



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, January 8, 2024

Volume 51, Issue 1

From Pastor Don:

Happy New Year!

I write those words to you because I hope that 2024 is a happy one for you. But perhaps not in the way we often think about it. We may wish that for ourselves or others out of a desire for 2024 to be better for us than 2023. We sometimes take it one step farther and say, "It has to get better." But does it, really? Whose life as it is truly lived is an endless streak of each year being better than the one before? And which challenges- or blessings, for that matter- come with advance notice sufficient that we can avoid them or fully embrace them?

Some of us take matters into our own hands by making resolutions as the calendar turns. These fall under predictable categories, are usually behavioral in nature, and are variations on the theme "try harder." Very few of these resolutions result in permanent growth or change, and most are abandoned within a month

Is there a better way to begin 2024? One that is more likely to produce real change, change that can carry us through both challenges and blessings, change grounded in something beyond our own willpower, and change with eternal significance?

The word that the Bible uses for "happy" is the same as the word for "blessed." When Jesus speaks a word of blessing, it is more than a wish, it is a promise that he makes to be with us in all circumstances, but especially in difficulties. And any day that finds us closer to Jesus is a better day. I can't promise that resolutions to lose weight, save money, or use fewer substances will immediately bring results. But the things that drive us to stress eat, overspend, or seek escape can get smaller- less overwhelming- when Jesus is bigger- more central- in our lives.

I'll end where I began: Happy, no...better Blessed New Year! May our next steps move us closer to the one who has promised to be with us always. Grace and Peace.

BY THE NUMBERS

12/17/23	26 + 104	130	12/24/23	80 + 101	181	12/31/23	60
Online Views		67	Online Views	18 + 15		Online Views	18

Required total receipts weekly.....\$7,759.44

Gen Fund 12/17/23	\$5,697.00	Gen Fund 12/24/23	\$4,774.00	Gen Fund 12/31/23	\$4,774.00
Forward in Faith	\$640.00	Forward in Faith	\$1,345.00	Forward in Faith	\$1,345.00
Surplus/Deficit	+\$5,052.56	Surplus/Deficit	+\$1,579.56	Surplus/Deficit	-\$1,348.22

Festival Offering.....\$1,580.00 53/54 Week.....\$9,057.20 Unexpected Blessings.....\$865.00

Year to Date Deficit (Nov.).....-\$19,177.05



Pray for Alpine members:

Wendy Barton, Bill & Diane Billert, Cindy Bulthaus, Mary DeNale, Rolly Greenland, Jan Hill, Jim Hill, Pam Hodges, Les Johnson, Kyle MacCrimdle, Glen McDonald, Valerie Miller, JR Stropes, Melissa Stucky, Jeanne Tengren, Pat Turmo and Chuck Valentine.

Pray for our friends and family of Alpine:

Sally Atkinson, Kim Braun, Lindsay Earnest, Cornelia Foley, Daniel Hendrickson, Darlene Johnson, Ron Johnson, Larry Kagel, Don Moorhouse, Rev. Willard Olson, Judy Osiwalla, Bob Schult, Derek Sisson, David Teeters, Don Tennant, Penny Wendling, Ali Younglove, and all those in the Ukraine & Israel-Gaza conflicts.

All in the Family

Birthday thanks came in from **Jan Galster**. We share our love and sympathies with the **Pauly, Sproule & Paravala families** after the death of Jan Pauly. Many thanks came in from **Kathy Cordonnier** for the many Christmas cards she received.

Worship Schedule :

- **Sunday Worship:**
8:00 AM Traditional Worship
10:00 AM Praise Worship/ YouTube-Facebook Live
- **Children's Church** will meet at the 10 AM worship during the service, 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 1st (in person) & 3rd (Zoom) Thursday, 6:00 PM** This service is for those with developmental disabilities, their families, caregivers, and others.
- **Tuesday Bible Breakfast:** 8:00 AM Tuesdays, Sunrise Restaurant
- **Wednesday Bible Study:** on Hiatus.
- **Thursday Bible & Brews:** 7:00 PM, Brewsky's



Pastoral Needs: Please call the office with any pastoral needs. We will post Pastor Wink's office hours in a future Summit.



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.**

January 14th— Jim & Denise Burnett; Jack & Carla Phillips; and Carl Steele.

January 21st — Craig & Louise Skolrood; Nan Strom; June Tongue; and Teresa Schoepski.

Sunday, January 14, 2024

Ushers: (8) Bob Fanello, Jack Phillips (10) DiAnne Beynon, Volunteer
Ambassadors: (8) Jack & Carla Phillips (10) Amanda Dabson, Mari Hanson
Lector: (8) Pam Lojewski (10) Al Neumann
Lay Assistant: (8) Pam Lojewski (10) Nancy Matthews
Praise Singer: Jaime Doubek

Sunday, January 21, 2024

Ushers: (8) Karl Okeson, Randy Teske (10) Jim Burnett, Dick Nelson
Ambassador: (8) Les & Carol Johnson (10) Volunteers
Lector: (8) Bob Fanello (10) Martin Scott
Lay Assistant: (8) Bob & Lori Fanello (10) Martin Scott
Praise Singer: Becky Toro

Official Notice:

The congregation of Alpine Lutheran Church is hereby convened for its annual meeting to take place on Sunday, February 11, 2024 at 11:30 AM. The meeting will include reports and election of members to the church council.

The **2024 Altar Flower and Eternal Candle** charts are up. Remember your loved ones passed or celebrate a special event by sponsoring the flowers each week or eternal candle each month. Each sponsorship helps to defray the cost of our flowers every year and we thank everyone for contributing to this ministry. (Altar Guild)

We continue collecting **2024 Pledge cards** as well as the surveys included in this year's mailing. You may place them in the offering plate, mail them, or drop them by the church office. Please make sure to put your name and envelope number on the cards and keep the end that reads "Keep this portion for your records". Prayerfully consider your giving to Alpine. We thank you for your support of Alpine and its ministries. (Finance & Stewardship Committee)

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.

2023 Giving Statements will be available to pick up from the counter in the coat room by January 14th. If you find any discrepancies please contact Lynn in the office. 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 contact Lynn for an email copy.

From the SCRIP Desk:

Our SCRIP program has continued to dwindle this year. We will continue to order cards once a month. Please check our stock or make an order for any cards you need. (Jody Dabson)

KEEP CALM...SHOP SCRIP

As we begin a new year, 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 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)

It is important that you receive our emails or notices on Facebook to know the most up to date information for Alpine Lutheran. If you would like to add your email to our list please notify Lynn in the office. You may find us on Facebook by searching Alpine Lutheran Church of Rockford. Like the page and then turn on notifications for new posts.

The last physical copy of **Living Lutheran** is available on the Care & Concern counter. Please stop and pick up a copy and share it with someone when you have finished reading it. All future issues may be found at livinglutheran.org.

The **Church Council of Alpine Lutheran** continues collecting for a 2023 Christmas gift for our full-time staff; 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! (DiAnne Beynon)



Join us for Children's Church! We are now having the kids leave the 10 AM service at the beginning of the worship service allowing more time for learning. Seasonal grab bags will be available for pick-up.



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Non-profit org
 U.S. Postage
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 Rockford, IL
 Permit #2653

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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



See what Alpine has to
 offer you on the Web!
 alpinelutheran.com

Called by Christ, our mission is to share God's love.



We sincerely pray that each and everyone involved in "Christmastime Miracles" knows our gratitude and love for giving us the opportunity to express our belief in God and how He and His Heavenly and Earthly angels have blessed us with our life on Earth to spread His love and miracles through music. God bless each of you! Richard & Connie Dowling



Committee Chairpersons: We need all annual reports to be sent to the office by January 15th (note this date has been extended one week). It would be very helpful if all reports could be in electronic form and in Word format. This makes it easier for me to do any manipulation for printing. If you are unable to submit your report this way, I will understand. Thank you. (Lynn Valentine)

Bible & Brew Continues every Thursday! Alpine Outreach Committee has launched Bible & Brew, a Bible study held at a local establishment. We will be moving to Brewsky's to give their space a try. Come and join us as we discuss the "Invitational Christian" by Dave Delbert.

