



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

Dear brethren,

the Fifth Commandment is: *You shall not murder!* With this Commandment God teaches us to see human life as a precious gift, in that He makes it clear that human life is precious to Him, as are all human beings, made in His image, for His love and His eternal life. As such, human life should be *sacred* to us. And this applies not only to the lives of others, but also to our own lives. Your own life is given to you by God as a precious gift, and not only to you, but also to those around you; and ultimately, your life is a gift God has given to Himself, as are you yourself, in order for you to live with Him, in His love, and serve Him.

Therefore, the Commandment not only *calls* for living in a such manner as to deal responsibly with your own life as well as the life of others, it actually *commands* it; which is not all that surprising, I suppose, being that it is a *commandment*. Carelessly to expose yourself or others to danger is neither cool nor cute, nor is it only not a wise things to do, it is actually sin against God, which means that it is evil and ungodliness, and makes you deserving of eternal death and damnation!

Most often we do not think about things in these terms when we are too lazy to fasten our seat belt, or when we drive although we really should not, because we are too tired, or whatever it is we are, or when we eat or drink too much, which, of course, none of us ever does, being that we are good Christians, but which some of us might nevertheless do, exactly because we do not think about it in those terms.

And then, at times, we are made to see things as they really are, that is: how things are in the sight of God.

When somebody we knew and perhaps even cared about dies needlessly, simply because he or she or somebody else did not bother to act responsibly, and particularly when his or her death could easily have been avoided, the very needlessness of it all, death and the grief that follows, the fact that the tragic could so easily have been avoided adds to the sense of tragedy, does it not, and makes the grief, already unbearable for some, even less bearable. It adds an element of helpless anger to the agony! And suddenly this or that act of negligence which we usually do not think about at all, or perhaps think of as a cute feature about ourselves, a charming expression of defiance against *the system*, it comes to stand in our hearts and minds as what it really is: depraved indifference to human life, our own or that of others. We see clearly that basic cautiousness *would have been* worthwhile. Our belief in the goodness of forgiveness might even be severely challenged in such situations - unless, of course, I myself am the one responsible, by my own negligence - or perhaps *particularly* then!

The Commandment of God presents us, so to speak, with a foretaste of the tragedy of unnecessary death or damage to the life of others. It sets before us that life is precious to God, and should be sacred to us, and should not be dealt with carelessly.

Sincerely

Jais H. Tinglund

Services of penitence and prayer are held at Grace on Friday nights at 7 pm. in response to the Wuhan Virus and other current threats to the peace and freedom of the Church of Christ, and the well-being of people in the country and the community.

Saturday Communion Worship at Grace at 7 pm. upon the request of those who intend to participate; please call the Parsonage by Friday evening.

No Penitence and Prayer Worship on Friday, July 23, as Pastor Tinglund is engaged elsewhere.

No Evening Communion Worship on Saturday, July 24, as Pastor Tinglund is engaged elsewhere.

This is our faith - *from the Lutheran Confessions*

And since the Holy Spirit dwells in the elect, who have become believers, as in His temple, and is not idle in them, but impels the children of God to obedience to God's commands, likewise, believers should not be idle, and much less resist the impulse of God's Spirit, but should exercise themselves in all Christian virtues, in all godliness, modesty, temperance, patience, brotherly love, and give all diligence to make their calling and election sure, in order that they may doubt the less about it, the more they experience the power and strength of the Spirit within them. For the Spirit bears witness to the elect that they are God's children. And although they sometimes fall into temptation so grievous that they imagine they perceive no more power of the indwelling Spirit of God, and say with David in Psalm 31:22: "I said in my haste, I am cut off from before Your eyes," yet they should, without regard to what they experience in themselves, again be encouraged and say with David, as is written in the same place, in the words immediately following: "Nevertheless You heard the voice of my pleas when I cried unto You."

Formula Concord, the Solid Declaration

Just so we do not forget:

What does God say about all these Commandments?

He says "I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the fathers to third and fourth generation of those who hate Me, but showing love to a thousand generations of those who love Me and keep My commandments" (*Exodus 20:5-6*)

What does this mean?

God threatens to punish all who break these commandments. Therefore, we should fear His wrath and not do anything against them. But He promises grace and every blessing to all who keep these commandments. Therefore, we should also love and trust in Him and gladly do what He commands.

Of the Small Catechism

Birthdays in July

- as known to the editor

July 7:

Earl Jensen

July 12:

Candace Tanksley

July 17:

Denise Catlin

July 19:

LeAnn Frazier

July 21:

Cassandra Kaufman

July 22:

Dennis Bernard

July 23:

Dale Schmoltdt

Anniversaries in July

- as known to the editor

July 5th:

John and Tanya Kraft

July 11:

Jacob and Taylor Stewart

July 28th

Gordon and Karen Preis

Zion Financial Report, May

Debits: \$ 4,101.63

Credits: \$ 14,302.62

Year to date:

Debits: \$ 28,849.41

Credits: \$ 41,764.16

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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Grace website:

<http://gracegreybull.ctshost.org>

Zion website:

<http://zionemblem.ctshost.org>

Regular office hours at Grace:

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday,
Noon -1 pm.

Regular Worship Hours

April-September:

Grace:

Saturdays at 7 pm.

- please call the Parsonage by Friday evening
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
by Friday night 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.