LWML Zone Spring Workshop at Grace on Saturday, April 4, beginning at 9:30 am. All ladies of the congregations, of all ages, are invited.

Let's do the time warp again: On Sunday, April 5, our worship times will switch over, so that, until October, worship will be at Zion at 8 am. and at 10:30 am at Grace.

LWML Meeting at Grace Monday, April 6, at 7 pm.

Holy Week Worship

Maundy Thursday, April 9:

Communion Worship, Grace, 7 pm.

Good Friday, April 10:

Passion Worship at Zion at Noon
Passion Worship at Grace at 7 pm.

Pastor Tinglund shall be gone for a Circuit Pastors' meeting most of Tuesday, April 14. Messages can be left at cell phone 605-228-9216, which will be checked regularly.

Zion Financial Report, February:

Debits: \$ 4,818.55; Credits: \$ 3,675

Year to date:

Debits: \$ 9,495.95; Credits: \$ 7,690

Just so we do not forget - *of the Small Catechism*

What sins should we confess?

Before God we should plead guilty of all sins, even those we are not aware of, as we do in the Lord's Prayer; but before the pastor we should confess only those sins which we know and feel in our hearts.

Which are these?

Consider your place in life according to the Ten Commandments: Are you a father, mother, son, daughter, husband, wife, or worker? Have you been hot-tempered, rude, or quarrelsome? Have you hurt someone by your words or deeds? Have you stolen, been negligent, wasted anything or done any harm?

This we believe - *of the Lutheran Confessions*

Therefore it is God's ultimate purpose that we suffer harm to befall no man, but show him all good and love; and, as we have said, it is specially directed toward those who are our enemies. For to do good to our friends is but an ordinary heathen virtue, as Christ says it.

Of the Large Catechism

Birthdays in April

- as known to the editor

April 4:

Peggy Werbelow

April 5:

Stetson Cauffman

April 9:

Joan Fabricius

April 12:

Wanda Hansen

Ginger Mills

Jennifer Preis

April 14:

Joël Emmett

Lillian Tinglund

April 21:

Madi Kraft

April 23:

John Kraft

Anniversaries in April

- as known to the editor

April 25th:

Gary and Wanda Hansen

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 all ladies of the congregation, of all ages, are not only welcome, but actually invited and encouraged to attend all LWML meetings at Grace - and so are all ladies of Zion!

A Letter to the Congregations
*regarding two items of our current circumstances
that need to be addressed*

I. The Wuhan Virus

It can hardly have escaped anyone's attention that the world around us is in a state close to panic about this virus.

It is certainly a situation that calls for caution and care for our own health as well as for that of others. We are responsible for each other and owe it to God and each other to deal responsibly with each other. This obligates us, as always, to think twice about needlessly exposing others to infection by poor personal hygiene, or by unnecessary social contact with others although we have reason to suspect that we might very well be carrying an infectious disease.

Worship, on the other hand, is by no means an unnecessary activity. Not only is worship what the Church of Christ owes her Master, it is also the source of her life with Him, and is, in fact, her life with Him whom she cannot and must not be without. Only to a culture that has forgot the true nature of worship, because it has forgot the nature of the salvation of God, will cancelling worship be the default and first response to any kind of crisis.

Such is not the culture of the Church of Christ. To her, giving up worship can only come into question as the last resort in the face of an obviously clear and present necessity - sometimes not even in face of a such!

The Church of Christ cannot and will not expect evil to come from receiving salvation from her Saviour - which is what authentic Christian worship is - even though it might seem so to the world, and to the flesh. She trusts His promise to work only good for His Church and His Christians, even through sickness and death.

Nevertheless, should some among us feel uncomfortable about continuing their regular worship practice in the current situation, in light of particular vulnerability or for other reasons, neither words nor thoughts of judgement shall come their way.

A such decision, however, is not for others to make, certainly not for their Pastor, nor for the Church. Accordingly, we will continue to make the salvation of God available to those who desire it in regular worship.

And as Christians who find themselves compelled to temporarily abstain from public worship continue their devotions by themselves at home, they are encouraged to take comfort in knowing that they are still partakers of the worship of the congregation with which they are one body in Christ, and that their congregation is still carrying out her worship also on *their* behalf, and in communion with them.

It should go without saying, but shall nevertheless be stated, that members who prefer, in light of the present situation, to abstain from public worship, are not only welcome, but also encouraged to make arrangements with their Pastor for receiving the Sacrament in a more private setting, either in their home or elsewhere, as it may seem most comfortable and prudent.

II. Vacancy at Saint John's Lutheran Church in Lovell

Pastor Brandt has announced his retirement as Pastor of Saint John's Lutheran Church in Lovell, effective by the end of April.

I have been asked to serve as Vacancy Pastor.

It seems good and right that Saint John's continue to have regular Sunday services. Pastor Garwood of Cody will officiate on most Sundays, whereas other Pastoral duties will fall to me.

It also seems obviously good and right that our congregations maintain their regular worship service. For me to serve Saint John's in an orderly manner, however, involves occasionally serving some Sundays, usually one Sunday a month. On Sundays when I shall have to be absent from our congregations, Pastor Garwood will, in so far as possible, serve our congregations. Expenses for this will be covered by Saint John's.

When this is not possible, other arrangements will be made.

Obviously, the situation will mean that I shall be physically present and available to the members to a lesser degree than usually during the week. Initially, until needs are known to be different, I shall be in Lovell one day a week, and as called upon.

Confirmation Class will call for special arrangements to be made for our weekday services.

Christian love obligates us to make sacrifices to share the burdens of a sister congregation - in so far as my occasional absence will be considered a sacrifice by anyone other than myself! The leadership of our congregations are committed, though, as am I myself, to making such sacrifices as light as possible.

Sincerely
Jais H. Tinglund