



**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, March 4, 2024

Volume 51, Issue 5

*From Pastor Don's Desk:*

**Spiritual Physics**

The last true science class I took was chemistry as a high school sophomore. I suspect that the periodic table was smaller then, but that's about all I can remember. I tell you that because I've been reading about physics for much of the afternoon in an effort to find a common thread in this Sunday's Bible readings and I am way over my head. But I'm among friends, so here goes.

The second law of thermodynamics introduces the concept of **entropy**, which is the degree of disorder or uncertainty in a system. This concept comes from the world of physics and mathematics, but it has application far beyond the physical world. Rudolf Clausius observed in the 1800's that "without intervention disorder increases over time", but he could just as well have been talking about any part of our lives now, shared or personal.

What part of your life gets better all by itself over time? And the more complexity we add to our lives, the more potential disorder we introduce. Here's where Sunday's readings come in: Exodus 20, John 2, and I Corinthians 1 each describe God's interventions to bring change into systems that have become, or are at the risk of becoming, disordered.

God does this by being personally present and, in some cases, providing new or renewing structures that reverse spiritual entropy. Exodus 20 is the first account in the Bible of the giving of the Ten Commandments. We tend to focus on their content, but notice that these words are spoken directly by God to the Israelites. The words are meaningful by themselves, but they are powerful because God delivers them personally.

By the time you read this, Sunday's sermon will have been completed and delivered twice (it's Wednesday night now). If you find your spiritual life moving toward disorder and distance, I encourage you to invite God's presence into your life in any or all of these ways: Prayer, reading and reflecting on the Bible, communion, sharing life with other Christians, serving others, practicing forgiveness. God shows up in these ways and more, and life is fuller and more energizing for it.

Grace and Peace,  
 Pastor Don Wink

**BY THE NUMBERS**

	Ash Wednesday 2/14/24	62 (11 AM)	26 (7PM)	
2/18/24	40 + 57	97	2/25/24	34 + 46
Online Views		14	Online Views	6

Required total receipts weekly.....\$8,332.98

\*Some initial deposits of the year include full year pledge amounts

Gen Fund 2/18/24	\$10,503.00	Gen Fund 2/25/24	\$4,108.00
Forward in Faith	\$3,795.00	Forward in Faith	\$1,005.00
Surplus/Deficit	+\$6,740.02	Surplus/Deficit	-\$2,909.72
Festival.....	\$729.00	Unexpected Blessings.....	\$56.26
		53/54.....	\$300.00



**Pray for Alpine members:**

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

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

Sally Atkinson, Wally Bastian, Kim Braun, Lindsay Earnest, Cornelia Foley, Daniel Hendrickson, Darlene Johnson, Ron Johnson, Brenda Newcomb, Rev. Willard Olson, Judy Osiwalla, Bob Schult, Derek Sisson, Bob Slothower, Bob Swenson, Don Tennant, Penny Wendling, Michael White, Deb Williams, Ali Younglove, and all those in the Ukraine & Israel-Gaza conflicts.

**All in the Family**

Birthday thanks came in from **Lynn Valentine** and **Diana Sundeen**. **Jeanne Tengren** sends her thanks for the altar flowers and cards she received for her 98<sup>th</sup> birthday. Our love and condolences go out to **John Linde** after the death of his brother David on February 20<sup>th</sup>. Private family services were held. Memorials may be sent to Alpine or to Milestone.

**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, seasonal 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.
- **Tuesday Bible Breakfast:** 8:00 AM Tuesdays, Sunrise Restaurant
- **Thursday Bible & Brews:** 7:00 PM, Brewsky's



**Pastoral Needs:** During Lent, Pastor Wink plans to be in his office on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays, He will be working from home on Mondays and can be contacted through the office.



**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 the office whenever the need arises for extra pray-ers you may have.

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

**March 10<sup>th</sup>**— Louise Dorris; David & Laura DeNale; Kelly & Hanna Denk; Shirley Finger; and Teresa Schoepski.

**March 17<sup>th</sup>** — Joni Graham; Gerald & Mari Hanson; Megan Brechtel; and Bryce & Cindy Bulthaus.

## Sunday, March 10, 2024

Ushers: (8) Bob Fanello, Volunteer (10) DiAnne Beynon, Volunteer

Ambassador: (8) Karl & Deb Okeson (10) John Linde

Lector: (8) Gwyn Brechtel (10) Bob McVinnie

Lay Assistant: (8) Tonya Bagwell (10) Mike Schultz

Praise Singer: Jaime Doubek

## Sunday, March 17, 2024

Ushers: (8) Karl Okeson, Randy Teske (10) Jim Burnett, Dick Nelson

Ambassador: (8) Tonya Bagwell (10) Rivera Family

Lector: (8) Randy Teske (10) Craig Shelton

Lay Assistant: (8) Deb Okeson (10) Mike Schultz

Praise Singer: Becky Toro



The Altar Guild is now taking orders for our **2024 Easter Glory Garden**. We will have our traditional lilies and tulips. An order envelope is available on the kiosk in the narthex. The cost is \$13 per plant. Orders will be taken through Sunday, March 17<sup>th</sup> due to the early date of Easter. (Laurel McVinnie)

**Easter will be here be for you know it!** One of the events that many look forward to is our annual Easter Egg Hunt. This year it will be on Saturday, March 23<sup>rd</sup>. In preparation for the many children who will be attending this event, we need **helpers** to fill our eggs with candy. Please see Scott or Jody Dabson if you can help. We also need **donations of candy**. The candy pieces should be small enough candy to fit into an egg.



**Calling All C & E Singers!** This year we have a super early Easter. Our cantata will be a Palm Sunday presentation. Rehearsals have begun and all are still welcome to join us. We will have CDs available to help us learn our parts.

John Linde is planning on having an **Easter Breakfast** between services this year but he needs your help. He needs volunteers in the kitchen to help serve and donations of egg casseroles. A sign-up sheet will be in the narthex if you can help or you may speak to him directly.

**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.

**Bible & Brew has started a new study!** Bible & Brew, an Alpine Bible study held currently at "Brewsky's", will be starting a new Bible study written in part by famed football star, Tim Tebow. The study entitled "Mission Possible" leads us through a "biblical plan for discovering you life's mission". Join us every Thursday at 7 PM. (Scott Dabson)

Please watch your email for a new **Those Who Serve schedule** that will be sent out in the next week. We thank you for serving Alpine as a worship volunteer and encourage others to help with our services in whatever way you can.

Our **Lenten Soup Suppers** continue every **Wednesday in Lent** at 6 PM in Fellowship Hall. **Lenten worship** will follow at **7 PM** in the sanctuary with Holden Evening Prayer. Please sign-up on the poster in the narthex to help with soup, bread and dessert. Mark your calendars and plan to attend every week for a great meal, fellowship, and worship.

This year's **Lenten devotional** is entitled "*The Road Back to God*" by Larry Neeb. "God's forgiving and renewing power is what animates us in our Christian walk of active love and service, these pages reveal, as we draw near to Christ's cross." They will be available in the Memorial Lounge.

The Christian Education Committee would like to bring back our **Adult Forums** once month on the **3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday** of each month between worship services. Do you have a topic that you would like to see for a forum? Please contact Lisa Slothower, hopefrom12@yahoo.com, 815-289-6933. Forums will begin April 21<sup>st</sup>.

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

Easter is approaching fast, March 31st to be exact. Have you thought about your Easter shopping yet. Why not get a jump on things and order some SCRIP cards to help support the church or school? We are still ordering at or around the 15th of every month. (Jody Dabson)

**KEEP CALM...SHOP SCRIP**

The **Memorial Board** has been updated with the names of loved ones who have passed in 2023 and whose families gave to the Alpine Memorial Fund.—The Memorial Committee



**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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www.alpinelutheran.com

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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 thank our newly installed 2024 Church Council members:** Scott Dabson, President; Gwyn Brechtel, Vice-President; Tonya Bagwell, Secretary; Mike Schultz, Treasurer; Scott Christiansen; Jody Dabson; Jaime Doubek; Pam Hemenway; Sue Lovitt; Nancy Matthews, Laurel McVinnie; Richard Nelson; Violet Peterson; Martin Scott; Craig Shelton; and Lisa Slothower. A **list of our committees** and members will be posted soon. Please take a look at the list and see if you would be interested in joining a committee.

Alpine is going to serve a meal at **Rockford Rescue Mission** on **Sunday, March 24<sup>th</sup> at 12 PM**. Lunches must be assembled in a certified kitchen so we can contribute the food and help assemble lunches at the mission. Please contact John Linde for more information. Monetary donations can be marked for Rockford Rescue Mission meal.

The March **Katie's Cup Book Club** meets Thursday, March 14<sup>th</sup>, 10 AM at Katie's Cup. This month's book choice is "The Heirloom Garden" by Viola Shipman. "In her inimitable style, Viola Shipman explores the unlikely relationship between two very different women brought together by the pain of war, but bonded by hope, purpose... and flowers." - USA Today. All are welcome to join the discussion.

The 2024 prom season is upon us and **Becca's Closet** needs your help. We are looking for volunteers at all ability levels including those who need to sit or cannot lift. Please call our program coordinator at 779-707-1255 for more information on dates.

Are you up for the challenge? **Lutheran World Relief** has begun a 2024 Hunger Challenge. Their goal is to raise \$250,000 by March 15<sup>th</sup> to rush emergency food to your neighbors who need it most. Please visit [give.lwr.org](http://give.lwr.org) with your gift today.

**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)

**Are you a Thrivent member?** Every year you can direct your Choice Dollars to a non-profit organization of your choice. This needs to be done by March 31<sup>st</sup>. In previous years this amounted to over \$1500 for Alpine. We thank you in advance for choosing Alpine.