



South Big Horn Lutheran Parish Grace and Zion Lutheran Churches Newsletter, May 2022

Dear brethren,

the Fifth Commandment is: *You shall not murder!* Holy Scripture teaches us that this Commandment can be summed up and paraphrased as this: *You shall love your neighbour as yourself.* And as we have observed, the Commandment reflects the very nature of God, that is: His goodness and His love, not only for Mankind in the abstract, but for all *actual* men and women, including ourselves, and those whom we know, and even those we do not like.

It is His own love God calls and commands us as His servants to reflect in our dealings with other people. And the heart of His love is *forgiveness*: that His love is love for *sinner*s, for those who have done Him no good whatsoever, and much evil. As such, the life into which He calls His servants is a life of *forgiveness*, that is: a life in which we receive forgiveness for our sins in the Word and worship of His salvation, and in which we ourselves forgive those who have done us wrong.

As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, the holy Apostle Paul writes, *put on compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so also you.*

Colossians 3:12-13

To live this life of *forgiveness* is to live out the reality of our salvation; it is *as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved,* that we are called to live it, *as the Lord has forgiven you.* To refuse it is to refuse the salvation by which we are *God's chosen ones, holy and beloved.*

It is, however, only *if one has a complaint against another* that forgiveness comes into play at all, that is: only if someone actually has done us wrong; not whenever we think that somebody *might* have, or when it is only our *perception* that somebody did wrong, because of our ignorance and unwillingness to look into things. In such cases we have no reason, even, to forgive; consider, then, what great evil it is to hate and harbour hard feelings when no wrong has actually been done to you, except in your own imagination!

Something else comes before forgiveness - in our life with others, that is, unlike in our life with God, where forgiveness always comes before everything else! - namely compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, patience, and bearing with one another; or in other words: *love.*

As we live in the love of God, His love lives in us, by His Word of love. And His love will work in us that which He requires of us: compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, patience, and bearing with one another. For love affects not only how you feel about others, but also how you think about the things they do! It makes us to see beyond the inconvenience others cause us, and irritation and annoyance, so as to see instead that they, like we, are *God's chosen ones, holy and beloved,* and that this means much more than our inconvenience and annoyance.

Indeed, *love covers a multitude of sins,* as the holy Apostle Peter writes it.

1 Pet 4:8

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, political chaos and oppression at home and abroad, war, and other current threats to the peace of the world, the freedom of the Church of Christ, and the general well-being of people here and everywhere.

LWML Spring Workshop at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Powell on Saturday, April 30, beginning at 9:30 am. All ladies of the congregation, of all ages, are members of the LWML and not only welcome, but also invited and encouraged to join us.

Pastor Tinglund shall be gone for a District Pastors' Conference from the afternoon of Sunday, May 8, through Wednesday, May 11. Messages can be left at cell phone 605-228-9216; it may take a while for them to get through, though, since the conference is held at a location where cell phone coverage is dubious.

Dinner at Grace, sponsored by Thrivent, prior to Ascension Worship on Wednesday, May 25, at 6 pm. Pork Loin with mashed potatoes will be served. A free will offering will be taken for our Youth Account.

The Feast for the Ascension of our Lord will be observed at Grace on Wednesday, May 25, at 7 pm.

This is our faith - *from the Lutheran Confessions*

Whenever a friend pays a debt for a friend, the debtor is freed by the merit of another, as though it were by his own. So Christ's merits are given to us so that, when we believe in Him, we may be regarded righteous by our confidence in Christ's merits as though we had merits of our own.

Of the Apology of the Augsburg Confession

Just so we do not forget

What benefits does Baptism give?

It works forgiveness of sins, rescues from death and the devil and gives eternal salvation to all who believe this, as the words and promises of God declare.

Which are these words and promises of God?

Christ our Lord says in the last chapter of Mark: "Whoever believes and is baptised will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned".

How can water work such great things?

Certainly not just water, but the Word of God in and with the water does these things along with the faith which trusts this Word of God in the water. For without God's Word the water is plain water and no Baptism. But with the Word of God it is a Baptism, that is, a life-giving water, rich in grace, and a washing of the new birth in the Holy Spirit, as Saint Paul says in Titus, chapter three: "He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Saviour, so that, having been justified by His grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life. This is a trustworthy saying."

Of the Small Catechism

Birthdays in May

- as known to the editor

May 3rd:

Sandy Cole

May 5th:

Cole Catlyn

Kye Catlin

Nancy Preis

May 24:

Sue Coquil

May 28:

Benjamin Kraft

Anniversaries in May

- as known to the editor

May 20th:

Max and Carrie Mazur

May 26th:

Howard and Carol Gernant

LWML meets at Grace at 7 pm. on the first Monday of February, March, April, November, and December, 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:

Penitence & Prayer Fridays, 7 pm.

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:

Penitence & Prayer Fridays, 7 pm.

Sundays at 8 am.

Bible Study at 9:15 am.

Zion:

Sundays at 10:30 am.

Bible Study at 11:45 am.