**The Monthly Newsletter of Good Shepherd Evangelical Lutheran Church**

**Lindy, Nebraska**

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**The Rod and Staff**



**June 2018**

**“You shall not kill.”**

**The Ten Commandments: The Fifth Commandment**

Moving along down the list of the Ten Commandments, we get to number five this month. In the Bible, the commandment prohibiting “killing” apparently does not include capital punishment or lethal force used in legitimate police and military operations. As we have seen in the previous commandment about authority, God gives certain authority to human representatives, and at times this civil authority is called upon to use force for the purpose of maintaining order in the world. For this reason, some translations of the Bible use the word “murder” instead of “kill” in this Fifth Commandment. Whether capital punishment or certain military actions are wise things for governments to engage in is a separate question, but it is simply important for our purposes here to distinguish between such actions and the kind of “killing” described by this Fifth Commandment.

When we hear commandment number five, we might be tempted to pat ourselves on the back. After all, most of us have never been in the situation of physically murdering someone. But as we have discovered with the previous commandments, things aren’t quite so simple. It is good of course that we have never physically murdered anyone, but “killing” has a much broader meaning. Martin Luther summed it up in his *Small Catechism*:

*We should fear and love God so that we do our neighbors no bodily harm nor cause them any suffering, but help and befriend them in every need.*

In this brief explanation and in his lengthier explanation of the Fifth Commandment in his *Large Catechism*, Martin Luther points out that it is not only murder that God prohibits, but rather “everything that may lead to murder.” God knows that the inclinations of our hearts are sinful, and so this commandment against “killing” is meant to serve as “a boundary between good and evil.” Luther goes on to explain: “This spirit of revenge clings to every one of us… God wants us to keep this commandment ever before our eyes as a mirror in which we see ourselves, so that we may be attentive to his will and with hearty confidence and prayer commit to him whatever wrong we suffer… Thus may we learn to calm our anger and have a patient, gentle heart, especially toward those who have given us occasion for anger, namely, our enemies.” The hard pill to swallow is that God prohibits revenge and feelings of revenge. This commandment reveals to all of us our sinful and unclean hearts and need for our Savior Jesus Christ.

We also need to be aware that “killing” has a broad definition. We are commanded to “do our neighbors no bodily harm nor cause them any suffering.” As human beings, we possess the power not only to harm people physically, but also verbally. Our words and actions have the power to tear people down, and this Fifth Commandment applies to those situations as well. Once again, this commandment reveals to us the depths of our sin and need for Jesus Christ and his mercy.

But like other commandments, this one doesn’t end with prohibiting certain activities. Spiritual insight often comes from odd places. My six year old son has recently developed a liking for the superhero Spiderman, and so I have become quite familiar with the story. The young man who became Spiderman, Peter Parker, is told by his uncle Ben Parker that “With great power comes great responsibility.” As human beings, God has given us great power, and as Christians we know of our great responsibility.

I can think of no better way of expressing the last part of Martin Luther’s explanation of this Fifth Commandment: “but help and befriend them in every need.” As people who have been redeemed and reborn as God’s children, God places us in the world and calls upon us to bear witness to his great love for us through our love for others. It is so tempting to lash out in anger and retaliation, but God has “a more excellent way” (1 Corinthians 12) for us to follow. As Luther writes in the *Large Catechism*: “Therefore it is God’s real intention that we should allow no man to suffer harm, but show to everyone kindness and love.” I pray that we as individuals and as a congregation will continue to demonstrate this outward focus of kindness and love, rooted in the undeserved love of Jesus Christ that has been so freely given to us.

* Pr. T. E. Jacobson

**Commemoration of the Saints**

Lutherans do not venerate (pray to) special people called “saints.” Our Lutheran confessional documents speak against that practice. However, those same documents that prohibit the veneration of saints encourage Christian people to look to the lives of significant Christians of the past as a source of encouragement for our lives in the present.



This month, we look at the life of **Justin Martyr**, an early Christian scholar and apologist (someone who defended the truth of the Christian faith). He is commemorated on June 1.

Justin was born in the year 100 AD, about six decades after Jesus’ death and resurrection. Christianity was still a minority religion in the Roman Empire, and Christians of his time were often viewed with suspicion. After he became a Christian, Justin sought to explain to skeptics that Christians were no threat to society, contrary to rumors that had been circulating. He explained that the Christian faith is compatible with Greek philosophy, though Christians would not compromise their faith by worshipping the emperor or other false gods. He is known as “martyr” because he was killed in 165 AD after refusing to offer sacrifices to false gods. He said, “"No one who is rightly minded turns from true belief to false."

* Pr. T. E. Jacobson

**Worship Schedule**

**June 3:** Second Sunday after Pentecost with Holy Communion (altar rail) (Green)

**June 10:** Third Sunday after Pentecost (Green)

**June 17:** Fourth Sunday after Pentecost (Green) (No Communion, Alliyah Greaver, NALC seminary student presiding)

**June 24:** Fifth Sunday after Pentecost (Green)

**Featured Hymn for June 2018**

***I’m a Pilgrim, and I’m a Stranger***

*Lutheran Hymnal for Church and Home, 251*

1. I’m a pilgrim, and I’m a stranger. I can tarry; I can tarry but a night, do not detain me for I am going to where the fountain is ever flowing. I’m a pilgrim, and I’m a stranger. I can tarry, I can tarry but a night.
2. There the glory is ever shining; O my longing heart, my longing heart is there. Here in this country so dark and dreary I long have wandered forlorn and weary. I’m a pilgrim and I’m a stranger, I can tarry, I can tarry but a night.
3. Of the city to which I’m going, my Redeemer, my Redeemer is the light. There is no sorrow nor any sighing, nor any sinning, nor any dying. Of the city to which I’m going, my Redeemer, my Redeemer is the light.
* Text: Mary Stanley B. D. Shindler, 1810-1883
* Tune: Oskar Ahnfelt, 1813-1882

*Note: This text by an American became popular in Scandinavia. Ahnfelt’s tune made it popular there, as well as among Scandinavian Americans.*

**Monthly Watchword for June 2018**

“Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares.”

* Hebrews 13:2 ESV

**Ushers for June:**

* Head Ushers:
	+ Lacey Barger
* Ushers:
	+ Richard and Phyllis Beckmann
	+ Jerry and Sandy Ziegler
	+ Dennis and Judy Friedrichsen
	+ Trenton Guenther
	+ Makenna Guenther

**For Further Information on LCMC and the NALC:** You can download and read the newsletters of both organizations at the following addresses:

* **http://www.lcmc.net/newsletters**
* **http://thenalc.org/newsletter/**

**Website:** The web address is as follows:

* **www.gselclindy.weebly.com**

**“A Christian person is the most free lord of all, and subject to none; a Christian person is the most dutiful servant of all, and subject to everyone.”**

***– Martin Luther “The Freedom of a Christian Person”***

**From Martin Luther’s Small Catechism:**

**The Ten Commandments: The Conclusion**

*What does God declare concerning all these commandments?*

*He says: I the Lord your God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and fourth generations of those who hate me, but showing steadfast love to thousands of those who love me and keep my commandments (Exodus 20:5b-6 ESV).*

*What does this mean?*

*God threatens to punish all who violate these commandments. We should, therefore, fear his anger and in no way disobey them. But God promises grace and every blessing to all who keep these commandments. We should, therefore, love him, trust in him, and gladly keep his commandments.*

**Birthdays for June**

*Note: This list of birthdays is a work in progress, as we are currently trying to gather membership information from the old congregational record into an electronic form. If your name is not listed in the appropriate month, please let pastor know your birthday so that it can be added in the future. If you would not like your name to be listed, simply let pastor know. The birthdays are provided here as a way of giving thanks for the lives of members of the congregation. Happy birthday to all!*

* June 16: Makenna Guenther
* June 24: Christine Eisenhauer
* June 28: Bonnie Paulsen

**Baptismal Anniversaries for June**

*Note: Just as it is important to acknowledge the beginning of our earthly lives with our birthdays, it is even more important for us as Christians to remember the day when God has given us a new birthday, a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead (1 Peter 1:3). Lutherans confess that baptism is the means by which God gives us as a part of sinful humanity a new relationship with him, a promise that our faith can look to all our lives. In turn, we are called to a life of repentance and faith that trusts in Christ as our salvation. As with the birthdays, this list is a work in progress. Blessed baptismal anniversaries to everyone!*

* June 4: Roger Guenther
* June 15: Alice Carlow
* June 19: Dennis Friedrichsen
* June 21: Lavonne Kolterman
* June 21: Nolan Poppe
* June 25: Donna Nielsen

**Other News**

* The annual ice cream social is planned this year for the last Sunday of July, July 29.
* Looking ahead to the end of summer and the beginning of the fall, there will be an introductory meeting for new confirmation students and parents on Wednesday August 29 at 7:00 PM. New seventh grade students are welcome as well as older students who have not yet begun confirmation instruction. Confirmation class will begin the following week, September 5 at 5:00 PM to 6:30 PM.
* Have a blessed and safe summer season!

**June 2018**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|  |   |   |   |  | 1 | 2 |
| 3Worship, 10:30 with Holy Communion (altar rail)Green | 4 | 5 | 6Pr. Tom in Lindy | 7 | 8 | 9 |
| 10Worship, 10:30Green | 11 | 12 | 13Pr. Tom awayChurch council meeting, 7:00 PM | 14 | 15 | 16 |
| 17Worship, 10:30Pr. Tom awayAlliyah Greaver, NALC seminary student presidingNo Holy CommunionGreen | 18 | 19 | 20Pr. Tom in LindyWomen’s meeting, 10:00 AM | 21 | 22 | 23 |
| 24Worship, 10:30Green | 25 | 26 | 27 28 29 30 Pr. Tom in Lindy |
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Good Shepherd Evangelical

Lutheran Church of Lindy

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