



Special points of interest:

Christ Is Risen!



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In this issue:

Blood Drive	3
Chippers Golf	3
Lutheran Day	4
Katie's Cup Happenings	5

Monday, April 9, 2018

Volume 45, Issue 7

From the Pastor's Desk:

Christ is Risen! He Has Risen Indeed, Alleluia!

It is Easter season here at Alpine (yes Easter is a whole season not just one day. It lasts for 50 days). During Easter we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus and the life it unleashes into us. I always find it weird then that the first two Sundays after Easter we always read the stories of 1) Thomas the apostle and 2) The two disciples walking on the road to Emmaus. Two stories about doubt and disappointment. What gives? Isn't this supposed to be a season of happiness? Why then begin with these two stories that focus on how hard it is to believe and follow Jesus? Why not something a little more uplifting? I think that that answer lies in the very important truth that some of the biggest barriers to experiencing the power of the resurrection in our lives are the doubts that are created by deep seated disappointments that we have with God.

One of the best books that I have ever read on this subject is ***"Disappointment with God: Three Questions No One Asks Aloud."*** by Phillip Yancy. In this book the author tackles three important questions: "Is God unfair? Is God silent? Is God hidden?" Yancy writes that *"Where there is no longer any opportunity for doubt, there is no opportunity for faith either."* He will use the story of Job to explain how wrestling with our doubts and disappointments grows our faith – ignoring them undermines our faith.

"One bold message in the Book of Job is that you can say anything to God. Throw at him your grief, your anger, your doubt, your bitterness, your betrayal, your disappointment—he can absorb them all. As often as not, spiritual giants of the Bible are shown contending with God. They prefer to go away limping, like Jacob, rather than to shut God out. In this respect, the Bible prefigures a tenet of modern psychology: you can't really deny your feelings or make them disappear, so you might as well express them. God can deal with every human response save one. He cannot abide the response I fall back on instinctively: an attempt to ignore him or treat him as though he does not exist. That response never once occurred to Job- Phillip Yancy"

Doubts and disappointments are not a sign of a lack of faith. Rather, they are signs that our faith is interacting with a broken world. Learning this was a huge relief for me. I could walk away from the guilt and false truth of the saying "People of Faith don't doubt; they just trust God." Instead I could look at my doubts and disappointments as opportunities to discover how God moves and lives inside my very imperfect life of sin, loss, and heartache. The key was not ignoring these doubts (letting them subvert my relationship with God) - but instead allowing God's truth to constantly shape and direct my response to my pain and letdowns. This is more commonly referred to as "wrestling with God." It is an apt analogy simply because the process is exhausting and difficult. But the result is that in the end I get to subdue the doubts and disappointments instead of allowing them to shape my identity.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Attendance 3/14/18		61	Attendance 3/21/18		51
Attendance 3/18/18	75 + 60	135	Attendance 3/25/18	64 + 83	147
Attendance Maundy Thursday	58 + 33	91	Attendance Good Friday		76
		Attendance 4/1/18	101 + 93		194

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

Gen Fund 3/18/18	\$4,272.50	Gen Fund 3/25/18	\$3,882.25	Gen Fund 4/1/18	\$8,115.25
Forward in Faith	\$4,122.00	Forward in Faith	\$2,115.00	Forward in Faith	\$1,694.00
Surplus/Deficit	+\$127.48	Surplus/Deficit	-\$2,269.77	Surplus/Deficit	+\$1,542.23
Lenten.....	\$710.00	Festival.....	\$2,315.00	Unexpected.....	\$250.00

Surplus/Deficit YTD..... +\$898.25 (2/28/18)

Pray for Alpine members:

Pat Anderson, Rick Bried, Pat Christiansen, Richard & Nancy Ewert, Doris Fransen, Chuck Gentry, Marybeth Gillette, Rich & Jan Hill, Alyce Krusemeier, Les Johnson, Peggy Lillegaard, Norma Lucas, Marguerite Lusth, Irene Northrup, Marian Olson, Gerry Perala 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, Tom Kovalik, Kathleen Lovins, Maryann Moorhouse, Carol Nelson, Leslie Olson, Aileen Petersen, Tom Rogers, Bob Schult, Penny Wendling, Nora, Sophia, Rett, Tripp & Liz.

All In the Family

Our sympathy and love go out to the family of **Betty Peterson** who died March 24th; **Laurel & Bob McVinnie** for the death of Jean Johnson, Laurel's mother; and **Sue Peterson** and family for the death of Bob Peterson. Birthday thanks came in from **Jan Hill, Donna Seefeldt, Bob & Bea Lundgren** and **Jan Pauly**. **Diana Sundeen & Taylor Boustead** wish to thank everyone for the thoughts and prayers after Diana's brother's death. **Marge Pearson** sends her thanks for the altar flowers that brightened her day. God's blessings on the birth of **Julian Micah**, son to Morgan Walker, grandson to Brad & Angie Walker, and great-grandson to Darold & Sharon Walker.

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, unless announced otherwise. 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.

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.

April 15th — Tom & Marge Rakoczy; Mike & Loretta Schultz; Craig & Barb Shelton; and Randy Teske.

April 22nd — Becky Toro; Dick & Joyce Veit; Jim & Linda Whale; and Angela Wood-Zuzevich, Maddie & Lauren Zuzevich.



Monday, April 9th—Bob Peterson funeral, 12 PM
Monday, April 9th—Christian Ed/ Youth & Property rescheduled, 6:30 PM
Tuesday, April 10th—Worship & Music and Social Ministry rescheduled, 6 & 7 PM
Saturday, April 14th—Altar Guild, 9 AM
Thursday, April 19th—Church Council, 7 PM



High School Youth:
WHEN—every 2nd Sunday, 7—8:30 PM
WHAT—food, music, games and praise worship
WHERE—Katie's Cup, 502 7th Street
 Just show up!
 To learn more, call 815-962-4279



Blood Drive

Please consider donating blood at **Alpine's annual blood drive** on Wednesday, May 9th, from 3—6:30 PM. The Rock River Valley Blood Center bus will be parked in the church parking lot just south of the church. It is advisable to sign up ahead of time either on the sign up sheet in the narthex, by calling Janet Gentry, phone 815 985 6262 or online. Walk-ins are welcome. (Janet Gentry)

From the SCRIP Desk:

The sun has been appearing more and more and Spring fever will hit soon (if it ever warms up). Before you head to your outside oasis we must remember who gave us the sunshine, flowers, and the ability to care for HIS creation. SCRIP can help you care for HIS creation with specific gift cards to retailers that help HIS creation grown and blossom. Another way you can use SCRIP to help HIS creation is giving a needy family or even a specific person a SCRIP card to help fill their car with gasoline or even to buy groceries at the local supermarket. A small gesture can make a big difference to a struggling family or a lonely person. (Deb Geeser)

KEEP CALM...SHOP SCRIP

The **Alpine Chancel Choir and C & E Singers** wish to thank everyone for attending their performance of "The Shadow of the Cross" on Good Friday. If you were unable to attend, a video is posted on our Facebook page and will be on our web page soon.

The **Alpine Scholarship Committee** will begin collecting scholarship applications now through the end of May. Applications can be found on the counter in the coatroom or from Lynn in the office. We are pleased to be able to offer this assistance to our students. Please turn them in to the church office. (Gary Hunt)

Doing your Spring cleaning? The youth will be holding a garage sale in the gym on the first weekend of June. Donations may be dropped off at the church and placed in the Fellowship Hall behind the partitions. Please contact John Linde with any questions.

The **Youth** would like to thank everyone for the support of their Youth Convention trip by attending the **Easter Breakfast**. Between your donations and the Thrivent Action grant used to purchase supplies, the youth were able to add \$334 to their account for expenses such as van rental, gas, and monetary assistance. (John Linde)

The April edition of **Living Lutheran** is on the Care & Concern counter in the narthex. This month's cover story, "The 'e' word Why does the ELCA have the word 'evangelical' in its name?", digs into the meaning and history of the word. Please take home a copy and share it with others.



It's Golfing Time Again! Spread the word...our annual kick-off luncheon for **Alpine Chippers Golf League** will be held on Wednesday, April 25th, 12 noon, at Stockholm Inn. All are welcome to join us. Sign-up is only \$15.00 again this year. Hope to see you there! The league will begin the following Wednesday, May 2nd, at Elliot Golf Course, tee-off 8:30 AM. (Chuck Valentine)

Thank you to all who donated sack lunches and helped serve at the **Rockford Rescue Mission** on Palm Sunday. Thanks also to Pastor Dan, Richard Dowling and the choir for leading the worship.—Social Ministry

ATTENTION ALL GRADUATES: Graduation time is fast approaching. As you make your plan to celebrate your graduation don't forget to please contact the church office so we may join in your celebration by acknowledging you in the Summit. (Lynn Valentine)

Fellowship is a very important part of every congregation. We all enjoy conversing after church especially with coffee and a treat. **We need people to provide those treats.** You do not need to be a master baker. Purchased treats are just as good. We also need juice to be served along with the coffee. Then all you need to do is man the table. It is very simple. (Help with clean-up is also appreciated.) A sign-up sheet is available by the coffee.



Alpine Academy
of Rockford
Faith • Family • Future

Alpine Academy students are on Easter break this week. We thank God for salvation at Easter. This past month our staff has had some difficult times. Four relatives of the family have died. One family member's relative has a serious diagnosis. We are all part of the Alpine family so when one hurts we all hurt. I ask you to pray for the staff, students, and families of Alpine. Keep them in your hearts.

Since our last Update, Alpine has had some great events. Scott Dabson put together a well attended Easter Egg Hunt with nearly 5000 eggs and over 100 children in attendance. His family of Jody, Steven, Caitlin, and Morgan helped with the laying of the eggs. DiAnne Beynon also helped to lay the eggs. A number of staff members helped with the registration and the raffling of gifts. This was also an Open House for the school and he gave many tours. After doing this for Alpine, he set up an Easter Egg Hunt for St. Paul on the following weekend. He has been busy.

During Holy Week, we had our Easter Program, directed by Angela Martinez. The students did wonderfully, singing and reading about the love of Jesus. Students processed in with palms and colorful spinning wheels. Some of our students have been learning chimes, under the direction of Nancy Matthews and Sharon Mouri. They performed two selections really well. Then they joined their classmates and sang Easter and spring songs to celebrate God's love. Miss Martinez has brought many new students to singing solos. We can be proud of these students.

We return to class next week. Lets hope for the warmth of spring.

In Christ,

Bob McVinnie, Principal



Many thanks to Tim & JoAnn Christiansen and family for creating the beautiful display of flowers for our Easter Glory Garden. Their artistic talent is a blessing to Alpine.

Our "**Snow Birds**" are beginning their return flights to the Midwest. If you normally receive your Summit via mail, please notify Lynn, in the office, when you have returned and she will put you back on the mailing list. We hope they all have a safe return!

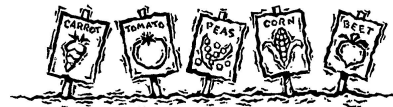
The Sacred Enneagram: Spiritual Growth Through Self Discovery—Saturday, April 21, 8:15 AM -12:30 PM, Christ Lutheran Church, Belvidere. Come and hear guest speaker, Marci Madary, as she provides an overview of the Enneagram, an ancient spiritual tool that explains the "why of how we act, think and feel, to help us discover and improve ourselves. Call 815-885-2522 to register.

In the midst of this terrible cold and flu season, there are ways that we can help ourselves remain healthy. Besides the flu shot; stay hydrated; get plenty of sleep; exercise and of course, wash your hands often. Many everyday areas are germ zones: The coffee pot, elevator buttons, grocery carts, door knobs, restaurant menus, and worst of all, your cell phone. At church, if you are concerned about passing/receiving germs during the sharing of the peace, you can fist bump, touch elbows or just wave. **Here is to staying healthy.**

Are you interested in joining with Lutherans to gather to study, pray, and take action for equality amongst Illinois residents? **Lutheran Day** is faith-based social service organizations or human care organizations. We are people of goodwill, standing together to exercise our vocation to speak out for justice, compassion, and equality for all people. Lutheran Day is on May 8th in Springfield. RALM and Rockford Lutheran School are providing the ability for us to attend together. Busses leave Rockford Lutheran at 6 AM. RSVP for the bus at RalmMail@aol.com. To learn more or register for www.SpringfieldLutheranDay.org.

Children's Church

How are your banks filling up? 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.





-**Katie's Choice Book Club** every 2nd Thursday of the month at 10 AM. The book for April is "**A Handmaid's Tale**" by Margaret Atwood. This tale is about a dystopian world set in the near future and the behind the scenes happenings in the new social order. No reservations are necessary, just bring your copy of the book and join in the discussion.

-**Katie's Cup Bunco**: Join us every 3rd Thursday of the month at Katie's Cup for a session of Bunco and great fellowship. We meet from 1:30—3 PM.

-**Music on Thursdays...on 7th** will feature the music talent of **Truman's Ridge** at 6 PM on Thursday, April 12th. All are welcome.

-**Express-Oh! Spring Art Scene** is both Friday, April 13th starting at 5 PM and Saturday, April 14th starting at 4 PM. This year's artists are: Tamika Brown, Judith Goudy, Sheila Hecox, Leigh Kuyper, Scott Payne, Sandra Peterson, Mary Rosandich, and others. Plus, FRIDAY ONLY: "FootsieStools" - a traveling exhibit. Admission is FREE. Drinks will be available for purchase from the coffeebar.

-**Katie's Cup Conversation**: On Tuesday, April 17th from 11 AM to 12 PM, **Jedediah Cantrell** is the Vice President of Operations at Swedish American Hospital will be discussing the impact the hospital has had on the Midtown neighborhoods and the future plans they have set in motion.

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Shelter Care Ministries is holding their Spring Luncheon on Thursday, May 10th. Come and listen to personal stories of individuals and families who have benefitted from your support and donations. Lunch will be served at 12 PM at Prairie Street Brewhouse. The Market Place will open at 11 AM. Tickets are \$45 each or \$340 for a table of 8. To make your reservation, please contact Shelter Care Ministries at 815-964-5520.

Keep Alpine Updated: 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 Greater 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/>



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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., April 15, 2018

Ushers: (8:00) Les Johnson, Karl Okeson,
Randy Teske, Volunteer
(10:00) John Linde, Volunteers
Ambass.: (8:00) Karl & Deb Okeson
(10:00) Terry & Pam Hodges
Elements: (8:00) Karl & Deb Okeson
(10:00) Kyle Davison, Pam Hodges
Lector: (8:00) Bob Fanello (10:00) Violet
Peterson
Lay Assist: (8:00) Bob & Lori Fanello
(10:00) Bob & Violet Peterson
Altar Guild: Laurel McVinnie, Cary Ralston
Praise Singers: Chuck & Lynn Valentine

Sun., April 22, 2018

Ushers: (8:00) Les Johnson, Karl Okeson, Randy
Teske, Volunteer
(10:00) John Linde, Volunteers
Ambass.: (8:00) Al & Marlene Garrett
(10:00) DiAnne Beynon, Louise Dorris
Elements: (8:00) Al & Marlene Garrett
(10:00) Gwyn Brechtel, Diana Sundeen
Lector: (8:00) Carla Phillips (10:00) Bob
McVinnie
Lay Assist: (8:00) Chuck Gentry, Glen
McDonald
(10:00) Bob McVinnie, Allen Neumann
Altar Guild: Janet Gentry, JoAnn Christiansen
Praise Singers: Chuck & Lynn Valentine