



Special points of interest:



Contact:
office@alpinelutheran.com

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From the Pastor's Desk:

Monday, January 8, 2018

Volume 45, Issue 1

Stories are powerful. They capture us heart, mind, and soul. They help us to express our identity and guide us as we travel this often complex and damaging world. Author Robert McKee once said "*Storytelling is the most powerful way to put ideas into the world today.*" These are some of the reasons why the Bible is so filled with stories. It is one of the most important ways that God communicates the truth about both the world and our existence to us. Over the next several weeks at Alpine we will encounter some of the most powerful stories from the life Jesus. We will see how he routinely breaks down barriers, rules, customs, and expectations in order to touch someone's life. Usually to touch them in such a way that their life will be healed, turned upside down, renewed and transformed. Those who are oppressed will be given hope and a new kind of freedom. People who are victimized will discover dignity and purpose. During our Sunday worship celebrations, we will enter into these powerful, life changing stories - and in doing so will encounter the risen Christ.

One of the most powerful stories of Jesus' life was the story of a woman who had been crippled and unable to stand straight up for 18 years. No one notices her. She does not expect or ask Jesus to heal her. She is used to be ignored or looked down upon. But Jesus is different. With no prompting or display of great faith on her part, Jesus notices her. He cuts through the social barriers and speaks. He speaks directly to her and in doing so Jesus relieves her of what ails her. As a result she is able to stand up, bear the burden life has given her, and be recognized as a person. Her life is changed simply because Jesus saw her.

This is a powerful story. It touches us today because many of us can feel and understand what she must have been going through. We can almost taste the hope and joy that must have filled the room when Jesus spoke to her. One of our takeaways from this story is that God does not solve all our problems. Instead God gives us the strength to stand up and live. Just like this women, we carry burdens. Through this story we come to understand that Jesus sees us. No matter how insignificant we feel, the truth is we matter. Our plight matters. And though we pray that Jesus take our burdens away and make our pain disappear - we are confronted with the reality that sometimes this is not what God desires. The taking of our pain away and living in paradise comes when we get to be with Jesus in heaven. In the meantime God blesses us with hope, strength, dignity, and a community of friends that surround us. God helps us to stand up amidst the pain and say what the world offers is not enough. We have something far greater. We have a God who notices and speaks.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Attendance 12/17/17	59 + 113	172	Attendance 12/24/17	85	Christmas Eve	76 + 39
		Attendance 12/31/17	52 + 44	96		

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

Gen Fund 12/17/17	\$6,271.25	Gen Fund 12/24/17	\$3,493.00	Gen Fund 12/31/17	\$2,808.00
Forward in Faith	\$2,376.50	Forward in Faith	\$1,238.00	Forward in Faith	\$725.00
Surplus/Deficit	+\$194.83	Surplus/Deficit	-\$3,720.92	Surplus/Deficit	-\$4,919.92

Unexpected Blessings.....\$8,804.01	53/54 Week.....\$2,714.00	Festival.....\$1,415.00
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Pray for Alpine members:

Pat Anderson, 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, Irene Northrup, Gerry Perala, Betty Peterson, Bob (Sue) Peterson, Sid Robinson 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, Carmen Ianeri, Pr. Woody Knutson, Judy LeGault, Kathleen Lovins, Carol Nelson, Joann Nilsen, 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 **Diane Billert**. The **family of Barbara Nelson** thanks all who have shown love to their family over the years. "God loves you and so do we." Our love and sympathy go out to **Joan Greeny and Joyce Veit** for the loss of their brother.

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.

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.

Jan. 14th— Marge Broquist; Russ & Nancy Hornbeck; Jack & Norma Lucas; Rev. Rick & Helen Meier; and Jerry & Wilma Nichols.

Jan. 21st — The Novaks; Bob & Violet Peterson; Sid & Kathy Robinson; Lisa Robinson; and Carl & Donna Steele.



Saturday, January 13th—Men's Breakfast, Fellowship Hall, 9 AM

Sunday, January 14th—Deadline for Committee reports for Annual Meeting

Monday, January 15th—Martin Luther King Day

Thursday, January 18th—Church Council, Conference Room, 7 PM

Sunday, January 28th—ONE Worship Service, 10 AM

Sunday, January 28th—Annual Meeting with light lunch, 11

Official Notice

The congregation of Alpine Lutheran Church is hereby convened for its annual meeting to take place on Sunday, January 28, 2018 at 11:30 AM. The meeting will include reports and election of members to the church council.



Sunday, January 28th is our Annual Meeting Sunday.

There will only **ONE service at 10:00 AM.** (Please note that the calendar that went out says there are 2 services.) The worship service will be followed by the meeting in Fellowship Hall at 11:30 AM. At the meeting, we will be having elections for the 2018 Church Council as well as going over the financial information from 2017 and the 2018 budget.

Join us for lunch prior to the Annual Meeting on Sunday, January 28th. The Youth are serving a light lunch for a free will offering that will go to costs and youth gathering fund.

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)

From the SCRIP Desk:

The holidays have come and gone and now you need a vacation. Once you decide on what tropical paradise you would like to go to or which cruise line you will take to that paradise place don't forget to check with SCRIP for those vacation SCRIP cards.

SCRIP is able to purchase cruise line gift cards and many hotel gift cards. Contact Deb Geeser to find out if your tropical paradise hotel or cruise line is part of the SCRIP program to make your vacation even more enjoyable. (Deb Geeser)

KEEP CALM...SHOP SCRIP

A new "**Those Who Serve**" schedule has been assembled and is available to be picked up. As in the past, if your email is on file, you were sent the new schedule via email to save on paper and postage costs. All printed copies will be located on the Care & Concern counter in the narthex. Please stop and pick up your copy. (Lynn Valentine)

Sunday Morning Coffee Hour—It's great spending time between services enjoying conversations with other members and visitors. It's especially nice when you can share a bite to eat and a beverage. We need volunteers to provide those snacks. All you need to bring are some treats (purchased or home baked) and a cold beverage. Everything else is provided. We also love to have you celebrate birthdays, anniversaries, or other special occasions with your Alpine family. Just sign up on the poster by the coffee. If you are new to doing this, or if you'd just like some help in serving, please call Ginny Hunt 815-985-2721 or a member of the Alpine Connections Committee. Thank you.

The January issue of "**Living Lutheran**" is here! In this month's cover story, "The path to citizenship", we learn about several ELCA congregations who hold classes and provide support for those wishing to become US citizens. Please pick up a copy to take with you then share it with a friend. Copies can be found on the Care & Concern counter.

Committee Chairpersons: The 2018 Annual Meeting is Sunday, January 28th, and it will be here before we know it. We need all annual reports to be sent to the office by no later than **January 14th.** It would be very helpful if all reports could be in electronic form and in Word format. This makes it easier for me to do any manipulation for printing. If you are unable to submit your report this way, I will understand. Thank you for your quick response in this matter. (Lynn Valentine)

Homebound Communion: Alpine's Visitation Committee has been trained to administer communion to those members who are unable to attend worship due to age or illness. If you know of someone who needs a visit, please let Pastor Dan or the office know so they may add on to the list. Also, if you feel called to join our Visitation Committee please let us know. We are currently needing more volunteers. (Bea Lundgren)

Men's Breakfast will meet on **Saturday, January 13th at 9 AM.** When we are done eating, we will help the Altar Guild take down decorations. Come and enjoy the fellowship and food. (bob McVinnie)



God provides. We must not forget that God provides. We ask God in prayer to provide for the students, families, and staff of Alpine Academy and He provides. He has not made us a wealthy school. Nor, has He caused us to close our doors, as has happened to some area Christian schools these past few years. But, for 20 years He has provided and now we celebrate our 20 year anniversary, this 2017/18 school year. And, we thank God for the love and support that He provides.

God provides by putting into your hearts, the congregation of Alpine Lutheran Church, the desire to support a school built on a foundation of academic proficiency and excellence and wrapped in the arms of Christ's love. We witness the academic progress when a student rises to the challenge of taking on the lessons that are two grades above their peers. We witness Christ's love when our children hug each other in welcome or when we hug them. We smile and we know this is right. We do not punish them for "inappropriate display of affection". We consider a hug to be an appropriate display of affection and we encourage our students to show caring and concern for each other. And, we thank you, the congregation of Alpine Lutheran Church, for your support. We thank you for giving birth to us and for raising us as a mission of the church.

As 2018 begins, we have an enrollment of 94 students. We encourage you to pray for these students and to be their support. We ask for your prayers, your commitment, and your donations. Please check out the new Illinois scholarship program for private and parochial schools with tax benefits for donors through Invest in Kids Act. Donations can be made to Empower Illinois, our chosen SGO, Please see Scott Dabson with any questions regarding this and watch for upcoming meetings on the subject.

We thank you for all that you have done and we wish for you a wonderful 2018.

In Christ,

Bob McVinnie, Principal of Alpine Academy

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



Gifts for the Staff

The **Church Council** of Alpine Lutheran has started a collection for a Christmas bonus for our full-time staff; Pastor Dan, Lynn Valentine, Tim Babcock, and Richard Dowling. If you would like to contribute, all donations can be placed in the offering marked **Staff Christmas** or dropped off at the office. We thank them for all they do for Alpine all year long! (Matt Hier)

A special thank you to the **Tim & JoAnn Christiansen Family** for the beautiful Christmas Tree in our sanctuary. They were also kind enough to do all of the decorating of the tree and arranged the Poinsettia display. All of their hard work made our sanctuary especially beautiful for the season. Altar Guild

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. As we gather these financial pledges we are able to begin the process of planning finances for 2019. Please prayerfully consider your giving to Alpine. We thank you for your support of Alpine both financially and spiritually. (The Finance & Stewardship Committee)

Totals so far are: (total for 2017 was \$328,691)

General \$242,425

Building \$81,036

Total # of pledges received 84

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)

Would you like to receive your Summit via email?

We currently are sending out email reminders to several members of the congregation when a new Summit is posted on our website. If you are currently receiving a paper copy in the mail and would like to switch to our email version, please contact the office. All we need is a current email address. (Lynn Valentine)

Please prayerfully consider volunteering for a ministry at Alpine. It is becoming more and more difficult to complete our "Those Who Serve" schedule especially during our "snow-bird" months. If you are interested in the any of the areas of serving, please contact the church office and we will direct you to the person who heads up each volunteer position. (Lynn Valentine)



Katie's Cup hosts the **Katie's Choice Book Club** every **2nd Thursday of the month at 10 AM**. January's book is "**Britt-Marie Was Here**" by Fredrik Backman. "A heart warming story about a woman rediscovering herself after a personal crisis. . . . Fans of Backman's will find another winner in these pages." —Publishers Weekly No reservations are necessary, just bring your copy of the book and join in the discussion. All are welcome. Come and join us!

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.

With current HIPAA laws, **the church is not informed when you are hospitalized**. Please have a friend or family member notify the church directly. OSF St. Anthony's and Rockford Memorial does not call at all, Swedish American only calls when you are admitted to the hospital through your physician, not the ER. We want to keep in contact with you especially when you are in need of support.



Invest in Kids Applicant Informational Meeting

There will be a meeting on Thursday, January 11th, 6 PM in the sanctuary, for those interested in learning more about applying for scholarships to attend Alpine Academy and other private schools. These scholarships are available as a result of the Invest in Kids Act. The Grater Rockford Area Lutheran Schools have chosen to work with SGO (Scholarship Grant Organization) Empower Illinois. Those wishing to donate to the program are welcome to attend as well. If you have questions or are unable to attend, please contact Scott Dabson, 815-494-3002.



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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., January 14, 2018

Ushers: (8:00) Chuck Gentry, Glen McDonald,
 Dale Olson, Volunteer
 (10:00) Jack Lucas, Marge Rakoczy, Volunteers
Ambass.: (8:00) Bill & Diane Billert
 (10:00) Amanda Dabson, Mari Hanson
Elements: (8:00) Kathy & Eugene Mund
 (10:00) Amanda Dabson, Mari Hanson
Lector: (8:00) Bob Fanello (10:00) Allen Neumann
Lay Assist: (8:00) Bob & Lori Fanello
 (10:00) Dick Nelson, Lucas Turmo
Altar Guild: Kathy Mund, Sarah Neumann
Praise Singers: Ted Croisant, Bob McVinnie

Sun., January 21, 2018

Ushers: (8:00) Jim Anderson, Bob Fanello, Bryan
 Garrett, Kathy Mund
 (10:00) Russ Hornbeck, Dick Nelson, Mike Schultz,
 Brandon Williams
Ambass.: (8:00) Larry & Joni Graham
 (10:00) DiAnne Beynon, Louise Dorris
Elements: (8:00) Matt & Debbie Hier
 (10:00) Mark & Christine Stohle
Lector: (8:00) Gwyn Brechtel (10:00) Lynn Valentine
Lay Assist: (8:00) Alan Garrett, Glen McDonald
 (10:00) Maddie Merwin, Elizabeth Ulrich
Altar Guild: Laurel McVinnie, Cary Ralston
Praise Singers: Chuck & Lynn Valentine