

Dear brethren,

The Fifth Commandment is: *You shall not murder!* And with this Commandment, God declares Himself to be Lord and Master of human life. And as such, the Commandment is not only a prohibition against taking the life of another human being at will, but also against taking one's own, or assisting somebody in taking his or her own life.

This particular aspect of the Commandment is to be seen in close connection with what Holy Scripture in general teaches about the goodness of God, and His command to trust in His goodness, that He will bring His good will to completion for us in all things, even through suffering, and that His will for us is what is good for us.

He who did not spare His own Son but gave Him up for us all, how will He not also with Him graciously give us all things? **Romans 8:32**

God has shown His love for us to be greater than all in what the Son of God, who is Himself God, has suffered for our salvation. And He wants and commands us to believe it, in spite of all that seems to contradict His promise, that His love is upon us.

For this reason alone, sufferings serve us well in teaching us to trust the promise of God simply because it is His promise - or in other words: to trust in God Himself - rather than because we see His promises fulfilled.

The sufferings of this life serve to do more, though, than merely to make us stronger in the faith. God has greater things in mind than merely for us to become better Christians. He means for us to *die*; that is: for our sinful nature to die in us, which does not and will not honour Him as God, and trust in Him in all things, and obey Him in all things. Having been baptised into Christ, *our old self was crucified with Him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing.* **Romans 6:6**

Nothing less will do. So strong is sin in us, ungodliness and unbelief.

God does not take delight in the sufferings of His beloved children; but as He would not spare His most Beloved Son for our salvation, so He will not spare us, either, for our salvation. And it is *for our salvation* that God allows sufferings and sorrows to fall upon His beloved children!

In our sufferings and sorrows, and in our own responses to our our sufferings and sorrows, we come to see our helplessness and our utter dependence on God. And so, through the sufferings and sorrows in this world our love for in this world dies to give way for love for God, and our trust in this world to give way for trust in God, and the assurance that *the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed upon us.*

Romans 8:18

This is what God will accomplish through our sufferings and sorrows. And He calls us to trust in Him through it all. And *blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love Him.*

James 1:12

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 Evening Communion is offered at Grace when somebody requests it by calling the Parsonage (765-2865) to announce their intent to attend.

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.

Brief Voters' Meeting in both our churches on Sunday, January 3, after worship, for the sole purpose of electing a Lay Delegate and an Alternate Lay Delegate for the Wyoming District Convention in Casper May 6-8, 2021.

Epiphany Worship at Grace on Monday, January 4, at 7 pm.

LWML Meeting at Grace on Monday, January 4, after worship.

Regular Voters' Meeting in both our churches on Sunday, January 24, after worship. Lunch at Zion. Members are asked to bring salads or desserts.

Pastor Tinglund shall be gone for a Circuit Pastors' meeting Tuesday, January 12. Messages can be left at cell phone 605-228-9216.

Pastor Tinglund shall be gone for a Circuit Visitors' meeting Tuesday, January 26, through Wednesday, January 27. Messages can be left at cell phone 605-228-9216. 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 for vacation Thursday, January 28, through Friday, February 5. Messages can be left at cell phone 605-228-9216. Should a need for immediate Pastoral assistance arise, feel free to call Pastor Korb of Worland at 307-388-4044.

This we believe

- of the Lutheran Confessions

God's Son has from eternity been a particular, distinct, entire, divine person. Yet He is true, essential, perfect God with the Father and the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time He received also the human nature into the unity of His person. Christ Jesus is now in one person at the same time true, eternal God, born of the Father from eternity, and a true man, born of the most blessed Virgin Mary.

Formula Concord, the Solid Declaration

Birthdays in January

- as known to the editor

January 3:

Trenton Frazier

January 11:

Connie Werbelow

January 17:

Christa Corbin,

January 19:

Kathy DeWitt

January 21:

Leroy Klitzke

January 23:

Larry Larsen

January 30:

Becky Henderson

Anniversaries in January

- as known to the editor

January 11:

Todd and Connie Werbelow

Zion Financial Report, November:

Debits: \$ 5,106.22

Credits: \$ 4,641.97

Year to date:

Debits: \$ 43,739.50

Credits: \$ 48,685.11

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

Pastor Jais H. Tinglund

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Greybull

WY 82426

Phone: 307-765-2865

e-mail: tinglund@nvc.net

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,

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.

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.