



Special points of interest:



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

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From Pastor Desk:

Monday, January 21, 2019

Volume 46, Issue 2

Why we should be concerned!

"Anyone who sets himself up as "religious" by talking a good game is self-deceived. This kind of religion is hot air and only hot air. Real religion, the kind that passes muster before God the Father, is this: Reach out to the homeless and loveless in their plight, and guard against corruption from the godless world.... Dear friends, do you think you'll get anywhere in this if you learn all the right words but never do anything? Does merely talking about faith indicate that a person really has it? For instance, you come upon an old friend dressed in rags and half-starved and say, "Good morning, friend! Be clothed in Christ! Be filled with the Holy Spirit!" and walk off without providing so much as a coat or a cup of soup—where does that get you? Isn't it obvious that God-talk without God-acts is outrageous nonsense? I can already hear one of you agreeing by saying, "Sounds good. You take care of the faith department; I'll handle the works department." Not so fast. You can no more show me your works apart from your faith than I can show you my faith apart from my works. Faith and works, works and faith, fit together hand in glove. (James 1:27, 2:14-18 from The Message)."

Paul comes right out and declares it. Faith without works is dead! (James 2:17 NIV). Let's face it, too often Christians are complacent. Ready to sit back and enjoy the blessings that they feel God has bestowed upon them. Our society has made it really easy for us to organize our lives so that we are rarely if ever are confronted with the poor and disenfranchised of this world. One Christian even declared to me once, "what's the big deal? If God wants to feed the hungry, God is more than capable. God doesn't need us to do anything!"

It is true that God doesn't need us, but what we fail to see is that we so desperately need God. I am not referring here to the hungry and homeless (although they too need God) but to us, the average American Christian who has what they need, and does not worry about where they will be sleeping or what they will be eating tomorrow. We are the ones in desperate need of God. We just don't always know it.

In the above scripture, Paul challenges the church to realize the truth that **Our faith will die if it is not put into practice.** Once our faith dies, our experience of God on a daily basis goes with it. Barriers of

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BY THE NUMBERS

Rejoicing Spirits 12/13/18 67

Attendance 12/16/18 58 + 43 101 Attendance 1/13/19 35 + 52 87

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

Gen Fund 1/6/19	\$6,861.00	Gen Fund 1/13/19	\$9,629.00
Forward in Faith	\$1,611.00	Forward in Faith	\$3,600.00
Surplus/Deficit	+\$204.98	Surplus/Deficit	+\$4,961.98

(2018) 53/54.....\$6,125.00

Surplus/Deficit YTD..... -\$20,090.86 (11/30/18)

Pray for Alpine members:

Pat Anderson, Rick Bried, Pat Christiansen, Ernest & Mary DeNale, Richard & Nancy Ewert, Doris Fransen, Marybeth Gillette, Rich & Jan Hill, Peggy Lillegaard, Jack & Norma Lucas, Marguerite Luth, Marian Olson, Gerry Perala, Donna Steele, Melissa (Bukowski) Stucky & Family and Darold Walker.

Pray for our friends and family of Alpine:

Sally Atkinson, Kim Braun, Linda Carter, Linda Conness, Jerome Gill, Elena Hember, Daniel Hendrickson, Geri Hughe, Shirley Kagel, Kathleen Lovins, Linda & Lorna Lurvey, Peggy Moorhouse, Sharon Mund, Carol Nelsen, Aileen Petersen, Tom Rogers, Bob Schult, Jeremy Sturges, Don Tennant, Penny Wendling and Curt Wyre.

All In the Family

Kath Cordonnier thanks everyone for the holiday basket, prayers and cards she has received following her husband's death. **Jan Galster and the family of Alyce Krusemeier** wish to express their appreciation for the support, cards, prayers, and memorial they have received. **Jan Hill** wishes to thank everyone for the beautiful altar flowers she received. **Donna Brenner** sends her thanks for all the birthday greetings.



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—will resume January 30th
- * Wednesday Evening Bible Study at 7 PM, check board for location—will resume January 30th

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

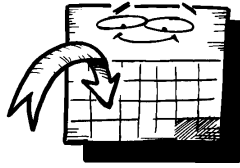
very positive effect on our church! We have had many positive and thankful responses from those we have been praying for. The benefits are so great that we have decided to make this an ongoing part of Alpine's church life. Some comments we've received are "power of prayer - it works!", "just what we 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.

January 27th—Scott Dabson & Morgan; Jack & Carla Phillips; Gene & Donna Seefeldt; and Amanda Meyers.

February 3rd—Craig & Louise Skolrood; Fred & Ardy Stevens; Nan Strom; Don Torgerson; and Jerry & June Tongue.



Monday, January 21st—Martin Luther King Day
Wednesday, January 20th—Bible Studies resume, 10 AM & 7 PM
Sunday, February 3rd—ONE WORSHIP SERVICE, 10 AM
Sunday, February 3rd—Annual Meeting, 11:30 AM

Official Notice: The congregation of Alpine Lutheran Church is hereby convened for its annual meeting to take place on Sunday, February 3, 2019 at 11:30 AM. The meeting will include reports and election of members to the church council.



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, February 3rd is our Annual Meeting Sunday. There will only **ONE worship service at 10:00 AM.** The 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, February 3rd. The Youth are serving a light lunch for a free will offering that will go to costs and youth work camp.

Due to the Annual Meeting being held the first Sunday in February, the **Adult Forum** for February will be on the second Sunday, **February 10th**. The topic of discussion will be the Invest In Kids program and its future in Illinois. A light breakfast will be served. Please mark your calendars.

From the SCRIP Desk:

We just finished the holiday season now we are looking towards our next special event on the calendar. If you cheated and looked ahead you know I am talking about Valentines Day. In a few short weeks it will be time to do something special for your special someone. SCRIP carries many area restaurants and retailers to help surprise your special someone with something special. Many of our limited times offers are almost gone Home Depot, Taco Bell, Barnes and Noble, and Starbucks. Keeping a few of these low denominational cards are great to have on hand when the wallet is running short on cash and you have that craving for a taco or coffee or even needing a light bulb at the most inconvenient time of your week. (Deb Geeser)

KEEP CALM...SHOP SCRIP

2018 Giving Statements are available to pick up from the counter in the coat room. If you find any discrepancies please contact Lynn in the office. She will be glad to make any corrections. The statements will remain on the counter through the Annual Meeting and then any remaining will be mailed out. If you would prefer, they can be emailed out. Please let Lynn know.

Social Ministry is providing **lunch at Carpenter's Place** on **Thursday, January 31st** at 12:30 PM. Donations of desserts & volunteers to help serve would be appreciated. Contact Janet Gentry to volunteer, phone or text 815-985-6262.

Altar Guild has put up the **2019 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)

Wednesday Bible Studies, both AM & PM, will resume after a short break on **Wednesday, January 30th**. We meet at 10 AM in the conference room and at 7 PM the location may vary, check the room assignment board please.

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.



Scout Sunday—February 10th

Sunday, February 10th, at the 10:00 service, several of our scouts from Troop 57 and Pack 157 will be assisting during the worship service. The Boy Scouts have been chartered by Alpine Lutheran since 1949. Come and show your support to this great group of young people and their leaders. (Mike LaFew)

February's Council Meeting will be a workshop for all returning and new Council members. We will meet on Saturday, February 9th at 9 AM. This meeting usually lasts around 2 hours. Food and coffee will be provided.

Tabor Lutheran's tradition of **Swedish korv** was graciously taken on by RALM this year. They have several hundred pounds still available for sale. If you are interested in purchasing some, an order form is on the bulletin board in the narthex or you may call RALM at 815-962-4279 .



Alpine Academy
of Rockford
Faith • Family • Future

We have entered our second semester with a stable enrollment of 107. We have our work cut out for us this year. We need to continue to improve our education model as we work to meet the needs of a changing community. We pray that God continues to smile on Alpine Academy.

This month, the Empower Illinois enrollment begins, again. Scott Dabson has been leading the way throughout northern Illinois for private schools to find the financial support that Empower Illinois needs, as well as, the parents who would like their children to have a private school education. Please give him your support and encouragement for taking on this stress filled job.

Our CPTO needs members. A few years ago, we added the C so that our church is represented. As a church member, please consider being a part of the CPTO and come to the school to support the children.

I have placed some Northwest Quarterly magazines in the church. Please look through the latest issue in the school section. Lutheran schools seem particularly highlighted this year, including Alpine Academy.

In Christ,

Principal Bob McVinnie



Children's Church

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.

Synod News:

1. Pastor Kurt Nordby, our Assistant to the Bishop for Stewardship and Development, will be retiring as of February 1, 2019. Pastor Nordby has been a part of the synod staff for the past ten years and has contributed much to the life of this synod. His love of the church, his willing service and cheerful demeanor will be greatly missed.
2. The Synod Council has issued a call to Pastor Pat Esker to serve as Assistant to the Bishop. Based in the Rockford office, she will work mainly in the areas of operations and governance. Pastor Esker will begin her work on March 1, 2019.
3. We are in the final days of Fiscal Year 2018 and we are currently projecting a **deficit of \$70,000**. This is quite concerning. Please pray for the Synod and all who work so hard to lead our churches.

The next **Rejoicing Spirits Worship** is **Thursday, February 14th, 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).

Pastor Dan will be gone at a continuing studies conference from January 15th to January 27th. There will not be any Bible studies while he is gone. If you have any pastoral needs, please call the church office, 815-399-5013, and leave a message. We will return your call as soon as possible.

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)



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)

Do you own a Thrivent Financial policy? Each year you need to designate where your Thrivent Choice Dollars go. The deadline for designating your Choice Dollars is March 31st. Last year, \$3,108 was contributed to Alpine through this program. This does not count the amount we received through the Action Team monies that are available for different fundraising projects. Please contact your Thrivent Financial agent for more information or see the flyers posted on the bulletin board in the narthex.

(continued from front page)

sin result between us and God - barriers that result in us being unable to experience all of God's wondrous blessings. If we ignore others, we become increasingly selfish. The sin of selfishness eats away at our relationship with God, creating yet even more barriers. If we avoid self-sacrifice, we never learn to trust God to provide, and our faith will not grow. Instead it will wither and die.

These truths are repeated throughout scripture. They are reflected in God's love for the poor, homeless and hungry - for those who are abandoned by society. Too often Christians fall into the mindset that I need to do some good works to earn points in Heaven so that God won't be too mad at me. This is false! We need to reach out and feed the hungry because it is essential to our own welfare, to our own spiritual growth. Often people ask me "Where is God? Why can't I find God? Sense or feel God?" My answer; *"If you want to find God, go hang out with the poor, the homeless, and the hungry. For that is where you will find God working in abundance. That is where you learn to grow your faith and experience of God."*



-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.

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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.

Are you planning on moving? Drop a note to the church office so you do not miss any mailings. The church has to pay for each newsletter that is returned for a wrong address.

A fun way to begin the New Year, and a fun way to support the work of Katie's Cup!

Having Your Cake(or Pie!) and Eating it too!

Dinner, with a Delectable, Decadent DESSERT AUCTION

February 8, 2019

Mauh-Nah-Tee-See Country Club

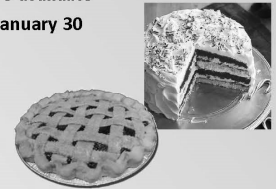
5:30 pm - Check in/dessert viewing/cash bar

6:15 pm - Dinner (Chicken or Vegetarian Lasagna)

followed by an exciting Dessert Auction!

\$30 per person, tables of 8 available

Reservation Deadline: January 30



- You won't want to miss this unique way to support the outreach ministries of Katie's Cup, all the while satisfying your sweet tooth!
- Bid on - individually or with your table - one or more of the outstanding desserts offered (homemade or donated/prepared by area businesses)!
- Share with your table or take home to eat! ENJOY!!



Make a reservation by contacting your church office, a member of the Katie's Cup board, or stop by Katie's Cup, 502 Seventh Street, Rockford. 815.986.0628 www.katiescup.com



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

Non-profit org
U.S. Postage
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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 27, 2019

Ushers: (8:00) Le Johnson, Karl Okeson,
Randy Teske, Volunteer
(10:00) John Linde, Volunteers
Ambass.: (8:00) Bill & Diane Billert
(10:00) Nancy Matthews, Diana Sundeen
Elements: (8:00) Carol Johnson, Deb Okeson
(10:00) Amanda Dabson, Mari Hanson
Lector: (8:00) Carla Phillips (10:00) Dick
Nelson
Lay Assist: (8:00) Chuck Gentry, Glen
McDonald
(10:00) Bob McVinnie, Dick Nelson
Altar Guild: Janet Gentry, JoAnn Christiansen
Praise Singers: Chuck & Lynn Valentine

Sun., February 3, 2019
ONE SERVICE
ANNUAL MEETING SUNDAY
10:00 AM

Ushers: DiAnne Beynon, Larry Graham, John
Gustafson, Don Torgerson
Ambass.: Craig & Barb Shelton
Elements: Matt & Debbie Hier
Lector: Becky Toro
Lay Assist: Nancy Matthews, Mike Schultz
Altar Guild: Gwyn Brechtel, Volunteer
Praise Singers: Ted Croisant, Bob McVinnie