



Special points of interest:

1942—2017

Alpine Lutheran
Celebrates

75 Years

In service to God

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Monday, December 4, 2017

Volume 44, Issue 23

From the Pastor's Desk:

What Child Is This?

In 1865, an Englishman named William Chatterton Dix penned the words to a poem entitled "The Manger Throne." A few years later the first three stanzas of that poem were set to the music of an English traditional folk song called "Greensleeves" that soon became known as the beloved Christmas carol "What Child Is This?" This combination of poetry and music first was published in the United Kingdom in 1871 as a new song when it debuted in a prestigious compilation of Christmas music called Christmas Carols Old and New. For close to a century and a half the question found in the title of this carol has become an annual reminder that something significant happened on that night in Bethlehem as someone significant lay wrapped in swaddling clothes in a manger. This child would change the world forever; but what child is this?

The title of the carol, "What Child Is This?", is intended to be the primary question the shepherds must have asked on the night they visited the baby Jesus. After their angelic encounter and receiving the startling news while they tended their sheep on the outskirts of Bethlehem, their heads must have been spinning rapidly. They tried to comprehend all they experienced on that first Christmas night.

While at times the shepherds in the Christmas story have been labeled as the ones who were a bit rough around the edges and living on the lowest rung of society's ladder, Jesus describes Himself as being a shepherd who has great responsibility. There is no greater responsibility than holding the life of another in the control of one's own hands. Protecting the life of others was the responsibility and calling of the shepherd.

What child is this?

He is the one who came to lay down His life.

He is the one who came to provide for and protect His flock.

He is the one blessed beyond measure with ones He would call His own and who would come to know His voice.

He is the one who is the good shepherd.

His name is Jesus, the baby wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in the manger, just as the angel said he would be. Now go and tell everyone what has been heard, seen and experienced concerning who this child is, just as the shepherds did on that first Christmas in Bethlehem. What child is this?

Join us throughout Advent as we try and recapture the wonder and awe of Christmas by focusing on some of those very first reactions people had of Jesus and how that first Christmas changed their lives.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Attendance 11/12/17	129	Attendance 11/19/17	70 + 53	123
Thanksgiving Worship	54 + 71	Attendance 11/26/17	81 + 41	122

Required total receipts weekly.....\$8,452.92

Gen Fund 11/12/17	\$5,127.50	Gen Fund 11/19/17	\$3,769.75	Gen Fund 11/26/17	\$4,223.75
Forward in Faith	\$2,751.50	Forward in Faith	\$1,258.00	Forward in Faith	\$1,638.00
Surplus/Deficit	-\$573.92	Surplus/Deficit	-\$3,425.17	Surplus/Deficit	-\$2,591.17

53/54 Week.....\$545.00	Unexpected Blessings....\$60.00	Festival.....\$663.00
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Surplus/Deficit YTD..... -\$16,534.36 (10/31/17)

Pray for Alpine members:

Liz Bertolotto, Rick Bried, Pat Christiansen, Richard & Nancy Ewert, Doris Fransen, Marybeth Gillette, Rich & Jan Hill, Louise Hemenway, Alyce Krusemeier, Les Johnson, Peggy Lillegaard, Norma Lucas, Marguerite Lusth, Barbara Nelson, Irene Northrup, Ron Pauly, Gerry Perala, Betty Peterson, Bob (Sue) Peterson, and Donna Steele.

Pray for our friends and family of Alpine:

Steve Abbott, Kim Braun, Linda Carter, Jim Coffman, Linda Conness, Jerome Gill, Daniel Hendrickson, Pr. Woody Knutson, Kathleen Lovins, Carter & Kamden Lovitt, Maryann Moorhouse, Carol Nelson, Leslie Olson, Aileen Petersen, Tom Rogers, Jim & Joann Salter, Bob Schult, Penny Wendling, Nora, Sophia, Rett, Tripp & Liz.

All In the Family

Birthday thanks came in from **Carla Phillips** and **Irv Johnson**. Congratulations and God's blessings on the marriage of **Lucas & Samantha (Holen) Hier**. They were married at Alpine November 18th. **Chuck Gentry** sends a special thanks for all of the prayers he continues to receive. **Richard Hill** would like to thank everyone for the flowers, cards, and visits while he was at Van Matre. **Ruth Lindgren** expressed her deepest thanks for the flowers and many kindnesses shown during her recent illness.

Worship Schedule :

Our Sunday worship service times are **8 & 10:00 AM**. Children's Church will continue to meet during the 10:00 AM worship service.

Bible Studies :

- * Tuesday Men's Breakfast Bible Study at 6:45 am at Sunrise Restaurant
- * Wednesday Morning Bible Study at 10 am, Conference Room

Adult Forums: Meet between services on the 1st Sunday of every month. A light breakfast will be served. We will break for summer and resume in October.

To reach Pastor Dan after office hours, you may call 815-399-5487. Please leave a message and he will respond as soon as possible. Thank you.

Praying weekly for Alpine's membership has had a very positive effect on our church! We have had many positive and thankful responses from those we have been praying for. The benefits are so great that we have decided to make this an ongoing part of Alpine's church life. Some comments we've received are "power of prayer - it works!", "just what we needed", and loads of thanks! Even though we are praying for a few families each week, please call Pastor Dan whenever the need arises for extra prayers you may have.

Together we worship, together we pray, together we love.

Here are the members for the next few weeks.

Dec. 10th— Pr. Dan & Pr. Lucy Wynard; Tina Beaugard; Janice Bergstrom; Rev. Jeffery Clements, Bishop of NIL Synod; and Rev. Elizabeth Eaton, Presiding Bishop ELCA.

Dec. 17th — Bill & Diane Billert; Diana Sundeen; Taylor Boustead; Dave Blascoe; and Tim & JoAnn Christiansen.



Saturday, December 9th—Bake Sale drop off,
Sunday, December 10th—**2nd Sunday of Advent**, Humungous Bake Sale, after worship services
Saturday, December 16th—Cantata rehearsal, 9 AM
Sunday, December 17th—**3rd Sunday of Advent**, Christmas Cantata "And It Came to Pass Emmanuel" @ 10 AM Worship
Tuesday, December 19th—Alpine Academy Christmas Program, Gym, 6:00 PM

(cont. next column)

Sunday, December 24th—**4th Sunday of Advent**, ONE SERVICE @ 10 AM

Sunday, December 24th—**Christmas Eve Worship**, 3 & 10 PM



Second Sunday Youth Worship @ Katie's Cup. All high school youth are encouraged to attend. To stay up-to-date on Second Sunday things, be sure to like Second Sunday Rockford on Facebook and follow @secondsundayrockford on Instagram.

Sunday, December 3rd was the **1st Sunday of Advent**. The Worship & Music Committee has chosen the Advent devotional "Oh Holy Night" by Sarah A. Reinhard. This is a devotional book with activities designed to bring us together as we prepare for the coming of Christ. Please take home one book per family to start.

Social Ministries continues collecting for the **Holiday Food Baskets**. All items need to be collected by Thursday, December 14th. A list of items needed is on the barrel. As always, money to purchase the foods can also be donated. Please make a notation for the baskets on your check. We thank you again for your generosity in helping others. (Social Ministry)

A special **thank you** goes out to **Boy Scout Troop 57** for collecting and donating several of the food items for the Holiday Baskets. Your efforts to help others is very much appreciated.

From the SCRIP Desk:

As you know the holiday season is upon on us and hopefully you have stocked up on your favorite scrip cards - if not you should stock up now. To guarantee that your order of SCRIP cards will arrive before Christmas please have them ordered by December 10. There will be an order placed on December 17 but I will not guarantee they will arrive by Christmas. Don't forget to get your low denominational SCRIP cards before they are gone they are listed on your limited time offers on the back of your SCRIP order form. (Deb Geeser)

KEEP CALM...SHOP SCRIP

Please take Note: The Boy Scouts have asked that we not park in front of the 2 door garage on Sunday mornings. Many times they need to either get their trailer out or put it back in the garage and they have to wait until the cars are moved to do so. Thank you.

Carpenter's Place is in need of warm winter boots for their patrons. The most commonly requested sizes are men's and women's, 9-12 but all sizes are welcome. Donations can be dropped off at Carpenter's Place, 8:30am - 4:30pm, Monday through Friday.



The Alpine Lutheran C & E Choir invites you Sunday, **December 17th**, to our **Christmas Cantata**. "And It Came to Pass Emmanuel", by Jay Rouse and Rose Aspinall. This year, as we did last year, our C & E Choir will perform their special presentation at the **10 AM worship service**. Come and enjoy the music as we prepare for the coming of our Lord and Savior. Please invite your friends, family and neighbors to this wonderful musical celebration.

(We will still have an 8 AM worship service that day)

Altar Guild has put up the **2018 Flower and Eternal Candle dedication charts**. Remember your loved ones or celebrate and honor a person in your life or special occasion. The flower sponsorship is \$20 a week; the eternal candle sponsorship is \$10 per month. All money collected help us defer the cost for these bills. (Laurel McVinnie)

It's a Christmas Card Blizzard! The Alpine Connections committee will be making available a list of Shut-ins and others who might enjoy Christmas greetings from their friends at Alpine. If you know of someone who might also appreciate a "blizzard" of cards, ask Lynn or any Connections committee member to add the name and address to our list. Use your extra cards to brighten some one's day. Need a few more cards to send? There are some available on the Care & Concern counter for a \$.25 donation which will go to Pastor's India trip in February. (DiAnne Beynon, Louise Dorris, Pam Hodges, Pr. Pam Lojewski & Ardy Stevens)

75 Anniversary Raffle Results:

- 1st prize Diamond Ring: Nancy Lorenson
- 2nd prize 2016 Chicago Cubs World Series Poster : Pam Graney
- 3rd Prize \$200 Gift Certificate from Country Side Meats: Kathy Mund

A special thank you to 2 more people who helped with our 75th Anniversary Dinner; Violet Peterson, for her wonderful cupcakes; and Scott Dabson, for driving the van for those who needed a ride to or from. (Deb Okeson and Barb Shelton, Retired Co-Chairs)



Alpine Academy
of Rockford
Faith • Family • Future

Advent is upon us. Students are preparing for the birth of Jesus and our school is being decorated for Christmas. We thank Preston and Pressley's father Steve Strasser for putting Christmas lights on our large evergreen and for placing a huge, lit wreath on the side of the gym. He has been doing this for many years and it always makes the school look festive.

We thank Cathy Merwin and all of her helpers for the delicious Thanksgiving feast on the Tuesday before Thanksgiving. Many parents and congregation members participated in the feast. We asked for congregation help and many volunteered. Thank you for coming to help at the Feast. And, thank you to the parents who provided many of the side dishes for the meal.

Now we look forward to our Christmas program. It will be on Tuesday, Dec. 19 at 6:00. It has been a short time of practice, just a month, to prepare a large Christmas program. The Veteran's Day program was very well done and the students practiced from the middle of August through Nov. 9 for that program. We look forward to Miss Martinez Christmas program with only 4 weeks preparation. I believe that it will be just as wonderful as the Veteran's Day Celebration. We invite you all to attend.

When you see Scott Dabson, congratulate him on being hired by Rockford Lutheran Schools to work on outreach for all of the feeder schools to the High School. He still remains a big part of Alpine Academy, working on Outreach, Marketing, and Technology, but he will use the remainder of his time helping with St. Paul, Concordia, and Rockford Lutheran Academy. If he can help us all to grow, bringing in new students to strong academics and Christ, than the entire community is better.

Have a wonderful Advent.
In Christ,
Bob McVinnie, Principal

Alpine Academy of Rockford

In partnership with Alpine Lutheran Church

Give your child the gift of a quality education
that enriches the lives, spirits, and minds
in a safe environment.

815-227-8894

Humungous Christmas Bake Sale: The Alpine Connections Committee is holding a fundraiser Sunday, December 10th for Pastor Dan's India Trip in February. Wouldn't it be nice to have many special treats for your holiday gatherings without having to bake? Stop after worship and purchase all you need; don't forget your own for while you are wrapping all your presents.

***A special note for the bake sale.** Harriet will be making her 3-tier sandwiches (egg salad, tuna salad & cream cheese). Call to reserve your order; \$5 each; 399-8494.

You are invited to attend the **Alpine Academy Christmas Program** on Tuesday, December 19th, at 6:15 PM in the gym. Come and show your support to our Academy students as they prepare for this blessed season.

Altar Guild is collecting orders for the **Christmas Poinsettias**. Remember your loved ones who have passed or celebrate an event as we decorate the altar with these flowers. The cost will be \$12 per plant (red only). Order envelopes will be on the kiosk in the narthex. All orders need to be turned in **by Sunday, December 10th**. (Laurel McVinnie)

Calling all those who are musically inclined! Both of our choirs, the Chancel Choir and the Hand Bell Choir are in need of additional members. We especially need people during the winter months when a portion of our choirs "fly south." Please see Richard Dowling or just come to our rehearsals. Both choirs meet on Tuesday evenings, Hand Bell Choir meets at 6 PM and Chancel Choir meets at 7:15 PM. (Richard Dowling)

Our Turn Now

The 2018 pledge cards were mailed out in November; extras are on the Care & Concern counter in the narthex. You may mail your cards in, put them in the offering or drop them off in the church office. We can not stress enough how important it is that you fill out both sides of the card including your name and envelope number (located after your name on the address label). As we gather these financial pledges we are able to begin the process of planning finances for 2018. Please prayerfully consider your giving to Alpine. We thank you for your support of Alpine both financially and spiritually. (The Finance & Stewardship Committee)

Christmas Eve Assistants & Ushers needed: We need volunteers to usher at both worship services on Christmas Eve, 3 & 10 PM.

Let's fill the Mitten Tree! The Altar Guild has set up a tree in the entryway by the front door, in the vestibule. Please bring in mittens, hats and scarves, hand made or purchased, and place them on the tree. All items will be collected through out the month and then donated to the Salvation Army to warm those less fortunate than ourselves. So many people in the Rockford area need something warm to wear for the winter. Share the warmth of the season with others! (Laurel McVinnie)



THE BOOK CLUB WILL NOT MEET THE MONTH OF DECEMBER. Katie's Cup hosts the **Katie's Choice Book Club** every **2nd Thursday of the month at 10 AM**. No reservations are necessary, just bring your copy of the book and join in the discussion. All are welcome. Come and join us!

With current **HIPAA laws**, the church is not informed by the hospital when you are admitted. Please ask a family member or friend to give the church a call to let us know. Swedish American is the only hospital that makes any calls to churches and that is only when you are admitted by your doctor, not through the emergency room.

ATTENTION SNOWBIRDS:

Please be sure to notify the church office when you will be leaving and coming back from your winter get-aways. The church is charged \$.49 every time a Summit is returned for "Temporarily Away". Please provide a stop & start date so we can get you back on the list when you return. If you have a forwarding address, we can continue to send you your Summit while you are away or you can look for it online.

\$2,042 Received to Date from Thrivent Financial Members so far in 2017 (not including the many Action Team cards we have received and used for events). Thrivent has two opportunities for members to contribute funds to organizations, including Alpine Academy and Alpine Lutheran Church. One is through Thrivent members' allocation of Choice dollars. Another is through their new Action Teams program that can contribute toward the expenses of special events. If you are a Thrivent member through any of their product purchases, would you please let the church office know?



ELCA Federal Credit Union
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

The **ELCA Federal Credit Union** is entering their second year of operation. Throughout the first year as the ELCA's newest financial ministry, they have been helping ELCA members and employees realize significant savings on loans and lines of credit, while offering the full electronic access members expect today. You, as an individual member of the ELCA, are eligible to join our credit union and take advantage of more competitive rates, fewer fees and enhanced services. Credit unions can offer these benefits to members because, as not-for-profit financial cooperatives, we return profits directly to members. In fact, in their first year of operation, they have saved individual members an average of nearly \$1,500 in finance charges over the life of their loans, compared with outside lenders. They are excited about the positive financial impact we're having for our members. To apply for membership—or to learn more about our products and services—visit our website: elcafcu.org or call us toll free at 877-715-1111.



Music on Thursdays . . . on Seventh!

A fall music series at Katie's Cup

December 14:

Trinadora's Holiday Frolic, Jannie Nelson & Ron Holm

Doors open at 6 pm. Concerts begin at 7 pm. Free Admission.

Musicians will have CDs and merchandise for sale.

Katie's Cup full drink and food menu available.



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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Worship Times –
Sun. 8:00
& 10:00 AM

See what Alpine has to
 offer you on the Web!
 alpinelutheran.com

THOSE WHO SERVE

Sun., December 10, 2017

Ushers: (8:00) Chuck Gentry, Glen McDonald,
 Dale Olson, Volunteer
 (10:00) Jack Lucas, Marge Rakoczy, Volunteers
Ambass.: (8:00) Karl & Deb Okeson
 (10:00) John Linde, David Linde
Elements: (8:00) Karl & Deb Okeson
 (10:00) Mark & Christine Stohle
Lector: (8:00) Bob Fanello (10:00) Al Neumann
Lay Assist: (8:00) Bob & Lori Fanello
 (10:00) Zada Gillette, Rashad Hoel
Altar Guild: Kathy Mund, Sarah Neumann
Praise Singers: Ted Croisant, Jaime Doubek, Bob
 McVinnie

Sun., December 17, 2017

Ushers: (8:00) Jim Anderson, Bob Fanello, Bryan
 Garrett, Kathy Mund
 (10:00) Russ Hornbeck, Dick Nelson, Brandon Williams,
 Volunteer
Ambass.: (8:00) Lill Hagen, Ruth Lindgren
 (10:00) Amanda Dabson, Mari Hanson
Elements: (8:00) Matt & Debbie Hier
 (10:00) Amanda Dabson, Mari Hanson
Lector: (8:00) Alan Garrett (10:00) Gwyn Brechtel
Lay Assist: (8:00) Alan Garrett, Glen McDonald
 (10:00) Karen Conti, Lucas Turmo
Altar Guild: Laurel McVinnie, Cary Ralston
Praise Singers: Chuck & Lynn Valentine