

# 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

Message from Pastor \*

Ordination of Drew Oswald \*

Ladies Aid Minutes \*

Round Banquet Tables \*

More Than a Negative \*

Birthdays, Anniversaries, Baptisms \*

Volunteers \*

Calendar

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## Trinity Tidings

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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

### ***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

### ***Greeters***

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

### ***Altar Guild Servants***

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

### ***Countryside Home Volunteers***

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

### ***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

