



Special points of interest:

Worship Sunday
8:00 AM
10:00 AM

Rejoicing Spirits
6:00 PM (2nd Thursday)

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

In this issue:

2019 Council 3

Shrove Tuesday 3

Soup Suppers 4

Stephen Ministry Workshop 5

From Pastor Desk:

Monday, February 18, 2019

Volume 46, Issue 4

What is Prayer and why is it so important? (Part 1)

Prayer is one of the greatest tools one can have in the world because it opens the door to a dialogue with God. God calls out to us. The story of scripture is the story of a God who pursues us, who wants to be in relationship with us. Prayer is our basic component of communication.

When we pray we...

- begin a dialogue with the One Who created us, the One who never left us.
- are reestablishing that connection within our hearts and minds and giving ourselves the opportunity to have a deeper experience with God.
- choose to step aside from all that seems to be happening as we seek a connection with the Creator.
- we both speak and listen
- we expose ourselves, all of who we are to God, so that God's gentle hand can continue the process of transformation and change - sculpting us into the people God created us to be.

Prayer is so much more than just asking for immediate needs. It involves thinking, listening, meditating, contemplating, remembering, learning, hearing, responding, crying.... it is a complete dialogue. Without this experience, too often we are overwhelmed by the circumstances of life or the false messages that the world constantly bombards us with.

Despite this tremendous need that we have for prayer, it is not easy. The only time it seems to come naturally - if at all - is in times of crisis. This is when we are panicking and cry out "God please help!" By then, it is often a desperate cry. Tragically, most of us have not built up the skills of listening to God and so it is much harder for us to hear or receive from God during these times. Why is it so difficult? Why can't we just live in constant communication with God? There are many reasons and obstacles that we face. One common problem is we have a wrong images or perception of God. This leads to having a very distorted form of prayer. What image of God do you have when you pray? Is God like Santa Clause (you give God your list and depending on whether or not you've been bad or good during the past week influences God's response)? Or is God like a genie in a bottle, bow your head and whatever you wish for it is granted. Some people view God as a stern father who grudgingly gives a reward now and then only to motivate his child to do something for him. All three of these images of God are false, yet they are very common today. These false images influence our attitude, perception and experience of prayer and create obstacles for us. The worst possible result is they turn us away from God after having had unfulfilled experiences when we pray.

Allowing scripture, worship, trusted mentors, and pastors to guide us in replacing false images of God with a true picture of who God is important to helping us learn how to dialogue with God. What images do you have of God? How might you start seeking out truer images...?

(to be continued in our next Summit)

BY THE NUMBERS

Attendance 2/3/19 96 Attendance 2/10/19 64 + 65 129

Required total receipts weekly.....\$8,213.71

Gen Fund 2/3/19	\$6,438.00	Gen Fund 2/10/19	\$3,235.75
Forward in Faith	\$1,886.00	Forward in Faith	\$1,195.00
Surplus/Deficit	+\$111.29	Surplus/Deficit	-\$3,782.96

Surplus/Deficit YTD..... +\$456.30 (12/31/18)

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 Lusth, 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, John Mick, Peggy Moorhouse, Sharon Mund, Carol Nelsen, Aileen Petersen, Tom Rogers, Bob Schult, Jeremy Sturges, Don Tennant, Brendan Welsh, Penny Wendling and Curt Wrye.

All In the Family

Birthday thanks came in from **John Ralston**. We share our love and sympathy with 2 families of Alpine : to **Jim & Linda Whale**, Jim's mother died February 6th; and to the family of **Nancy Ewert** who died this past week as well.



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.

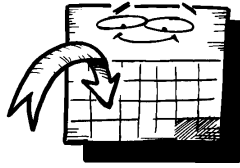
Praying weekly for Alpine's membership has had a very positive effect on our church! We have had many positive and thankful responses from those we have been praying for. The benefits are so great that we have decided to make this an ongoing part of Alpine's church life. Some comments we've received 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.

February 24th—Bobby & Landon Mounts; Carl Stohle, Jim, Kathy & Natalie Taylor; and Sylvia Emerson.

March 3rd—Rhonda Paravala; Jean Knutson; Deb & Ryan Matthews.



Saturday, February 23rd—Alpine Academy Open House, 9 AM - 12 PM

Sunday, March 3rd—2019 Council Installation

Wednesday, March 6th—Ash Wednesday Worship, 11 AM & 7 PM

Saturday, March 9th—Congregational Resourcing Event



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.

**Congratulations to Our
2019 Council Members**

**President: Scott Dabson, Vice-President: Lori Fanello,
Secretary: DiAnne Beynon, Treasurer: Allen Geeser/
Craig Shelton**

Christian Ed/ Youth

John Linde, Barb Milton

Finance/ Stewardship

Al Geeser, Craig Shelton

Social Ministry/Alpine Connections

Lori Fanello, John Linde, Richard Nelson, DiAnne Beynon, Gail Davidson, Pat Turmo

Property

Scott Dabson, Al Geeser

Worship & Music

Pam Lojewski, Tonya Mund

Outreach

Scott Dabson, Scott Christiansen

On **Sunday, March 3rd**, we will be installing our 2019 Council members at both services. Please plan to attend to show your support of these volunteers.

Please note: the **Property Committee** has changed their meeting day and time. They will now meet on the **first Thursday** of the month at 6:30 PM. We encourage new members and suggestions to make the property of Alpine Lutheran more inviting, economical and safe.

The report is in and the **ELCA "Soup"er Bowl for Hunger** collection brought in a total of \$286.00. It was a well fought fight for both teams but in the final seconds...the Bears pulled ahead to win the game. The final score was Bears \$189 and Packers \$97. We thank everyone for contributing to help feed the hungry here and around the world.

The February issue of "**Living Lutheran**" is in and available to pick up from the Care & Concern counter. In this month's issue the lead article, "Led by the Spirit", the author explains the ever-changing definition of a congregation's vitality. How "people in the pews and money in the offering plate" doesn't tell the full story anymore.

The **2019 Congregational Resourcing Event** will be **Saturday, March 9th** 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. Please call the office or see Pastor Dan if you are interested in attending. A handout with registration information was in your recent worship folder.



**SHROVE
TUESDAY**

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, March 5th, 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. We do need donations of pancake mix (just add water kind) and syrup. (John Linde)

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 see a member of the Alpine Connections Committee. Thank you.

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 Jan Pauly if you are able to assist in this area or are someone in need of a ride. (Jan Pauly)



**Alpine Academy
of Rockford**
Faith • Family • Future

We thank God for the blessings He has given us at Alpine Academy and Alpine Lutheran Church. We are so fortunate to be able to present a well rounded Christian education to the young people of Rockford. Thank you to the congregation for all the support you provide us. I am asking that you pray for the students of Alpine over Lent. I will provide to you a list of the student's first names. They will be in a basket in the narthex just before Ash Wednesday. We have 106 students. I ask each congregation member to draw one name from the basket and pray for that student over Lent. I believe in the power of prayer. I believe that if you get to know one student through prayer you will make a difference in their life. I, also, believe this will make a difference in your life.

We have an Open House coming up on Saturday, Feb 23 from 9-12. Please invite your friends and neighbors to check out the Academy. We will have another Open House in March, with a third one in April. We are looking forward to our Easter Egg Hunt, again, this April. We had over 125 children participate in the hunt last year and we expect more this year.

This has been the most snow days in decades. Please send out a thank you to the Property Committee for keeping our parking lot plowed and for Tim in keeping the sidewalks salted. Scott, on Property has also been involved with the installation of our new water fountains. Thank You.

In Christ,
Bob McVinnie, Principal

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

Soup Suppers begin Wednesday, March 13th at 6:00 PM. Come and enjoy a bowl of soup, some bread, and of course, a dessert every Wednesday prior to the worship service. A sign-up poster will be in the narthex to volunteer to bring something or to help with set-up or clean-up.

From the SCRIP Desk:

Attention pet owners: remember your four legged friends have been stuck inside this winter, why not show them you appreciate them by purchasing a new toy or a special treat. SCRIP carries gift cards to Petsmart, Farm & Fleet, Menards, Meijer, Target, and Walmart. These retailers all carry pet supply items. So treat that furry friend to a special treat by stopping by the SCRIP desk and picking up a gift card. (Deb Geeser)

KEEP CALM...SHOP SCRIP

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.

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)

Copies of the **2018 Annual Report** are still available in the coat room for those who would like a copy. When the copies are gone, notify Lynn and she will make more.



**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.



-**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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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.

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.

Our Savior's Lutheran is holding a **Stephen Ministry Introductory Workshop** on Saturday, March 23rd from 9 AM to 1 PM. The Stephen Ministry is a group of lay caregivers who help pastors minister to people who are hurting after a loss or life changing event. They provide comfort and support for the "after" in someone's life. To register, visit stephenministry.org/workshop or call 314-428-2600. A flyer is posted on the bulletin board in the narthex.



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/>



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Non-profit org
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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., February 24, 2019

Ushers: (8:00) Les Johnson, Karl Okeson,
Randy Teske, Volunteer
(10:00) John Linde, Volunteers
Ambass.: (8:00) Lillian Hagen, Shirley Schou
(10:00) Mari Hanson, Diana Sundeen
Elements: (8:00) Matt & Debbie Hier
(10:00) Bob & Laurel McVinnie
Lector: (8:00) Bob Fanello (10:00) Jari Sproule
Lay Assist: (8:00) Bob & Lori Fanello
(10:00) Maddie Merwin, Volunteer
Altar Guild: Janet Gentry, JoAnn Christiansen
Praise Singers: Chuck & Lynn Valentine

Sun., March 3, 2019

Ushers: (8:00) Larry & Joni Graham, Don
Torgerson, Volunteer
(10:00) DiAnne Beynon, John Gustafson,
Volunteers
Ambass.: (8:00) Bill & Diane Billert
(10:00) John & David Linde
Elements: (8:00) Darold & Sharon Walker
(10:00) Amanda Dabson, Mari Hanson
Lector: (8:00) Gwyn Brechtel (10:00) Dick
Nelson
Lay Assist: (8:00) Tonya Mund, Deb Okeson
(10:00) Nancy Matthews, Dick Nelson
Altar Guild: Gwyn Brechtel, Volunteer
Praise Singers: Ted Croisant, Bob McVinnie