



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

Dear brethren,

The Fifth Commandment is: *You shall not murder!* Human life is precious to God. And He claims for Himself the right to give life to human beings, and to take it away. This naturally raises the question of capital punishment; must Christians insist that the secular authorities not apply the death penalty? Holy Scripture assumes that it will, and even states that when it does, it acts as the servant of God, through which He Himself works. He who is in authority *does not bear the sword in vain*, writes the holy Apostle Paul, *for he is the servant of God, an avenger who carries out God's wrath on the wrongdoer.*

Romans 13:5

But does this then mean, on the other hands, that Christians must insist that the secular authorities do apply the death penalty, or that capital punishment be kept of the book? That question is a bit more complicated. The question can be said to boil down to this: is it ever permissible for secular authorities not to apply the death penalty?

Although Old Testament law prescribes that the perpetrators of certain crimes against others, or even against God alone, be put to death, this does not settle the matter. Modern society is not ancient Israel! And the part ancient Israel had to play in history has been fulfilled in Christ. It should be remembered, also, that Holy Scripture is not given to Christians as a manual for how they should insist that secular society be governed. The Kingdom of Christ is not of this world!

Furthermore, even Old Testament law itself demands that circumstances be taken into consideration. It distinguishes between manslaughter and deliberate murder, for one thing. Some cities were set aside as *cities of refuge*, or sanctuary cities, where those guilty of manslaughter could find protection from the revenge of the relatives of the deceased.

Numbers 35

There is also the event at which the people of Israel executed the judgement of God upon Judah, according to His will, but nevertheless were warned against doing so excessively: *Have you not sinned of your own against the Lord your God? God had His Prophet ask them.*

II Chron 28:10

Events are also recorded in Holy Scripture when earthly punishment is not inflicted upon those deserving of it, and where this is clearly seen as pleasing to God. The lives of Barrabas and of the brothers of Joseph being spared until natural death are parables of the goodness of God toward sinners. Finally, Holy Scripture warns against rash judgements, and the danger of bringing death upon the innocent.

Exodus 23:7; Jeremiah 26:14

All this points to this: the question of capital punishment would be a matter of judgement for Christians. And the irreversible nature of the death penalty, along with the risk of error, demonstrated so often in recent years with the introduction of DNA as evidence at appeals, makes it reasonable for Christians at least to be reluctant with regards to the actual application of the death penalty.

Sincerely

Jais H. Tinglund

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.

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.

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

Pastor Tinglund shall be busy, if not technically 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.

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

Let's do the time warp again: From Sunday, October 4, our Sunday worship times will switch over, so that Sunday worship at Grace will be at 8 am. and at Zion at 10:30 am.

Pastor Tinglund shall be gone for a District Pastors' Conference Monday, October 5, through Wednesday, October 7. Messages can be left at cell phone 605-228-9216, which will be checked regularly.

Daylight Savings time will end on Sunday, November 1.

Just so we do not forget:

But deliver us from evil. What does this mean?

We pray in this petition, in summary, that our Father in Heaven would rescue us from every evil of body and soul, possessions and reputation, and finally, when our last hour comes, give us a blessed end, and graciously take us from this valley of sorrow to Himself in Heaven.

Of the Small Catechism

This we believe - of the Lutheran Confessions

Therefore this single word: "He that believes" accomplishes so much, that it excludes and repels all works which we can do, when we attempt to obtain and merit salvation by them.

Of the Large Catechism

Zion Financial Report, June:

Debits: \$ 3,891.50 Credits: \$ 3,786.34;

Year to date:

Debits: \$ 31,891.19; Credits: \$ 34,435.91

Birthdays in September-
as known to the editor

September 13:

Carol Gernant

September 17:

Aftin DeRosa

September 18:

Dory Cauffman

September 23

Karen Preis

September 24:

Jordan Kraft

Anniversaries in September

- as known to the editor

September 21:

Al and Christa Corbin

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!

South Big Horn Lutheran Parish

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Grace website:

<http://gracegreybull.ctshost.org>

Zion website:

<http://zionemblem.ctshost.org>

Regular office hours at Grace:

Tuesday, Wednesdays and Fridays, Noon -1 pm.

Regular Worship Hours,

April-September:

Grace:

Saturdays at 7 pm.

*- please call the Parsonage
to announce your attendance!*

Sundays at 10:30 am.

Bible Study at 11:45 am.

Zion:

Sundays at 8 am.

Bible Study at 9:15 am.

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.

Zion:

Sundays at 10:30 am.

Bible Study at 11:45 am.