

Christ Lutheran Church

127 N. Spring St., Klamath Falls, OR 97601
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June 2017

The Fifth Commandment

You shall not kill.

Catechism Explanation

We should fear and love God, so that we do no bodily harm to our neighbor, but help and befriend him in every need.

All too often in the news, we see mug shots of those accused of murder. We recognize this as a very serious offense against society. Moreover it offends God, as murder robs a person of His precious gift of life. God gives government the right to punish murder by the death penalty: *"Whoever sheds man's blood, by man his blood shall be shed; for in the image of God He made man"* (Genesis 9:6; see also Romans 13:4).

The number of people convicted of murder in our court system is relatively small. But God's Commandment also condemns all who take human life "legally" with sins like abortion and assisted suicide. God creates human life – body and soul – from the beginning. Each soul is conceived in sin, and is one for whom Jesus died to win eternal life (Psalm 51:5; 139:13-16; Romans 5:12-21). It is no small matter to kill that life God values so dearly. To the very end of life, man is not to play god with a "right to die" attitude. God alone reserves the right to take life: *"There is no God besides Me; I kill and I make alive"* (Deuteronomy 32:39).

But the Fifth Commandment addresses a far broader group than those who sin outwardly. Jesus applied it to inner thoughts and attitudes: *"For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders"* (Matthew 15:19); *"Whoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment"* (Matthew 5:22). And 1 John 3:15 says: *"Whoever hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him."* This definition of murder convicts every one of us who has failed to love another human rightly in our heart!

Not only does the Commandment condemn sins of commission (What we do wrong), but also sins of omission (What we do not do right). It includes all we

have done to show disregard for God's gift of life – by hurtful behavior, endangering life through reckless driving, drug and alcohol abuse, and ill treatment of our own health, etc. It includes every way we have failed to love our neighbor as ourselves and help someone in need (even an enemy), as Jesus taught in the case of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:27-37).

Once again, we can thank God that our salvation and eternal life does not depend on our obedience to this Commandment or any other. It depends on God's gift in Christ: *"For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus"* (Romans 3:23-24).

The only one who always kept this commandment is Jesus – the holy Son of God, who was conceived and born in our flesh without sin. In His every thought, word, and deed, He loved perfectly. He *"went around doing good"* (Acts 10:38) – healing the sick, helping the needy, and showing kindness to all.

But above all, He showed the unfathomable love of God for us fallen sinners, by offering His innocent life on the cross as the sacrifice for our salvation. He took the guilt and punishment of all our sinful thoughts, words, and deeds on Himself. On the cross, He prayed in love for those who hurt and hated Him: *"Father, forgive them"* (Luke 23:34). Therefore in Christ, God forgives us all our sins and counts us righteous.

When we take to heart His great love for us, it moves us to regard His gift of all human life in a new way – to sing in the words of the hymn (*"O God of Mercy"*):

*Teach us the lesson Thou hast taught:
To feel for those Thy blood hath bought,
That ev'ry word and deed and thought
May work a work for Thee.*

*All are redeemed, both far and wide,
Since Thou, O Lord, for all hast died;
Then teach us, whatsoe'er betide,
To love them all in Thee.*

In Christ,
Pastor Glenn Smith

The Miracle of Faith in Jesus

(A newsletter of our Evangelical Lutheran Synod's Board for Home Outreach)

“That sounds too easy. Are you really saying that if I believe that Jesus died for me, my sins are forgiven? That’s just too easy.” Faith in Jesus seems easy, but it is the most difficult thing in the world. In fact, faith is a miracle.

Faith is a miracle because it is contrary to our nature. We naturally do the opposite of what God commands. Just think. What is easier: to do the right thing or the wrong? God says, “Believe in Jesus.” Our sinful nature says, “No way!”

Faith is a miracle because it is a trust in someone else. We want to save ourselves. We expect God to judge us according to our performance. If He were to do that, we would all be in hell. We have failed to keep His law. Faith trusts that our salvation is based on Jesus’ performance. He kept God’s law perfectly. He suffered the punishment that our sins deserve. We trust His work, not ours.

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wrong? God says,
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Faith is a miracle because only the Holy Spirit can create it. “No one can say that Jesus is Lord except by the Holy Spirit” (I Corinthians 12:3). We are spiritually dead. Just as a dead battery cannot recharge itself, neither can we give spiritual life to ourselves. We need someone to help us in our desperation. We need the Holy Spirit to give us life. That is what He does when He creates faith in Jesus.

Sound too easy? Thank God for the gift of the Holy Spirit and the miracle of faith in Jesus. Join us for worship and grow in your understanding of all that Jesus has done to save you.



Evangelical Lutheran Synod 2017 Convention June 18-22

Watch live at els.org/2017convention

- 500th Anniversary of the Reformation
- 100th Anniversary of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod

June 2017 Christ Lutheran Church

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p><i>“Because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying out, ‘Abba, Father!’” (Galatians 4:6)</i></p>				1	2 Jesus Cares Ministry 2:00 PM	3
<p>4 <i>Pentecost</i></p> <p>Worship with Communion 9:30 AM Sunday School & Bible Class 10:45 AM Worship at Crystal Terrace 1:00 PM</p>	5	6 <i>Happy Birthday Ashlyn Smith</i>	7	8	9 <i>Happy Birthday Kelly Ruiz</i>	10
<p>11 <i>Holy Trinity</i></p> <p>Worship with Communion 9:30 AM Sunday School & Bible Class 10:45 AM Worship at Crystal Terrace 1:00 PM</p>	12	13	14	15	16	17 <i>Happy Anniversary Pastor & Maria Smith</i>
<p>18 <i>Pentecost 2 Father's Day</i></p> <p>Worship 9:30 AM</p> <p><i>Happy Birthday Margaret Howard</i></p>	19	20	21 <i>Happy Birthday Barbara Walker</i>	22 <i>Happy Anniversary Randy & Jackie Bednar</i>	23	24
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> Evangelical Lutheran Synod Convention – Mankato, MN </div>						
<p>25 <i>Pentecost 3</i></p> <p>Worship 9:30 AM Worship at Crystal Terrace 1:00 PM</p>	26	27	28	29	30 <i>Happy Birthday Nicole Banta</i> <i>Happy Birthday Dale Hauck</i>	

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