



*South Big Horn Lutheran Parish
Grace and Zion Lutheran Churches
Newsletter, April 2021*

Dear brethren,

the Fifth Commandment is: *You shall not murder!* And the innermost meaning of this Commandment is that God alone is Lord of life. He is the one to whom our life belongs, as He is the one who gives it to us, in order for us to put it to use in service to Him. And we owe it to Him to live and serve Him for as long as He would have us do that. As such, life is not only a *gift* for us to treasure - although it is that - but also an *obligation* for us to honour.

As such, the Commandment is not only a prohibition against wilfully taking the life of another person, but also against taking your own life. To take your own life is not only to deprive God of your service for as long as He would have you serve Him in this life, but also to prevent Him from working His will in your life - in so far as His will can be prevented, which, ultimately, it cannot, but that is for another day. And it is to take matters from the hands of God into your own hands and make yourself to be lord and master of your life.

This naturally raises the question: will anybody and everybody who die by their own hand be lost to eternal death and damnation?

We do know that with His suffering and death the Son of God has paid the price and penalty for all sin; which means that there is forgiveness for all sin. But the one who dies by his or her own hand dies *sinning*, and without the opportunity to subsequently repent of this particular grievous act of sin, it would seem. There is more to say to this, though.

It is a misunderstanding, to begin with, that what the Son of God has done for us applies only to those sinful acts of which we specifically repent before God; those which we specifically mention, and for which we specifically ask forgiveness. Were that the case, we would all be lost forever.

Who can discern his errors?, the Psalm asks, clearly implying that no one can, and goes on to make us to pray: *Declare me innocent from hidden faults.* **Psalm 19:12**

There are sins we do not know about, because we forgot about what we did, or did not know that we sinned. Thanks be to God that our salvation does not depend being aware of each sinful acts of ours, but rather on faith.

But isn't suicide an act of unbelief? Well, it is; as are all sinful acts, ultimately. Whenever we do sinful acts, it is because we are overcome, momentarily by unbelief; because our sinful desires become too strong for us, and the burdens of life too heavy for us to bear. This does not mean, though, that the faith is not *also* in us, and the love of God. A believer is not a person who does not sin, but rather a sinners who believes, by the grace of God. And *there is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus*, writes the holy Apostle Paul.

Romans 8:1

Those in whom the faith lives have full forgiveness for all sin. Now, this does not mean that a Christian has permission to take his or her own life; but it is comfort to those who are concerned for the eternal fate of a Christian who did.

Sincerely
Jais H. Tinglund

Services of penitence and prayer are held at Grace every Friday night at 7 pm. in response to the Wuhan Virus crisis 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.

Lenten Carry-in Dinner at Grace at 6 pm., Tuesday 23.

Lenten Worship at Grace on Tuesday, March 23, at 7 pm. Our theme this year is **His Mercy and His Men**. In light of the Passion of Christ we meditate upon what Holy Scripture teaches about His gift of Confession and Absolution and the Office of the Holy Ministry.

Holy Week Worship

Tuesday, March 30:

Maundy Thursday - *observed*:
Communion Worship, Grace, 7 pm.

Good Friday, April 2:

Passion Worship at Zion at Noon.
Passion Worship at Grace at 7 pm.

Let's do the time warp again: Our Worship times will switch over on Sunday, April 4. After that, Worship will be at Zion at 8 am. and at 10:30 am at Grace.

LWML meeting at Grace on Monday, April 5, at 7 pm.

Pastor Tinglund shall be gone for a Circuit Pastors' meeting most of Tuesday, April 13. Messages can be left at cell phone 605-228-9216, which will be checked regularly.

LWML Spring Workshop at Saint John's Lutheran Church in Lovell, Saturday, April 17, beginning at 9:30 am.

Free money for our churches. if you have business with Thrivent, you may qualify to designate *Choice Dollars*. If so, you should have received a letter about this from Thrivent. Thrivent has money it has available to give to charities. If you qualify to designate *Choice Dollars*, you can make a request as to where your portion of that money goes; and you can request that it goes to one of our churches. You can do so either on the phone or on-line, before **March 31st**. To designate *Choice Dollars* will not cost you anything. It is free money for our churches, and it would be sad money for our churches to miss out on. If you have received a letter about *Choice Dollars* from Thrivent, and would like help actually registering your request, Dale Schmoldt (858-245-1506) or Pastor Tinglund will be glad to assist you.

This we believe

- *Of the Lutheran Confessions*

It is by faith that God wants to be worshiped, namely, that we receive from Him what He promises and offers.

Of the Apology of the Augsburg Confession

Birthdays in April

- as known to the editor

April 4:

Peggy Werbelow

April 5:

Stetson Cauffman

April 12:

Wanda Hansen

Ginger Mills

Jennifer Preis

April 14:

Joël Emmett

Lillian Tinglund

April 21:

Madi Kraft

April 23:

John Kraft

Anniversaries in April

- as known to the editor

April 25th:

Gary and Wanda Hansen

Zion Financial Report, February

Debits: \$ 4,063.45

Credits: \$ 2,955.75

Year to date:

Debits: \$ 14,470.45

Credits: \$ 16,415.75

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.

South Big Horn Lutheran Parish

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Greybull

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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,

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.

