

Trinity Tidings

May 2024

Trinity Lutheran Church and School

I recently came across an “older” article about selfies. For those of you that might not know what a selfie is, it is where a person or group use a cell phone or other device to take a picture of themselves (often in a mirror – unfortunately often in a restroom) so that they can post it on Facebook or Instagram or Snapchat or some such social media. While it is often a fun way to get a picture when other methods might not be available, I often find this practice a bit silly and often simply ridiculous. This little article shined a new light on the practice. According to the author, the dramatic rise in the occurrence of selfies (and social media in general) has brought about a rise in the demand for plastic surgery, especially among young people. It seems that placed under the microscope of the selfie, they are dissatisfied with how they look, how they present themselves to others. So the natural conclusion to this problem is to undergo a superficial fix.

This got me thinking about how incredibly focused we are on self. The thought process that, I am so important that I need to be the center of attention. That attention must be positive so I’m willing to do whatever I can to make it that way. Unfortunately, in our “selfie world”, we take no time to figure out what is truly at the heart of the problem here. We will never be all that we want to be or think we deserve to be, regardless of how hard we might try to make ourselves that way! It is only when we are brought into the truth of this reality that we can let go of the “selfie” mentality and receive that which God has intended for us all along...to actually be made perfect in Christ. No superficial fix here but wholly and totally made new. This is what He bought and paid for us on the cross. Through faith we are made so that we might show fervent love to those around us. So when we are looked upon by others, it is Him that they see in us.

We also have a tendency to have a “selfie” mentality when it comes to the church. We want to make things look good so that people will see us and want to come and look upon us more. While it isn’t a bad thing to want to look good, we haven’t been called to just sit and wait. We have been called to go, blemishes and all, to connect with those around us so that they too might know the freedom of being a sinful, imperfect creature made perfect by the blood of the Lamb.

I pray that you will consider how you might begin to reach out in faith and connect to those around you. Be vulnerable, let them see who you really are so they might see who He really is.

God’s Blessings,
Pastor Todd

NEWSLETTER HIGHLIGHTS

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Please join us for the

Ordination

of Drew Oswald
to the Office of the Holy Ministry



Sunday June 9th, 2024 at 2:00 PM

Trinity Lutheran Church

508 Jackson St., Madison, Nebraska

Reception to follow

LCMS clergy are invited to attend and vest in red.

Round Banquet Tables

Trinity is buying new round tables to replace the wobbly ones we have in the Fellowship Hall. If anyone is willing to buy, and donate one to the church, the approximate cost is about \$260.

More Than a Negative

Even if you've never had to testify in court, a thousand TV shows have made you familiar with the question, "Do you swear to tell the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth?" Why not just make people swear to tell the truth? Or make them promise not to lie?

Any parent who has ever had to interrogate a child about a broken cookie jar or a scuffle over a toy knows the answer. There are plenty of ways to try to get out of trouble without technically lying. You tell just enough of the truth to skate on by.

We often play the game of seeing how close we can get to sinning without technically going over the line.

But in our heart of hearts we know that this is not what God intended when He gave us the commandments. He's not giving us a merely negative rule and challenging us to just barely stay away from this or that. There is much more to each commandment than a prohibition. We shouldn't just avoid murdering people — we should be of service to our neighbor. For each negative prohibition in the commandments there is a positive good that we are to cherish and protect. In the Eighth Commandment, that gift is the reputation of our neighbor and our relationship with him:

You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.

What does this mean? We should fear and love God so that we do not tell lies about our neighbor, betray him, slander him, or hurt his reputation, but defend him, speak well of him, and explain everything in the kindest way.

Your relationship with your family members (who are your nearest neighbors), the other members of your congregation, your coworkers and your friends is one of the most precious gifts you have been given. You need to exercise good stewardship with this gift just as much as you need to exercise good stewardship with your life, resources, time and income. This is an especially fragile gift because it's easy to ruin a relationship with slander and talking behind someone's back.

But speaking well of your neighbor in Christian love is absolutely free; it costs you nothing, yet it pays you great dividends. If you find this challenging at times, if you are tempted to speak ill of others, just remember that this other person is also a beloved child of God for whom your Lord Jesus suffered and died. Your Lord Jesus loves you both.

"What does the LORD your God ask of you but to fear the LORD your God, to walk in all his ways, to love him to serve the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul, and to observe the LORD's commands." Deuteronomy 10:12



May 2	Brooklynne Flynn, Jamie Stuckwisch
May 6	Kyle Knapp, Diane Koenig, Regan Kucera
May 7	Doug Rumsey
May 9	Shelley Freudenburg, Melinda Spray
May 10	Sue Went
May 11	Carol Zessin
May 12	Konner Kasik
May 14	Glen White
May 16	Zack Nykodym
May 17	Hunter Gall, Baylea Hendren, Jennifer Nykodym
May 18	Joe Orlowski
May 19	Daniel Freudenburg, Don Knapp, Blanca Sanchez
May 20	Bonnie Wetjen
May 21	Haley Dittberner, Kaitlyn Millan Michael Reeves
May 23	Cooper Evan Ambrose, Shakiera Gronenthal
May 24	Riley Jurgens
May 25	Mark Rakowsky
May 28	Donna Knapp
May 29	April Rutten
May 31	Aleeya Hightree, Erin Romero



May Baptism Anniversaries

May 1	Sharon Deets, Brooklynne Flynn, Karen Knapp
May 5	Collin Schroeder
May 6	Teresa Ganskow
May 7	Steve Hintz
May 9	Ryan Kollbaum, Chyrel Remmers, Roger Schlender
May 10	Sue Went
May 12	Chris Koenig
May 13	Lareesa Greunke, Stephanie Scott
May 14	Betty Uttecht
May 16	Kristy Knapp
May 19	Jason Ambrose, Carol Zessin
May 22	Jacob Kittle, Jr.
May 23	Anthony Bartak, Katelyn Bartak, Kelsey Bartak, Zachary Bartak
May 24	Riley Jurgens
May 26	Diane Koenig, Blanca Sanchez
May 27	Ron Deets, Jennifer Nykodym
May 29	Lynton Cattau



May Wedding Anniversaries

Al & May Sorensen May 1, 1982
 Sean & Heather Drahota May 8, 1999
 Lyle & Sue Jurgens May 22, 1976

May Volunteers

Elders on Duty

Ryan Kollbaum
Don Knapp

Scripture Readers

5	Regan Kucera
12	Brenda Oswald
19	Brian Oswald
26	Merlin Oswald
June 2	Sharon Wright

Greeters

May	Mark & Shelley Freudenburg Arland Claus
June	Lyle & Sue Jurgens Don & Donna Knapp

Countryside Home Volunteers

5	Al & Mary Sorensen
12	Margo Dawson
19	Merlin & Ruth Oswald
26	Lyle & Sue Jurgens
June 2	Al & Mary Sorensen

Screen Team

4	Pam Busteed
5	Sharon Wright
11	Sheila Koss
12	Lareesa Greunke
18	Pam Busteed
19	Sharon Wright
25	Sheila Koss
26	Pam Busteed
June 1	Vicky Demmel
June 2	Lareesa Greunke

Altar Guild Servants

May	Brenda Oswald/Pam Busteed
June	Marilyn Ray/Charlie Rakowsky

Church Lawn Mowing Schedule

May 1-7	Brian Oswald
May 8-14	Tom Borchers
May 15-21	Dan Albus
May 22-28	Larry Sjuts
May 29-4	Doug Rumsey
June 5-11	Al Demmel

