



**Special points of interest:**

Traditional Worship  
8:00AM  
Praise Worship  
10:00 AM

Contact:  
office@alpinelutheran.com

**In this issue:**

2017 Giving Statements	<b>3</b>
Memorial Board updated	<b>3</b>
Shrove Tuesday	<b>4</b>
Katie's Cup Feb. book selection	<b>5</b>

Monday, February 5, 2018

Volume 45, Issue 3

**From the Pastor's Desk:**

It's cold outside! I am sure that is not news to anyone. We have all struggled to stay warm and safe throughout this arctic tundra of a winter (ok not quite like the arctic tundra I am sure, but it sure feels really cold and snowy). As spring hopefully draws near, thoughts of all the winter celebrations are floating through my mind. During each winter we celebrate people (president's day and MLK day), events (New Years, Christmas, Hanukkah, Purim), sports (Superbowl, Daytona 500, Winter Olympics) and of course love (Valentine's day). All these celebrations revolve around love of some sort - love for service, self-sacrifice, for sport, for giving gifts, etc. But it is Valentine's day that we (as a culture) probably most associate with love (even more so than Christmas). We give gifts, and short little valentine's cards. We buy flowers and boxes of chocolates. We go out on dates (or sit home wishing we were on dates) and even our children mark this holiday in their school celebrations.

It is amazing to think about - especially when we consider how distorted our view of love really is. For many, love can be broken down into experiencing an emotion and receiving affirmation. We want that powerful experience of feeling connected to someone while at the same time feeling appreciated, affirmed, and cared for in return. But because we live in a broken, messy world we often fail to be able to adequately give and receive love. Instead we digress into various forms of pleasure seeking, infatuation, and unhealthy addictions to get some sense of intimacy and affirmation. This happens especially when we feel so intensely how the world and the people around us fail to fill the deep holes inside of us with their limited or hoarded forms of love.

In stark contrast is the love that God freely offers us. A love so deep that it enters this world in a dirty unglamorous manger. Love that lives. A love that enters this world in the middle of all its ugliness and messiness with a desire to heal and make whole. A love that sacrifices itself. A love that doesn't judge and require anything in return. A love that, once it enters into our lives, imbues it with passion, care, humility, and grace. A love that changes and transforms. A love that spreads from person to person. A love that can at times be scary. A love that burns away the bitterness and rips the caustic elements away from our hearts. A love that shines in every nook and dark corner exposing the unhealthiness that we cling to. A love that Christians all too often run and hide from.

When I describe this kind of love, people will often ask, "Where can I find that kind of love?" I answer "in a relationship with God and with God's church." Often this leads to sort of a dejected look where people respond with an "OK" and quickly move the conversation in another direction. Sadly, their experiences of "Church" have not lead to an experience of this kind of love. Two big reasons why this happens. 1) Christians are a work in progress and often fail at loving others as God loves them. 2) To experience this kind of love we must surrender. Surrender ourselves, our agenda, and control of our lives. We need to enter in to a relationship not on our own terms but allow God's

**(Continued on pg. 5)**

## TREASURER'S REPORT

Attendance 1/21/18      64 + 58      122      Attendance 1/28/18 (one service)      105

**Required total receipts weekly.....\$8,267.02**

Gen Fund 1/21/18	\$3,101.50	Gen Fund 1/28/17	\$7,017.09
Forward in Faith	\$907.00	Forward in Faith	\$1,217.00
Surplus/Deficit	-\$4,258.52	Surplus/Deficit	-\$32.93

Unexpected Blessings.....\$1,900.84

**Surplus/Deficit YTD..... +\$4,738.00 (12/31/17)**

*Please be  
Praying for...*

**Pray for Alpine members:**

Pat Anderson, Liz Bertolotto, Rick Bried, Harriet Brown, Pat Christiansen, Richard & Nancy Ewert, Doris Fransen, Chuck Gentry, 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 and Donna Steele.

**Pray for our friends and family of Alpine:**

Steve Abbott, Kim Braun, Bill Burton, Linda Carter, Jim Coffman, Linda Conness, Jerome Gill, Daniel Hendrickson, Carmen Ianeri, Pr. Woody Knutson, Judy LeGault, Kathleen Lovins, Carol Nelson, Joann Nilsen, Aileen Petersen, Tom Rogers, Bob Schult, Penny Wendling, Nora, Sophia, Rett, Tripp & Liz.

**All In the Family**

**Birthday** thanks came in from **Norma Lucas**. The **family of Barbara Nelson** thanks everyone for the "work and food prepared for Mom's luncheon". The **Staff at Alpine Lutheran** expressed their sincere thanks for the generous donations to the Staff gift. It is great to work in such a loving family of God. **Chuck Gentry** sends his many thanks for the cards, prayers, flowers and visits he received after his recent surgery.

**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 (taking a break until late February)

**Adult Forums:** Meet between services on the 1<sup>st</sup> 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. While Pastor is away on the India Mission trip, please leave a message on the office number, 815-399-5013. 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.**

**Feb. 11<sup>th</sup>**— Evan, Erin & Logan Peyton; Don Busekros; Mike & Marlene Bukowski; John Linde; David Linde; and Cathy & Madeline Merwin.

**Feb. 18<sup>th</sup>** — Kent & Barb Milton; Valerie Miller; Bill & Sue Lovitt; and Michael & Tina Speaker.



**Monday, February 5<sup>th</sup>**—Pastor Dan leaves for India Mission Trip

**Saturday, February 10<sup>th</sup>**—Men's Breakfast, 9 AM

**Saturday, February 10<sup>th</sup>**—Council organizational meeting, 10 AM

**Wednesday, February 14<sup>th</sup>**—Ash Wednesday, Worship at 11 AM & 7 PM

**Monday February 19<sup>th</sup>**—Pastor Dan returns from India



On **Tuesday, February 13<sup>th</sup>**, we will be serving our annual Shrove Pancake Supper. Keep your eyes open for more info on this event. This is one of our many fundraisers for our trip to the National Youth Gathering this year.



**Thank you** to everyone who attended our **Annual Meeting, Sunday, January 28<sup>th</sup>**. We especially thank John & David Linde along with our youth for the lunch served before the meeting. We were able to vote in our 2018 Council members and passed the 2018 Budget.

**From the SCRIP Desk:**

Just a reminder to look at the top right hand corner of your scrip order form for the latest version. Some percentage backs have changed such as Amazon and Walgreen's and a few cards have changed in denomination such as Chick-Fil-A went from \$5 to \$10 cards. The date at the top right should be January 2018. If you have not tried SCRIP what is keeping you from trying it? If you have used SCRIP in the past and are not ordering regularly why not? If you used SCRIP in the past and are still ordering from scrip THANKS you are helping to support the church, Alpine Academy and Alpine camps. If you have questions about SCRIP please feel free to contact Deb Geeser or anyone at the scrip desk on Sunday mornings. Ordering SCRIP is a great way to socialize with other church members while you wait for your order to be processed. The question of the week is where do you find your SCRIP order form? (Deb Geeser)

**KEEP CALM...SHOP SCRIP**

The **Church Council** of Alpine Lutheran will meet on Saturday, **February 10<sup>th</sup>, from 9-11:30 AM** in the conference room. All Council members are asked to attend this meeting.

**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.

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)

**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. (Jan Pauly & Bea Lundgren)

**Mark Your Calendars:** The 2018 Congregational Resourcing Event will be Saturday March 10<sup>th</sup> at Kishwaukee Community College in Malta, IL. Many workshops will be offered including Administration, Education, Stewardship, Evangelism, Social Justice and many others. The event is open to all congregation members. Take advantage of this learning event and discover new ways to enhance our congregation. Registration information will be available soon.

The **2017 Annual Giving Statements** are ready for you to pick up. They are on the Care & Concern counter in the narthex. We will have them here until the end of the month then those remaining will be mailed out. For those of you who are snowbirds, if you would like them mailed to your southern address, please call or email me the address to send it to. Thank you to everyone for the support of our church and her ministry. (Lynn Valentine)

**Men's Breakfast** will be meeting **Saturday, February 10<sup>th</sup> at 9 AM** in Fellowship Hall. Mark your calendars and plan to attend. Bring along a friend too! (Bob McVinnie)

The **Memorial Board**, given in memory of Arthur & Jeanne Carter, has been updated with the names of those who have died in 2017 and given memorials to Alpine Lutheran Church. (The Memorial Committee)



## Alpine Academy of Rockford

Faith • Family • Future

The end of January has arrived and it has been a loooooong day. We have some teachers out ill. Only one substitute was available, so some classes were combined. This, also, is the day that parents can sign up for the new Illinois private school scholarship program. We have five families in our computer lab waiting to get into the state system. This participation program opened at noon today and immediately crashed. Too many people around the state needed to get into the same system at the same time. It's hard to believe that a state computer program has placed people on hold. (LOL) So, as of the typing of this report, we have some families who have been waiting for two hours to access the state system. I do not know when parents will get on. I just know that I will be here until 8 p.m. helping them.

On an up note we now have 97 enrolled students and two more that may enroll, yet this year. God is very good. We thank Him and we thank you for your support. Have a Blessed day.

In Christ,  
Principal Bob McVinnie

## 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

**Shrove Tuesday**, or Fat Tuesday, is the day before Lent, the period of traditional fasting and prayer that precedes Easter. The tradition of eating pancakes on Shrove Tuesday began as a way to use up ingredients including butter, milk and eggs that were not supposed to be eaten and would go bad during the period of Lent. **Tuesday, February 13<sup>th</sup>**, the youth will be serving a **Shrove Pancake Supper** from 5 – 7 PM in Fellowship Hall. Come and enjoy the celebration. All monies collected will go to youth expenses.

"For dust you are and to dust you shall return" (Genesis 3:19) **Wednesday, February 14<sup>th</sup> is Ash Wednesday.** We will have worship services with the imposition of ashes at both **11 AM and 7 PM.** This marks the beginning of the Lenten season and our journey towards the cross. Our Lenten Soup Suppers will begin on Wednesday, February 21<sup>st</sup> at 6 PM. Lenten worship will follow at 7 PM. A sign-up sheet is in the narthex to help with the Soup Suppers. Please mark your calendars and make the time to attend.

Our daily devotional for this Lenten season is entitled "**Finding Peace in Lent**" by James E. Adams. These reflections are based on the Saint Francis Peace Prayer. We hope this devotional will help "put your prayer into action" and bring us closer to the peace of Christ. They will be available on Ash Wednesday.

**Cantata Rehearsals will begin soon!** Can you believe that Lent starts in one week? We are planning a **Good Friday Cantata** this year and will start our rehearsals on **Tuesday, February 20<sup>th</sup> at 7:15 PM.** All are welcome and encouraged to join us. (Richard Dowling)

The **Wednesday Morning Bible Study** will be going on hiatus until the end of February. This is due to the severe cold, many illnesses, and when Pastor Dan will be in India. Please keep watch for an announcement on the exact day we will begin again.

**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)

### Children's Church

Once again, we look to the larger church and the need around the world. Our ELCA World Hunger project this year is to buy a vegetable garden (tools, education, drought resistant seeds, etc.) . The children will be collecting coins in banks from January through May. Banks are available in the Memorial Lounge for other members who would like to contribute to this project.

(Continued from pg. 1)

terms to define who we are and what kind of relationships we have. Only as we do this will we truly experience that kind of powerful love that God wants us to have. Admittedly, this is not easy. Surrendering can also be a bit of a vague word. There are no precise steps that we can all follow as this experience is slightly different for everyone. This is yet another reason why we need God's community. We need those who have gone before us, who can help, guide, and demonstrate for us how to surrender to God's love. Being in community with other Christians does not guarantee that they will love us in this remarkable way. But it is the one true place that will bring us step by step closer to seeing and experiencing the power of God's love. By being in community with other people of faith we both see glimpse of God's love in our lives, but are also connected to God as God uses the templates of our lives to bring this unfathomable love deeper and deeper into our world - bringing with it salvation, hope, and healing.



Katie's Cup hosts the **Katie's Choice Book Club** every **2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the month at 10 AM. February's book selection is "The Invention of Wings", by Sue Monk Kidd.** No reservations are necessary, just bring your copy of the book and join in the discussion. All are welcome. Come and join us!



**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](http://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.



Illinois enacted the Invest In Kids Scholarship Tax Credit Program in 2017. This program offers a 75 percent income tax credit to individuals and businesses that contribute to qualified Scholarship Granting Organizations (SGOs). The SGOs then provide scholarships for students whose families meet the income requirements to attend qualified, non-public schools in Illinois such as Alpine Academy and other private schools. The Grater Rockford Area Lutheran Schools have chosen to work with SGO Empower Illinois. Questions, please contact Scott Dabson, 815-494-3002, or visit <http://www.revenue.state.il.us/InvestInKids/>



**Alpine Lutheran Church**  
5001 Forest View Ave. Rockford, IL 61108  
alpinelutheran@comcast.net  
www.alpinelutheran.com

Non-profit org  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Rockford, IL  
Permit #2653

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., February 11, 2018

**Ushers:** (8:00) Glen McDonald, Dale Olson,  
Volunteers  
(10:00) Jack Lucas, Marge Rakoczy, Volunteers  
**Ambass.:** (8:00) Al & Marlene Garrett  
(10:00) DiAnne Beynon, Louise Dorris  
**Elements:** (8:00) Al & Marlene Garrett  
(10:00) Mark & Christine Stohle  
**Lector:** (8:00) Bob Fanello (10:00) Jari Sproule  
**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

### Sun., February 18, 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) Jan Anderson, Carole Rogers  
(10:00) David Linde, John Linde  
**Elements:** (8:00) Bob & Laurel McVinnie  
(10:00) DiAnne Beynon, Gwyn Brechtel  
**Lector:** (8:00) Bob McVinnie (10:00) Craig Shelton  
**Lay Assist:** (8:00) Roger Bastian, Deb Okeson  
(10:00) Aaron Ayen, Craig Shelton  
**Altar Guild:** Laurel McVinnie, Cary Ralston  
**Praise Singers:** Chuck & Lynn Valentine