



From the Pastor's desk:

Special points of interest:

Sunday Worship
8:00 AM Traditional
10:00 AM Praise Worship
with Children's Church
10:00 AM YouTube Live

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

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Monday, May 12, 2025

Volume 52, Issue 9

Light in the Darkness

"The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it." (John 1:5)

This single-sentence verse from the prologue to the Gospel of John could serve as a summary of the events between Good Friday and Easter. Note that there's acknowledgement of the reality of darkness. It goes all the way back to Genesis 1: "In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep..." Before there was light, there was darkness.

Darkness also describes times when Israel is distant from God, often accompanied by suffering. "The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness--- on them light has shined." (Isaiah 9:2) These words later came to be understood as referring to Jesus. We read them now on Christmas Eve, and we read the prologue to John on Christmas Day or on a Sunday in the Christmas season. Jesus says later, in John 8:12, "I am the light of the world."

The light of the world is not overcome by darkness. But darkness is still part of the world. My grandmother struggled with depression for much of her life, certainly all the time that I knew her. For most of the year, she could function. But in the spring, the depression would become so severe that she would often end up hospitalized.

We know a lot more about depression and mental health than we did at that time. And it turns out that my grandmother was not unusual in experiencing worse depression in the spring than in the winter. Mental health experts believe that some of this is caused by an increase in seasonal allergies, but much of it comes from seeing signs of life around us (lengthening daylight, trees and flowers awakening, warmer temperatures) but not feeling any better inside. The days may be getting brighter, but they don't warm or brighten us when we're depressed.

May is Mental Health Awareness Month in the United States. We've been observing this since 1949. Alpine has an active Mental Health Ministry, and will be hosting a forum on Sunday, May 18th between worship services. Our guest speaker...will be presenting on living with and beyond trauma. I encourage you to attend, if not for yourself then for a family member or a friend. We can accompany those who are walking in darkness until the light shines brightly enough that they can see their way.

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Don Wink

BY THE NUMBERS

4/27/25	29 + 36	65	5/4/25	39 + 40	79
Online Views		15	Online Views		16

Required total receipts weekly.....\$8,279.29

Gen Fund 4/27/25	\$3,920.01	Gen Fund 4/20/25	\$10,687.00
Forward in Faith	\$975.00	Forward in Faith	\$2,860.00
Surplus/Deficit	-\$3,249.28	Surplus/Deficit	+\$5,267.71

Festival.....\$100.00	53rd/54th Week.....\$35.00
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*Some initial deposits of the year include full year pledge amounts



Pray for Alpine members:

Wendy Barton, Roger Bastian, Tim & DiAnne Beynon, Diane Billert, Beverly Clayton, Kathy Cordonnier, Rolly Greenland, Jan Hill, Pam Hodges, Nancy Lorenzen, John McCue, Glen McDonald, Valerie Miller, Joslyn Rivera, JR Stropes, Jeanne Tengren, and Pat Turmo.

Pray for our friends and family of Alpine:

Sally Atkinson, Angela Boogard, Kim Braun, Pauline Cultra, Carol Earnerst, Cornelia Foley, Daniel Hendrickson, Darlene Johnson, Danny Moorhouse, Michael Moorhouse, Peggy Moorhouse, Rev. Willard Olson, Judy Osiwalla, Bob Schult, Derek Sisson, Bob Swenson, Don Tennant, Penny Wendling, Ali Younglove, the recent earthquake victims, and all those in Ukraine & Israel-Gaza.

All in the Family

Birthday thanks came in from **Terry Hodges** and **Richard & Connie Dowling**. **Harriet Brown** expressed her sincere thanks for the many cards and gifts she received celebrating her 98th birthday. The **Stohle Family** wishes to thank Alpine for all of the support they have received following Carl's death.

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 until the end of May, seasonal Grab & Go packets will continue to be available for pick-up.
- **Adult Forums** will be on the 3rd Sunday of the month, between worship services (on hiatus until Fall)
- **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
- **Thursday Bible & Brews:** On hiatus until further notice.



Pastoral Needs: 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 on that day or when he is not in 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 prayers you may have.

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

May 18th —

May 25th —

Sunday, May 18, 2025

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

Ambassadors: (8) Carol Johnson, Deb Okeson (10) Volunteers

Lector: (8) Pam Lojewski (10) Allen Neumann

Lay Assistant: (8) Pam Lojewski (10) Allen & Matt Neumann

Praise Singer: Becky Toro

Sunday, May 25, 2025

Ushers: (8) Bob Fanello, Gene Seefeldt (10) Dick Nelson, Marge Rakoczy

Ambassadors: (8) Sharon Walker (10) Aaron Ayen

Lector: (8) Bob Fanello (10) Lisa Slothower

Lay Assistant: (8) Lori Fanello (10) Mike Schultz

Praise Singer: Chuck & Lynn Valentine



Scout Troop 57 would like to thank Alpine Lutheran Church for being a faithful sponsor for the past 76 years. On May 1st, Troop 57 celebrated their 86th anniversary. They currently have 8 registered scouts and 20 adults. We also celebrate Rolly Greenland's 67th year in scouting! If you have any kids, grandkids, nephews, or nieces that are interested in scouting, everyone is welcome. You can join at any level.

May is Mental Health Month and in recognition of this time, there will be a **special forum** on **Sunday, May 18th**. The Mental Health Ministry will host a forum between worship services, starting at 9:10 AM. The presentation is led by NAMI and is entitled "Trauma and Self Care". Please mark your calendars and plan to attend. Invite a friend to come along!

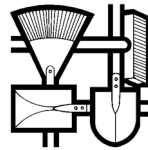
The Christian Ed/Youth Comm. would like to know if we have enough interest in a **VBS program** this summer. In the past, we had kids from the school summer program who attended along with the children and grandchildren of members. If we don't have enough kids on our own, we may join with another local church. Please contact either Barb Milton, 815-298-0046, or the church office, 815-399-5013 if you are interested.

Our "**Snow Birds**" are making their return flights to the Midwest. If you receive your Summit via mail, please notify Lynn, in the office, when you have returned and she will put you back on the mailing list. We pray they all have a safe return!

A summer **Those Who Serve schedule** is complete and has been emailed out. If you need a hard copy, please see Lynn in the office. Just a reminder, if you are unable to serve when you are scheduled, we ask that you find a replacement and report your replacement to the office. The reminder email will still go out to the person who was originally scheduled.

Sunday, June 8th is Reformation Sunday! Don't forget to wear your "**RED**" that day in celebration.

The **Alpine Scholarship Committee** has begun collecting scholarship applications through the end of May. Applications can be found on the counter in the coatroom or from Lynn in the office. We are pleased to be able to offer this assistance to our students. Please turn them in to the church office. (Gary Hunt)



The **Property Committee** wishes to thank everyone who was able to come out for the **Spring Clean-Up Day**. "Many hands make light work." We had 11 people come and help refresh the property.

Due to multiple vacations, we will not have someone to record and **stream the worship service** for **Sunday, June 15th**. We apologize for this inconvenience. If you know of anyone who would be interested in learning the process, we welcome you to please contact the office.

Alpine Serving Others: Alpine's In-Reach Committee has starting a new section in our bulletin board case in the narthex (over the Care & Concerns counter). It is called Alpine Serving Others. They would like to post pictures of members serving in our community outside of Alpine. Do you volunteer somewhere? Please contact a member of the In-Reach and they would be glad to meet you where you volunteer and take a photo to post on our board. (Richard Nelson/ Pam Hemenway)

Our "**Snow Birds**" are making their return flights to the Midwest. If you receive your Summit via mail, please notify Lynn, in the office, when you have returned and she will put you back on the mailing list. We pray they all have a safe return!



Music Director Search Update: We continue our search for a new music director for Alpine's music ministry. We have had some interest and are hopeful God will provide us with the one we are looking for soon. We thank the musicians who have and continue to play for our worship services when available.



Join us for Children's Church! We are meeting during the 10 AM service at the beginning of the worship service allowing more time for learning. Beginning Sunday, May 25th, Children's Church will be taking a summer break. Seasonal grab bags will still be available for pick-up.



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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.



Katie's Cup is having an OPEN MIC night Tuesday, March 11th from 5:00-7:00pm. Bring your various talents, music, poetry or other gifts. Enjoy a beverage and some food! Katie's Cup reserves the right to restrict material that does not meet guidelines for respect and appropriate content! The event is free to attend and participate. Donations to Katie's Cup are welcomed.



CARPENTER'S PLACETM
PROVIDING THE TOOLS FOR REBUILDING LIVESTM

May Needs:

Men's Boxers (sizes L and XL)
Men's White Short Socks
Wash Cloths
Lotion (Travel Size)
Shaving Cream

For a complete list of current
please visit our wish list on Amazon:
<https://a.co/f0yhWao>

Spring Cleaning? Think Thrift Store! As you freshen up your home this spring, why not make a difference, too? Your gently used clothing, furniture and household items can find new life through Thrift Store—and every donation supports the life-changing work of Rockford Rescue Mission.

