



**Special points of interest:**

Sunday Worship  
 8:00 AM Traditional  
 10:00 AM Praise  
 10:00 AM Facebook Live

Church Office Hours  
 Mon.—Thurs.  
 8:30 AM—4:30 PM  
 (Lunch 12:30—1:30 PM)

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Monday, December 5, 2022

Volume 49, Issue 24

*From Pastor Dan:*

**Emmanuel – God With Us!**

*“Do you think anyone is going to be able to drive a wedge between us and Christ’s love for us? There is no way! Not trouble, not hard times, not hatred, not hunger, not homelessness, not bullying threats, not backstabbing, not even the worst sins listed in Scripture... None of this fazes us because Jesus loves us. I’m absolutely convinced that nothing—nothing living or dead, angelic or demonic, today or tomorrow, high or low, thinkable or unthinkable— absolutely nothing can get between us and God’s love because of the way that Jesus our Master has embraced us.” Romans 8:35-39*

Christmas is almost here. With it brings the reminder of God’s wonderful presence in our life. Each week as we waited and prepared during Advent, we have sung the song Emmanuel. Emmanuel is one of the names ascribed to Jesus and it means “God with us.” During our celebrations of Christmas – whether we are experiencing wonderful joys or painful darkness – I find it helpful to remember that God is with us. Since God is here, nothing can separate us from the love and peace that are permanently attached to God. Even if our lives do not reflect God very much, God is still here. God is present and God is waiting - waiting for us to receive the wonderful gifts of change and transformation that God wants to bring into our lives.

God was so determined to be with us that God took the difficult route, so that nothing could go wrong. The Christmas story seems like it is filled with “*wrong things.*”

- A long journey across a desert at the whim of a foreign emperor
- No room in the inn
- Shepherds being the first witness
- Foreigners seeing and recognizing the promise of God before Israel’s leaders do
- Frantic journeys of escaping death etc...

There is a lot that seems like it is not going well. Often our lives can reflect this. But there is one unmistakable truth to the Christmas story. God was present! Even as things were falling apart for Mary and Joseph, God was with them - changing the story from a tragedy to a blessing. The same way that God transforms our lives from tragedies to blessings – by being with us! May we all encounter the depth of God’s presence in our lives. May God bring blessings out of our messed-up lives.

**BY THE NUMBERS**

11/13/22	37 + 35	72	11/20/22	44 + 25	69	11/27/22	37 + 36	73
11/13 Online views		15	11/20 Online views		11	No online video		
	Thanksgiving worship	11:15 AM	82	7:00 PM	24			
	Required total receipts weekly.....\$7,458.56							
Gen Fund 11/13/22	\$1,517.00	Gen Fund 11/20/22	\$7,401.00	Gen Fund 11/20/22	\$2,303.00			
Forward in Faith	\$1,141.00	Forward in Faith	\$653.00	Forward in Faith	\$853.00			
Surplus/Deficit	-\$4,215.56	Surplus/Deficit	+\$725.44	Surplus/Deficit	-\$3,847.56			
	53rd/54th Week.....	\$585.00	Festival.....	\$130.00				
	Loose Thanksgiving for local hunger.....	\$97.00						
	Giving Tuesday.....	\$125.00						
	Surplus/Deficit YTD..... +\$7,197.61 (10/31/22)							



**Pray for Alpine members:**

Linda Becker, Rick Bried, Cindy Bulthaus, Mary DeNale, Marybeth Gillette, Louise Hemenway, Jan Hill, Jim Hill, Les Johnson, Valerie Miller, Ardy Stevens, JR Stropes, Jeanne Tengren, Don Torgerson, and Pat Turmo.

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

Sally Atkinson, Kim Braun, Linda Conness, Cornelia Foley, Daniel Hendrickson, Darlene Johnson, Kathleen Lovins, Todd McDonald, Sharon Mund, Judy Osiwalla, David Rawls, Bob Schult, Jeremy Sturges, Don Tennant, Penny Wendling, all those in the Ukraine conflict, and all affected by Hurricane Ian.

**All in the Family**

Birthdays thanks came in from **Ed Lorenzen & Irv Johnson**. **Donna Brenner** called with thanks for all the cards and flowers she received after her recent fall. **Irv Johnson** sends his thanks for the altar flowers he received. Many thanks from **Shirley Finger** for all the prayers she received from her Alpine family.

**Worship Schedule :**

- **Sunday Worship:**  
8:00 AM Traditional Worship (in-person)  
10:00 AM Praise Worship/ YouTube-Facebook Live (in-person and online)
- **Children's Church** meets every Sunday, monthly Grab & Go packets will continue to be available for pick-up.
- **Academy Chapel:** 2:15 PM every Tuesday 1st—6th grades, 9:15 AM every Friday Preschool—K Everyone is invited
- **Rejoicing Spirits: Every 1<sup>st</sup> (in person) & 3<sup>rd</sup> (Zoom) Thursday, 6:00 PM** (This service is for those with developmental disabilities, their families, caregivers, and others.)
- **Men's Bible Breakfast: 7:00 AM** Tuesdays, Sunrise Restaurant



**Pastor Dan's office hours:** Mondays 12:00-3:00; Tuesdays 9:00 – 3:00; Wednesdays 9:00 – 3:00; and Thursdays 1:00 – 3:00. He is also available at other times by appointment.



**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 on-going 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 the office whenever the need arises for extra prayers you may have.

**Together we worship, together we pray,  
together we love.**

**December 11<sup>th</sup>** — Joan & Nicholas Chockalingam; Gary & Ginny Hunt; and Pr. Pam Lojewski.

**November 18<sup>th</sup>** — Ed & Nancy Lorenzen; Irv Johnson; Mark Christine, Holly & Renee Stohle.

## THOSE WHO SERVE

### Sunday, December 11, 2022

**Ushers:** (8:00) Jim Anderson, Bob Fanello  
(10:00) DiAnne Beynon, Marge Rakoczy  
**Ambassadors:** (8:00) Jack & Carla Phillips  
(10:00) John Linde, Volunteer  
**Lector:** (8:00) Carla Phillips  
(10:00) Allen Neumann  
**Lay Assistant:** (8:00) Deb Okeson  
(10:00) Allen Neumann  
**Praise Singer:** Jaime Doubek

### Sunday, December 15, 2022

**Ushers:** (8:00) Karl Okeson, Randy Teske  
(10:00) Jim Burnett, Dick Nelson  
**Ambassador:** (8:00) Les & Carol Johnson  
(10:00) Aaron Ayen, Mike Schultz  
**Lector:** (8:00) Andrea Tack  
(10:00) Lynn Valentine  
**Lay Assistant:** (8:00) Andrea Tack  
(10:00) Craig Shelton  
**Praise Singers:** Becky Toro, Chuck & Lynn Valentine



**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)

You are invited to attend the **Alpine Academy Christmas Program** on Thursday, December 15<sup>th</sup>, at 6:00 PM in the gym. Come and show your support to our Academy students as they prepare for this blessed season.



The **Alpine Lutheran C & E Choir** invites you **Sunday, December 18<sup>th</sup>**, to our Christmas Cantata, written by our very own Richard & Connie Dowling. 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)

The **Church Council of Alpine Lutheran** has started a collection for a 2022 Christmas bonus for our full-time staff; Pastor Dan, Lynn Valentine and Richard Dowling. If you would like to contribute, all donations can be placed in the offering marked **Staff Christmas** or dropped off at the office. We will be collecting through January. We thank them for all they do for Alpine all year long! (Scott Dabson)

**Holiday Church Office Hours:** The church office will be closed the day after Christmas 12/26, Tuesday, 12/27, and January 2, 2023. (Lynn Valentine)



**Candlelight Christmas Eve** services are at **3 & 7 PM**. The earlier service will hopefully 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. The later service is our traditional candlelight service.

**Christmas Eve Assistants & Ushers needed:** We need volunteers to assist with communion and to usher at both worship services on Christmas Eve, 3 & 7 PM. Please contact the office if you can serve or sign-up on the poster in the narthex.

Worship services will be held both **Christmas Day** and **New Year's Day**. There will be **ONLY ONE SERVICE at 10 AM** one each of the days. We hope everyone has a blessed Christmas and look forward to 2023!

### **From the SCRIP Desk:**

A couple of friendly reminders for the Christmas season. One, shop early for your SCRIP cards some cards we are able to order, but do not keep in stock. It takes one week to fill orders that we do not carry in stock. All orders should be ready in time for Christmas if you order by/on Sunday December 11<sup>th</sup>. Two, remember the low denominational cards are for a limited time so don't wait to order these special cards. (Jody Dabson)

### **KEEP CALM...SHOP SCRIP**

As the **end of the year** approaches, Alpine has much to be thankful for. We especially thank you for your commitment to Alpine's ministries both spiritually and financially. The end of the year is also the time to review your stewardship commitment to ensure you are current with your pledge. If you have any questions about where you are at with your giving, please call Lynn in the church office. We will be closing our books for 2022 December 31<sup>st</sup>. (Finance & Stewardship Committee)

**Holiday Summit Schedule:** Due to the way the holidays fall on the calendar this year we have had to change our Summit schedule. Here are the dates that you will receive one, 12/19 and 1/9/2023. Any article for the Summit needs to be turned in one week prior.



**Tuesday, December 6<sup>th</sup>**—Worship & Music, 6 PM  
**Tuesday, December 6<sup>th</sup>**—Christian Ed/ Youth, 6:30 PM  
**Tuesday, December 6<sup>th</sup>**—Social Ministry, 7 PM  
**Thursday, December 8<sup>th</sup>**—Church Council, 6 PM  
**Sunday, December 11<sup>th</sup>**—3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent  
**Wednesday, December 14<sup>th</sup>**—Faith Net, 5:30 PM  
**Thursday, December 15<sup>th</sup>**—Alpine Academy Christmas Program, 6 PM  
**Sunday, December 18<sup>th</sup>**—4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent, Cantata 10 AM  
**Saturday, December 24<sup>th</sup>**—Christmas Eve, Worship 3 & 7 PM  
**Sunday, December 25<sup>th</sup>**—Christmas Day, Worship at 10 AM **ONLY**



If you have not already picked one up, this year's Advent devotional book, **"This will be a Sign for You"** by Henri Nouwen, is available in Memorial Lounge. Share a copy with a friend or neighbor!

The November issue of **Living Lutheran** is here and ready for you to pick-up. In this month's cover article Luther College makes history with a game against Briar Cliff University at "The Field of Dreams". Stop and pick up a copy to read then share your copy with a friend or neighbor while copies last.



**Donation Needs for December**

We've been blessed with nice fall weather, giving us time to prepare for the challenges of colder days ahead. Our current needs are all about keeping our recipients warm, comfortable, and healthy. Winter coats, thermal underwear, hoodies and jeans top the list. We also need Styrofoam cups and bleach.



We invite all children to come to our Children's Church during the 10:00 worship hour. We will not be meeting Christmas Day or New Year's Day. We will resume on January 8th. Grab bags will be available for pick-up.

**Many thanks** to all those who helped to ensure the **Thanksgiving feast** at Alpine was once again a success. Special thanks to Jessica Bakey, Marge Rakoczy, Tim Babcock, Deb Hier, Heidi Lykken, Stacy Lidvall, Gwyn Brechtel, Brandi McFadden, Steven Gowan and Jody Dabson for cooking turkeys, helping setup, serving and volunteering through out the feast as needed. If I forgot anyone I apologize and thank you as well. The feast was successful due to all your hard work and dedication to our Alpine Family. (Scott Dabson)

**Council Reminder:** This month we are meeting on Thursday, **December 8<sup>th</sup>**, as opposed to the usual week. We hope to be making a decision on the annual meeting and reviewing the proposed budget. (Scott Dabson)



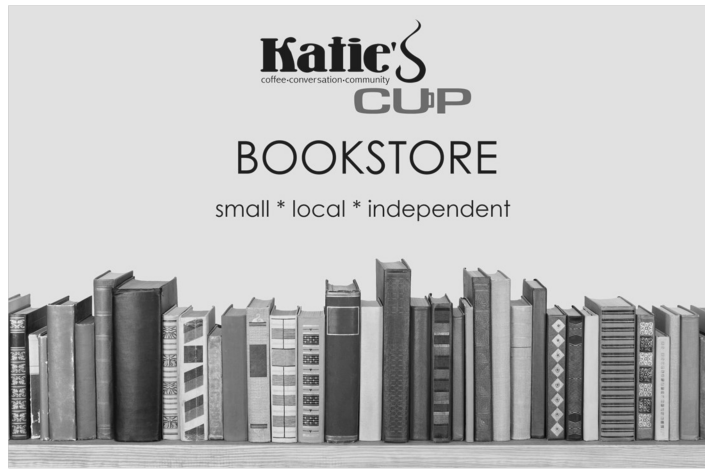
We are in need of people to provide treats and juice for the **coffee hours**. There is a sign up poster on the coffee table in the narthex. **Special Coffee Hour on Sunday, January 1<sup>st</sup>**: coffee will be served between worship services as usual and we welcome you to bring any **leftover Christmas treats** to share with the congregation.

**The Social Ministry Committee continues collecting for the Christmas Holiday Food Baskets.** All items need to be collected by Thursday, December 15<sup>th</sup>. A list of items is on the Care & Concern counter. 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 Committee)

**Are you a Thrivent Financial member?** If so, did you know that you are allowed 2 Action Team cards per calendar year that can benefit projects and events at Alpine? This \$250 card provides seed money to make the event or project a success. We are looking for a card to purchase supplies and food for the Annual Meeting. Please see the office if you are able to help with a card.

We are still collecting **2023 Pledge cards** if you have not turned in yours yet. Please make sure to put your name and envelope number on the card. Please prayerfully consider your giving to Alpine. We thank you for your support of Alpine and its ministries. (Finance & Stewardship Committee)

A special **"Thank You"** to everyone who participated in planning and implementing our 80th Anniversary Celebration. A special thanks to the 80th Anniversary Committee, the donors for some of the silent auction items, Jodi Beach for providing the music, ABC Catering for the great food and especially all who attended and made this event such a success. (Scott Christiansen)



While you are doing your holiday shopping this season don't forget the gift of books from Katie's Cup Bookstore. We have a wide selection of award-winning books for children and adults in-store. Check out our titles during normal business hours (Tue-Fri, 8 am - 2 pm).

Looking for a specific book or an e-book? Shop online at [www.bookshop.org/shop/katiescup](http://www.bookshop.org/shop/katiescup) and receive **FREE SHIPPING** from Saturday, November 26 through Monday, November 28. Not sure what to buy? Consider a gift card, in-store or online.

Thank you for supporting midtown Rockford's only local, independent bookstore this season!

<p><i>Advent Concert Series</i></p> <p>Music by <b>JODI BEACH</b></p> <p><b>Wednesday</b> <b>December 7, 2022 at Noon</b></p> <p>Free admission. Katie's Cup coffeebar is open from 9am-2pm.</p>	<p><i>Advent Concert Series</i></p> <p>Music By <b>THREE GUITARIST</b> Scott Stoleberg, Denver Bitner and Mike Thomas</p> <p><b>Wednesday</b> <b>December 14, 2022 at Noon</b></p> <p>Free admission. Katie's Cup coffeebar is open from 9am-2pm.</p>
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*Advent Concert Series*

Music By  
**BEERT STRING TRIO**  
Michael Beert, Rachel Handlin, Aria Beert

**Wednesday**  
**December 21, 2022 at Noon**

Free admission. Katie's Cup coffeebar is open from 9am-2pm.



**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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Rockford, IL  
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

**Sun. Worship Times**  
**8:00 & 10:00 AM**



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alpinelutheran.com

**ALPINE LUTHERAN CHURCH CELEBRATING 80 YEARS**



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

I can't believe it's already December.... It feels like we just started our school year. This part of our year feels so fast paced and can seem as if it just passes us by. We just finished Thanksgiving with meals with our families and sharing all thing we're are grateful for. We are now preparing for Christmas together at Alpine Academy.

The return of our Thanksgiving Feast was a success. We were so happy to see so many people join us both during the worship service and the lunch following. I think this may have been the largest group we've served in my time at Alpine. The feast is a lot of work to put together but is also one of my favorite events of the year bringing all of our Alpine Family together for a meal.

Our students are now preparing for our Christmas Program. This year our it will take place on December 15<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm in the gym. We want to invite all of our Alpine Family and Friends to join us as our students sing and share with us to welcome the Christmas season. Our students always do a fantastic job at our programs and you will not want to miss this year.

This past week we kicked off our GivingTuesday campaign. GivingTuesday is an opportunity to end our calendar year seeking the non-profit organizations that we support and making donations to support their efforts or projects. We began a campaign on GivingTuesday to raise money to replace the sound system in the gym and for needed curriculum materials. Thanks to some generous donations we are well on our way toward our goal. If you would like to help with our goal you can drop donations off at the school office, mail them or place them in a purple envelope in the pews and drop in the offering plate (please mark GivingTuesday on envelope). We are very grateful for the continued support of everyone in our Alpine Family.

In Christ  
Mr. Scott Dabson  
Director  
Alpine Academy