



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

Dear brethren,

The Fifth Commandment is: *You shall not murder!* Although the Commandment seems straightforward enough in itself, it raises questions, and has led to many different answers.

One question is whether or not war is ever legitimate, whether it is legitimate for the government to go to war, and for Christians to participate in it.

From Holy Scripture, some would argue, the answer is obvious: the Old Testament tells of Israel conducting war in accordance with the will of God, and even at His command; as such, war in itself cannot be wrong or sinful.

There are problems with this way of looking at things, though.

Unlike Old Testament Israel, which was a foreshadowing of the Church of Christ, and whose history is a parable performed in history of the salvation of God, the Kingdom of our Lord Jesus is not of this world, as He Himself has made it so clear: *If my kingdom had been of this world, my servants would have fought.* **John 18:33**

As such, not all that was true for ancient Israel can be directly applied also to His Christians. The wars He commanded Israel to conduct are parables of His own war against the evil one, in which He has won the victory in the sufferings and death of His beloved Son, by which He has set His own free from our enemy.

They are also parables of the war He wins in those of His enemies in whom He overcomes that enmity against Him which sin is, with His Word of His love and what His love has done for us. And they are parables of how His Christians should be in a constant war against sin, and have no tolerance and show no mercy for the enemy we have within themselves.

In this regard, also, something new has indeed come with the coming of the Christ. His Church and His Christians are not at war with other people! *For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.*

Ephesians 6:12

On the contrary, our Lord Jesus teaches His Christians to *love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you.*

Matthew 6:44

He even goes as far as to command: *Do not resist the one who is evil. But if anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also.*

Matthew 5:39

From this, other Christians have concluded that it is obviously that war is never legitimate, and any government going to war is evil and should be resisted by Christians.

This way of looking at things, interestingly enough, is also refuted by this: that *His Kingdom*, who teaches this, is not of this world, according to Himself. For what that means, among other things, is this: what He teaches with regards to how Christians should conduct themselves in the world does not immediately and directly apply to the government, which *is* of this world. What He commands His Church and His Christians is *not* a manual for how this world is to be governed!

Sincerely

Jais H. Tinglund

Pastor Tinglund shall be gone on Wednesday afternoons and evenings and most of 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.

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 peace and freedom of the Church of Christ, and His Christians, and all people in the country and the community.

Remembering those passed on: As part of our observation of the Memorial Feast All Saints on Sunday, November 1, we shall remember by name those of our own who have passed on in the year gone by. If there is someone who was precious to you, whom you would like to have included, please make Pastor Tinglund aware **by Friday, October 30.**

Daylight Savings time will end on Sunday, November 1.

Pastor Tinglund shall be gone for continued education Monday, November 2, through Wednesday, November 4. Messages can be left at cell phone 605-228-9216, which will be checked regularly.

Mission Festival on Sunday, November 8. Vicar Dane Breitung of Laramie will preach at our worship services. A lunch will follow worship at Zion, after which Vicar Breitung will tell us about the Wyoming District's Campus Ministry out of Saint Andrew's Lutheran Church in Laramie. Vicar Breitung will also present at Saint John's Lutheran Church in Lovell at 5 pm. the same afternoon.

Thanksgiving Dinner at Grace Tuesday, November 24, at 6 pm.. A free will offering will be taken in favour of our youth work.

Thanksgiving Worship at Grace Tuesday, November 24, at 7 pm.

Thanksgiving Worship at Saint John's Lutheran Church in Lovell, Thursday, November 26, at 10 am.

Advent Dinner at Grace on Tuesdays, December 1, 8, and 15 at 6 pm.

Advent Midweek Worship on Tuesdays, December 1, 8, and 15, 7 pm. We shall continue our theme from last year, *The only Son from Heaven - but not the only son*, and meditate upon how the lives and fates of three sons of David point to our Lord Jesus and what He has done and is for the sinners who are His Church.

LWML Christmas Party at Grace Monday, November 30 at 6 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!

Birthdays in November

- as known to the editor

November 8:

Evie Tanksley

November 26th:

Gordon Preis

Anniversaries in November

- as known to the editor

November 21:

Larry and Jackie Larsen

Zion Financial Report, September:

Debits: \$ 3,850.28

Credits: \$ 3,790

Year to date:

Debits: \$ 38,633.28

Credits: \$ 44,043.14

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:

Tuesdays, 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.