



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

Dear brethren,

The Fifth Commandment is: *You shall not murder!* With this Commandment God makes it clear that He values human life, and will that human life be protected, and that such evil as murder be punished. In doing so, He uses human beings as His servants, Holy Scripture teaches: *Whoever sheds the blood of man, as He said it to Noah, by man shall his blood be shed, for God made man in His own image (Genesis 9:5-6).* And the one in authority *does not bear the sword in vain, writes the Apostle, for he is the servant of God, an avenger who carries out God's wrath on the wrongdoer (Romans 13:4).*

As such, it is clear that one cannot use the Christian faith to claim that it is necessarily wrong for a society to have laws that provide for use of the death penalty, or to exercise it. Another question is whether or not it is wrong for the government *not* to provide for the death penalty in its legislation, or to abstain from actually inflicting capital punishment.

What God said to Noah about this is really not a *commandment* given to any particular person or entity, but rather a statement as to how things will work in the world, according to His will. The law He gave to Israel, though, does mandate that perpetrators of certain kinds of evil be put to death. This could easily be taken, and have been by some, as proof that it is wrong for the government *not* to operate with or exercise capital punishment. Few of those who would argue that, however, would actually be willing to argue that capital punishment should actually be employed against all that for which Old Testament Law mandates it, such as adultery, idolatry, or cursing one's parents (Leviticus 20).

More important in this regard, though, is it to observe that the Law given to Israel was exactly that: the Law given to *Israel*. It was part of that experiment, bound and intended to fail, which is the history of ancient Israel, of having an earthly nation actually be and live as the true people of God in this world, *and* of the parable that the history of ancient Israel also is, of how God would save all of sinful Mankind.

As such, the specific details of how Israel was to be governed, along with the laws for holiness and worship, are abolished and outdated with the coming of Christ. They are not a manual for how society is to be governed after the coming of Christ; in fact, Holy Scripture provides no such manual. Rather, as the holy Apostle Paul writes it, Holy Scripture serves to make Christians *wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus, and to be profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness (II Timothy 3:15-16).* And: *all that was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope (Romans 15:4).*

Using Holy Scripture as a political manual is to overlook its real purpose: to teach life in Christ.

Sincerely

Jais H. Tinglund

Pastor Tinglund shall be gone for vacation Monday, July 20, through Friday, July 24. Messages can be left at cell phone 605-228-9216, which will be checked regularly. Should a need for immediate Pastoral assistance arise, feel free to call Pastor Korb of Worland at 307-388-4044.

Pastor Tinglund shall be gone most of the day on Thursdays to tend to his duties as Vacancy Pastor to Saint John's Lutheran Church in Lovell. Messages can be left at cell phone 605-228-9216, which will be checked regularly. Emergencies will, naturally, be responded to as needed.

Services of penitence and prayer are held at Grace every Friday night at 7 pm. in response to the Wuhan Virus crisis, riots, and other current threats to the peaceful and joyful life of the Church of Christ and His Christians, and of all people in the country and the community.

Pastor Tinglund shall be gone for a Circuit Pastors' meeting most of Tuesday, August 11. Messages can be left at cell phone 605-228-9216, which will be checked regularly.

Pastor Tinglund shall be gone for a Circuit Visitors' meeting Tuesday, August 25, through Wednesday, August 26. Messages can be left at cell phone 605-228-9216, which will be checked regularly. Should a need for immediate Pastoral assistance arise, feel free to call Pastor Korb of Worland at 307-388-4044.

Free will offering at Grace in favour of the Community Outreach Fund on Sunday, August 30.

LWML Yellowstone Zone Rally at Saint John's Lutheran Church in Lovell Saturday, September 12, beginning at 9:30 am. All ladies of the congregations, of all ages, are invited.

This we believe - of the Lutheran Confessions

True Christian perfection is to fear God from the heart, to have great faith, and to trust that for Christ's sake we have a God who has been reconciled. It means to ask for and expect from God His help in all things with confident assurance that we are to live according to our calling in life, being diligent in outward good works, serving in our calling. This is where true perfection and true service of God is to be found.

Of the Apology of the Augsburg Confession

Zion Financial Report, June:

Debits: \$ 4,014.73; Credits: \$ 7,771.98

Year to date:

Debits: \$ 27,999.69; Credits: \$ 30,649.57

Birthdays in August

- as known to the editor

August 16:

Matthew Werbelow

August 22:

Sherri Fink

August 28:

Victor Werbelow

Anniversaries in August

- as known to the editor

August 2:

Terry and Sandy Cole

August 4:

John and Nancy Preis

August 5:

Ken and Sherri Fink

Ray & LeAnn Frazier

August 21:

Dean and Mary Marchant

Just so we do not forget:

What is the Sacrament of the Altar?

It is the true body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ under the bread and wine, instituted by Christ Himself for us Christians to eat and to drink.

What is the benefit of this eating and drinking?

These words: "Given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins" shows us that in the Sacrament forgiveness of sins, life and salvation are given us through these words. For where there is forgiveness of sins, there is also life and salvation.

Of the Small Catechism

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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:

Saturdays at 7 pm.

- please call the Parsonage

to announce your attendance!

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