



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

Dear brethren,

The Fifth Commandment is: *You shall not murder*. With this Commandment, God makes Himself known to be the only rightful Master of human life. And He obligates all people to honour Him as such. And by doing so, He also obligates His Christians to do what they can to honour and protect human life, not only in their own personal lives, but also by means of their vote (those who are voters), and whatever other influence they might have on the powers that be as well as on public opinion.

In our day and age, Christians tend to think of the sanctity of human life mostly in the context of abortion; and particularly this holds true for Christians who are also *politically* conservative (these days, to actually be Christian and believe in Christ *is* to be *religiously* conservative!).

To others, capital punishment is also an issue in which the sanctity of human life must be considered - and it is that,

The common claim, however, that to be Christian and truly pro-life necessarily means to oppose the death penalty as well and as vehemently as abortion and euthanasia, is neither Biblical nor very well thought through.

It is exactly with reference to the sanctity of human life that God in Holy Scripture says: *Whoever sheds the blood of man, by man shall his blood be shed, for God made man in His own image.*

**Genesis 9:5-6**

In other words, according to Holy Scripture, the severe punishment meted out upon the murderer *confirms* and *upholds* the sanctity of human life rather than violate it.

In many ways, experience confirms this teaching of Holy Scripture.

For evil to be allowed to go unpunished leaves the impression that it is not really evil. And to those who suffer from great evil done to themselves or to someone they care about, this adds insult to injury. Although it is true that even the most severe punishment inflicted upon the evildoer will not make the wrong right, it is also true that taking the wrong lightly makes the wrong more wrong! It communicates to those to whom great evil was done that they are not worth caring about; that evil done to them is not worth taking seriously!

Particularly will this be the case, when the victims of evil can observe how others rally around the evildoer, eager to protect him or her from the consequences of his or her evildoings, as if he or she were the victim, and the only *real* victim, and those who ask for the evil to be taken seriously the *real* perpetrators - as it will often seem in a culture that has come to see punishment primarily as therapy, aimed at restoring the wrongdoer.

It is indeed true that those who do evil are themselves victims of evil; in this world we all are, to greater or lesser extents. Most certainly, we are all victims of our own evil.

Nevertheless, confronted with specific evil, we owe it to the victims, individually and as a community to affirm their worth by taking not only their suffering seriously, but also the injustice done to them.

Sincerely

**Jais H. Tinglund**

## Worship services during the Wuhan Virus Crisis

In order to make sure not to be in violation of the "guidelines" established by the authority and, on that account, have unnecessary disturbances and difficulties inflicted upon life and worship in our congregations, Grace shall until further notice be offering Communion Worship on Saturdays at 7 pm, and at 10:30 am. and Noon on Sundays. Those who wish to attend are asked to register by phone at the Parsonage. If the service for which you wish to register is already above the limit, we shall make sure to let you know and look for a spot for you at a different service. In order for this to be possible, please make sure to register Friday evening at the latest.

Zion shall be offering Communion Worship at the Dale Schmoltdt residence on Saturdays at 1 pm. This should enable us to make sure that our regular services at Zion do not fall under the definition of a gathering as "any planned or spontaneous event bringing together, or likely to bring together, ten (10) people or more in a single room or a single confined space (whether indoor or outdoor) at the same time."

If you feel it necessary, or just the better option, to remain in isolation, wholly or partially, or just to abstain from taking part in public worship for the time being, be assured of this: you are not forgotten by Your Saviour!

You are not forgotten by your Church, either. And the congregation with which you are one body in Christ is still before His altar, also for you, and on your behalf. Her worship is still your worship, also, as you continue to have your devotions at home.

If you would like for me to come and see you at home, or otherwise help you in any way, please do let me know. I plead with you to.

These are trying times. But our Saviour is the Son of God and God Himself from eternity, whose love for us has not only shown itself greater than all in what He, freely and willingly, took it upon Himself to suffer for us, but has also proven itself victorious over death and the devil and all enemies of life.

He is in power over all things. And His promise is that all things will work together for good for those who are His own. Through all things He will bring His good will to completion. Neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

*Fear not, He says; I am the first and the last and the Living One; and I died, and behold, I live for evermore, and I hold the keys of death and Hell.* That being true, all is well; we have nothing whatsoever to fear - not even fear itself!

Sincerely

Jais H. Tinglund

**Service of Penitence and Prayer** at Grace Friday evenings at 7 pm.

**Ascension Day Worship at Grace** Wednesday, May 20, at 7 pm. Please call the Parsonage to register. If need be, we shall see if we can make arrangements for an additional service at another time so as to be in compliance with the restrictions currently placed on the exercise of religion in Wyoming.

**LWML Meetings** are suspended until further notice.

**Birthdays in May**

- as known to the editor

May 3rd:

Sandy Cole

May 5th:

Cole Catlyn

Kye Catlin

May 24:

Sue Coquil

May 28:

Benjamin Kraft

**Anniverseries in May**

- as known to the editor

May 20th:

Max and Carrie Mazur

May 26th:

Howard and Carol Gernant

**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.

**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 and encouraged to attend all LWML meetings at Grace - and so are all ladies of Zion!

**Zion Financial Report, March:**

Debits: \$ 4,495.32; Credits: \$ 4,735.67

Year to date:

Debits: \$ 13,991.27; Credits: \$ 12,425.67