



Special points of interest:



Contact:
office@alpinelutheran.com
815-399-5013

In this issue:

Advent Devotionals	3
Mitton Tree	3
Christmas Cantata	4
Katie's Cup Events	5

From Pastor Desk:

Monday, December 3, 2018

Volume 45, Issue 23

"You can give without loving, but you can never love without giving. The great acts of love are done by those who are habitually performing small acts of kindness" (anonymous).

Dear Alpine Community

Here at Alpine we truly believe that "Called by Christ, our mission is to share God's love." We have been blessed by faithful people who love and care about Alpine and her community. New and exciting ministries are beginning all the time. People's lives are indeed being changed. We are here to help our congregation and our neighbors connect to God's love and grace. And we are certainly having a great year!

One of the realities of our mission is the need to partner together to support this mission financially. As of November 24th, we are experiencing a deficit of approximately \$24,141 in our finances. We have been experiencing a decrease both in general giving and in the area of "unexpected blessings." "Unexpected blessings" is the area of our budget made up of money we give back to God when we experience – well, an unexpected blessing. When we receive money or gifts we hadn't expected it is easy to rejoice and celebrate our good fortune. But sometimes we forget the importance of passing these blessings on to others as well.

In order to help Alpine realize our mission, we are also asking everyone to consider giving a 53/54th week donation. This means giving an extra gift to the church, above and beyond one's normal tithe, equal to a week's normal giving. Last July we sent out two offering envelopes: one to use then (the 53rd week envelope) and one to use now (the 54th week envelope). If you no longer have that envelope, feel free to use any envelope and simply mark it as your 54th week donation.

Please give both these appeals (unexpected blessings and 54th week donation) much thought and prayer. Remember that we give as an expression of joy and thanksgiving for God's abundant grace and blessings that we have received. We are so thankful for you, for your generosity of time, money and talents, which make Alpine such a life-giving community.

Your Faithful Servants,
Alpine Finance and Stewardship Committee

BY THE NUMBERS

Attendance 11/18/18	69 + 44	113	Attendance 11/25/18	53 + 37	90
Thanksgiving Worship 11/20/18			57		

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

Gen Fund 11/18/18	\$4,195.50	Gen Fund 11/25/18	\$4,471.50
Forward in Faith	\$1,112.00	Forward in Faith	\$922.00
Surplus/Deficit	-\$2,959.52	Surplus/Deficit	-\$2,959.52

Festival.....\$330.00	53/54.....\$935.00	Unexpected Blessings.....\$30.00
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Surplus/Deficit YTD..... -\$19,634.45 (10/31/18)



Pray for Alpine members:

Pat Anderson, Rick Bried, Pat Christiansen, Kathy Cordonnier, Ernest & Mary DeNale, Richard & Nancy Ewert, Doris Fransen, Marybeth Gillette, Rich & Jan Hill, Alyce Krusemeier, Peggy Lillegaard, Jack & Norma Lucas, Marguerite Lusth, Laurel McVinnie, Marian Olson, Gerry Perala, Donna Steele and Darold Walker.

Pray for our friends and family of Alpine:

Steve Abbott, Sally Atkinson, Kim Braun, Linda Carter, Linda Conness, Jerome Gill, Elena Hember, Daniel Hendrickson, Geri Hughe, Gwen Johnson, Kathleen Lovins, Linda & Lorna Lurvey, Peggy Moorhouse, Jeff Morris, Sharon Mund, Carol Nelsen, Laura Olson, Aileen Petersen, Tom Rogers, Bob Schult, Don Tennant, and Penny Wendling.

All In the Family

Birthday thanks came in from **Irv Johnson, Carla Phillips** and **Pam Hemenway**. **Kathy Cordonnier** sends her thanks for the cards, prayers and thoughts after her husband's passing. Congratulations and God's blessings on the birth of **Grant Matthew Fanello**; parents, Matthew & Mara Fanello; grandparents, Bob & Lori Fanello.

Darold & Sharon Walker send their heartfelt thanks for all the prayers, calls and cards they have received.

Also, thank you to our drivers. "We thank God for our Alpine family."



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
- * Wednesday Evening Bible Study at 7 PM, check board for location

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.

December 9th — Curt Moen; Jeanne, Alexis, Courtney, Evan & Haley Novak; Maribeth Gillette; and Betty Davis.

December 16th — Tom & Marge Rakoczy; Lillian Hagen; Don & Judy Gugliemetti; and Jennifer & Ethan Binder.



Sunday, December 9th—2nd Sunday of Advent

Sunday, December 16th—3rd Sunday of Advent

Wednesday, December 19th—Alpine Academy Christmas Program, Gym, 6:00 PM

Saturday, December 22nd—Cantata rehearsal, 9 AM

(cont. next column)

Sunday, December 23rd—4th Sunday of Advent, Christmas Cantata "Behold, A Savior!" @ 10 AM Worship

Monday, 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 2nd was the 1st Sunday of Advent. The Worship & Music Committee has chosen the Advent devotional "**Peace on Earth**" by Danielle Bean. This is a devotional book with activities designed to bring us together as we prepare for the coming of Christ. Please stop and pick up a copy. They are available in the Memorial Lounge.

From the SCRIP Desk:

Are you traveling for the holidays? Don't forget that SCRIP carries gas cards to help make your traveling a little less stressful. Here is a gift idea for your high school and college students for a matter of fact for anybody that you know that drives a gas SCRIP card is always a welcome gift. As we are shopping for our love ones don't forget those people that may need a little "thank-you" gift such as teachers, care givers, your mail man or woman, and garbage collectors. SCRIP carries low denominational cards that are perfect way to say "thank-you". Shop early to avoid the rush at the SCRIP counter. Remember SCRIP cards may be paid for with cash or check and SCRIP does not require 3 forms of ID - it is that easy. December 16 will be the last day to order SCRIP cards for Christmas giving. Sunday the 23 the SCRIP desk will be open for last minute cards, but the cards in the SCRIP box will be the only ones we will be able to sell no orders will go out that week. (Deb Geeser)

KEEP CALM...SHOP SCRIP

Christmas Eve Assistants & Ushers needed: We need volunteers to usher at both worship services on Christmas Eve, 3 & 10 PM. Please contact the office if you can serve.

The **2019 pledge cards** have been sent out and were dedicated on **Sunday, November 11th** at our **Celebration Worship services**. If you were unable to attend that Sunday, you may mail them or drop them off in the church office. Make sure to put your name and envelope number on the card. 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. (Finance & Stewardship Committee)

Thanksgiving Feast Thank You!

Thank to everyone who helped make this years Thanksgiving Feast possible: Heidi Lykken, Jan Bergstrom, Pat Turmo, Marge Rakoczy, Barb Milton, Gwen Brechtel, Lori Holmer, Jody Dabson, Tim Babcock, Stacie Lidvall, Bea Lundgren, Amanda Dabson, and Brandon Lamb. As well as anyone who I may have missed. Without your efforts this event would not have been possible or as successful as it was.

-Scott Dabson



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)

Social Ministries continues collecting for the **Holiday Food Baskets**. All items need to be collected by Thursday, December 20th. 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)

You are invited to attend the **Alpine Academy Christmas Program** on Wednesday, 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.

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. (Lynn Valentine)



Alpine Academy
of Rockford
Faith • Family • Future

Alpine Academy Update

Well with Thanksgiving wrapped up, winter in full swing, having our first big snow fall and our first (hopefully one- sorry kids) snow day we can now prepare for our Christmas season! Wow what a week last week was. The Thanksgiving Feast was again a wonderful opportunity to join together our church and school as an Alpine Family. During the Feast we served nearly 300 students, parents, staff, congregation members and friends! As proof that God provides, on top of all those people we served we were also able to make donations to the Rockford Rescue Mission. We have left overs to donate in excess of 135 pounds of food that was donated and mostly used for the Rescue Mission's Thanksgiving meal. If you weren't able to join us please make plans to join us for next years feast.

Our students now set their sights on preparing for the Christmas program. This is an event your sure to not want to miss. This year's program will be help on Dec. 19th at 6:15pm in the Gym. We invite all of our Congregation and friends of Alpine to join us as our students celebrate the birth of Jesus. We are very excited to see what our students have in store for us.

We certainly want to send a huge Thank You to Mrs. Beynon for stepping in for Mr. McVinnie as he and Laurel were able to visit with their children. We hope that his time was well spent and he comes back refreshed and eager to work with our students. Mrs. Beynon graciously stepped in as Principal in his absence and made sure that our school function as normal during his break.

Looking forward to celebrating this upcoming Christmas season with all of you!

In Christ

Scott Dabson

Admissions Director

Alpine Academy



The **Alpine Lutheran C & E Choir** invites you **Sunday, December 23rd**, to our Christmas Cantata. "Behold, A Savior", by Jay Rouse and Rose Aspinall. This year, as we have done in past years, 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)

Rejoicing Spirits Worship Service: The next Rejoicing Spirits service is **Wednesday, December 13th, 6:00 PM** All are welcome at this no-shush worship that enriches the lives of all people, especially those with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Rejoicing Spirits includes music and joyous singing, brief, meaningful messages and the chance to connect with others. Contact: Pastor Dan for more info on how you can help out (pastor@alpinelutheran.com).



Candlelight Christmas Eve services are at **3 & 10 PM**. We are hoping this will make it easier for families with younger children or those who don't drive at night to be able to attend this very special worship. We will have special Christmas music 10 minutes prior to the service. Come early and enjoy the music while you prepare for worship. The church office will be closing early on both Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve, and will be closed Christmas Day, the day after Christmas, and New Year's Day.

This year has been a devastating year for natural disasters. As we think about what we are thankful for consider helping those who have been hit with these horrific events. **Lutheran Disaster Response** is now taking donations to help those who have lost everything in the California fires. If you are able to help, please visit **ELCA.org** and click on the USA Wildfire banner. We pray for all who have been affected by this and all disasters, especially this year.



Join us on Sunday for Children's Church during the 10 AM worship. We will be learning about the lessons from the worship service and how we can share God's Word with others. On 12/23 & 12/30, we will not be meeting for Children's Church. Classes will resume 1/6.



-Katie's Choice Book Club meets every 2nd Thursday of the month at 10 AM. Each month a new book is chosen to discuss. Bring your copy and join 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.

-Katie's Cup Conversation: Thursday, December 6, 12:30 - 1:30 PM. A Look at Saint Nicholas, with Father Jonathan Bannon and Pastor Mike Thomas.

-Second Thursday Concert: Thursday, December 13, 7 PM. Trinadora!

Trains are coming to Katie's! Saturday, December 15, 9 AM - 4 PM. "Hands-on" train set-ups for children of all ages!

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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.

Laundry Love—This program, part of **RALM**, provides free laundry services to the needy every 3rd Wednesday of the month at Charles Street Laundromat. The program exists to help alleviate the strain that poor health and hygiene places on the most venerable members of our community. Co-Coordinator are Bob Black & Dave Musser.

Several of our congregation members no longer are able to drive to attend worship services and church events. We want to create a list of members who are willing to pick someone up and bring them to worship. Please call the office if you are able to assist in this area.

First Lutheran Church announces its

60th Annual Lucia Celebration

Saturday, December 8

9 am - noon

Traditional Kaffe Kalas

with

Santa Lucia

Candy Boy & Girl

Musical entertainment

provided by Joseph Schenk



Crafts, "treasures," & homemade bakery
plus Swedish Korv sausage

(made by Rockford Area Lutheran Ministries using Tabor Lutheran Church's traditional recipe)

Holiday Concert at 10 am in the sanctuary

Music Academy of Rockford students

225 S. Third Street, corner of Third & Oak
in the heart of Rockford's historic Haight Village 815.962.6691

Songs & Suds

Christmas Music Sing-along

Tuesday, December 18

6:30 - 8 pm

Sing and enjoy Christmas songs and celebrate the Advent Season!

Feel free to enjoy the suds shared!

Free event with donations to benefit Katie's Cup.

MUSICIANS: Denver Bitner, Jane McChesney,
Marti Bein, Jay Quinn, Scott Stolberg,
Michael Thomas & others!

Questions: contact Michael Thomas at methomas1966@gmail.com
or 815-964-4609

Katie's Cup Christmas CD
available for sale!!



502 Seventh Street, Rockford
Corner of Seventh Street & Fourth Avenue



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., December 9, 2018

Ushers: (8:00) Chuck Gentry, Glen McDonald, Volunteers
(10:00) Marge Rakoczy, Volunteers
Ambass.: (8:00) Bill & Diane Billert
(10:00) Nancy Matthews, Diana Sundeen
Elements: (8:00) Kathy Mund, Eugene Mund
(10:00) DiAnne Beynon, Pam Hodges
Lector: (8:00) Bob Fanello (10:00) Allen Neumann
Lay Assist: (8:00) Bob & Lori Fanello
(10:00) Bea Lundgren, Allen Neumann
Altar Guild: Sarah Neumann
Praise Singers: Ted Croisant, Bob McVinnie

Sun., December 16, 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) John Linde, David Linde
Elements: (8:00) Matt & Debbie Hier
(10:00) Mark & Christine Stohle
Lector: (8:00) Randy Teske (10:00) Volunteer
Lay Assist: (8:00) Chuck Gentry, Glen McDonald
(10:00) Zoey Doubek, Rashad Hyder
Altar Guild: Laurel McVinnie, Cary Ralston
Praise Singers: Chuck & Lynn Valentine