



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

Dear brethren,

The Fifth Commandment is: *You shall not murder!* This has often been taken to mean that war is illegitimate and sinful for Christians to take part in.

This view is a highly simplistic one, however. It overlooks the teaching of Holy Scripture with regards to sin, and with regards to the duties of government and the duty of Christians to submit to worldly government.

Holy Scripture consistently commends rulers who *uphold justice*. And to *uphold justice* involves, as two sides of the same coin, so to speak, protecting the innocent against abuse and injustice as well as punishing the wrongdoer; the ruler who does nothing to prevent injustice makes himself complicit to it. As such, it is the duty of government to protect the lives of the innocent, and, if need be, to do so by putting to death the evildoer who could not otherwise be prevented from slaughtering the innocent.

From this observation of the obvious arises the Christian teaching about the "just war": war is legitimate when it is the only way to avoid a greater evil, such as gross injustice being inflicted upon great numbers of people, and when it is carried out without unnecessary violence or excessive cruelty.

As such, it is every bit as legitimate for a Christian to be a soldier as it is to be a law enforcement officer, and thus to serve the community, locally or on a greater scale, in protecting the lives and rights of those who would otherwise be helpless against injustices inflicted by oppressors and evildoers. In doing so, and in employing the necessary violence in the process, the Christian soldier or law enforcement officer joins the government in being "the servant of God, an avenger who carries out God's wrath on the wrongdoer". **Romans 13:4**

Furthermore, since Christians are taught by Holy Scripture to submit to secular authorities, it is not left to the sentiment of the individual Christian whether or not to obey the government in this regard, as little as in any other.

Holy Scripture is realistic about the fallenness of this world, and the reality of sin. It does not teach Christians to expect that evil will ever be overcome in this world before the Lord comes in glory to finally make all things well, nor to expect that all conflict will be resolved by evil people turning away from evil as soon as there are exposed to the goodness of godly people. Nor does it teach Christians to rely on their own goodness and godliness and trust their own judgement in all things, or to think that what I know about things is all there is to know.

Instead, Holy Scripture teaches Christians to trust in God as Lord and Master of history, and to submit to the government God as such has set above them. It teaches Christians to honour and obey their government, even when their government has to make difficult and painful decisions in determining which is the greater evil, for the greater good. Only when it is absolutely obvious that what the government demands is evil and sinful is it right for Christians to disobey.

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.

**Saturday Night Worship at Grace** is offered when somebody requests it by calling the Parsonage (765-2865) to announce their intent to attend.

**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.

**Free Will-Offering at Grace** on Sunday, November 29, in favour of the Community Outreach Fund.

**LWML Christmas Party** at Grace on Monday, November 30, at 7 pm.

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

December 1: Pizza - *served by the Youth*

December 8: Carry-in

December 15: Pork Loin and mashed potatoes - *served by the Youth*

**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.

**Join Council Meeting** at Grace on Tuesday, December 1, after Advent Worship.

**Christmas Eve worship at Grace** at 4 pm.

**Christmas Eve worship at Zion** at 6 pm.

**Christmas Day** worship at Grace at 10:30 am.

**Just so we do not forget.**

*How is God's name kept holy?*

God's name is kept holy when the Word of God is taught in its truth and purity, and we, as the children of God, also lead holy lives according to it. Help us to do this, dear Father in Heaven!

*Of the Small Catechism*

**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 December**

- as known to the editor

### December 9:

Mary Ann Jensen

### December 10:

Robert Klitzke

Gunnar Tanksley

### December 12:

Ashtyn Hill

Shayne Mazur

### December 13:

Carolyn Olin

### December 19:

Leif Tanskley

### December 24:

Jackie Larsen

### December 26:

Terry Cole

### December 30:

Jesse Preis

## **Anniversaries in December**

- as known to the editor

### December 4:

Jerold and Jennifer Preis

### December 20:

Guy and Becky Henderson

## **Zion Financial Report, October:**

Debits: \$ 3,560.55

Credits: \$ 5,056.30

Year to date:

Debits: \$ 42,193.83

Credits: \$ 49,099.44

## **South Big Horn Lutheran Parish**

Pastor Jais H. Tinglund

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Greybull

WY 82426

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Grace website:

<http://gracegreybull.ctshost.org>

Zion website:

<http://zionemblem.ctshost.org>

### **Regular office hours at Grace:**

Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday, 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.