

**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, September 29, 2025

Volume 52, Issue 17

From the Pastor's desk:**"What Would It Take?"**

What was the last significant change that you made, of any kind? It could have been a change of habit, of health measures, of relationship dynamics, of spiritual practice, even of sports team allegiance. Think about it, and once you have something in mind, keep reading. What prompted the change? What did it take to overcome resistance, inertia, habit, tradition, familiarity, fear, doubt? Those are strong forces that favor remaining in place or as is. What turned the ocean liner of your life?

Charles Dickens uses the device of ghosts visiting his protagonist, Ebenezer Scrooge, in *A Christmas Carol*. Scrooge is wealthy but seemingly emotionless, and indifferent to the lives of those around him. On Christmas Eve, he is visited first by the ghost of his former business partner, Jacob Marley, who prepares him for three more visitors: The Ghost of Christmas Past, The Ghost of Christmas Present, and The Ghost of Christmas Yet to Come. They reveal dimensions of Scrooge's life that he had suppressed or missed altogether. It is the last visitor, The Ghost of Christmas Yet to Come, who has Scrooge finally on his knees, promising to change if he's given the chance.

Which he is given, and which he does. It's a (mostly) family-friendly story, still popular on stage and film today. What turns Scrooge around is fear of living into (and contributing to) an unbearable future.

Our Gospel reading on September 28th (Luke 16:19-31) takes a similar approach. Jesus uses a parable to exhort his hearers (which now include us) to turn our lives around while we are still living, before we lose the option. Unlike Ebenezer Scrooge, the details of our lives' turning are not yet fully known. Our lives are still being written.

Also unlike Ebenezer Scrooge, Jesus uses more than fear of an unbearable future to turn us around. Far more often, he invites us into a future of unimaginable goodness, of abundance, of beauty, of love. When God is all-in-all, there will no longer be fear. But there will be love.

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Don Wink

BY THE NUMBERS

9/14/25 32 + 56 88	9/21/25 32 + 43 75	
Online Views—Technical issues	Online Views	9

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

Gen Fund 9/14/25 \$3,472.00	Gen Fund 8/31/25 \$1,039.70
Forward in Faith \$2,625.00	Forward in Faith \$755.00
Surplus/Deficit - \$2,062.29	Surplus/Deficit -\$6,434.59

Unexpected Blessings.....\$120.00 53/54 Week.....\$50.00



Pray for Alpine members:

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

Pray for our friends and family of Alpine:

Sally Atkinson, Kim Braun, Cornelia Foley, Daniel Hendrickson, Darlene Johnson, Bill LeGault, Danny Moorhouse, Michael Moorhouse, Peggy Moorhouse, Rev. Willard Olson, Judy Osiwalla, Bob Schult, Derek Sisson, Bob Swenson, Don Tennant, Ali Younglove, and all those in Ukraine & Israel-Gaza.

All in the Family

Birthday thanks came in from **Jerry Hanson** and **Chuck Valentine**. A memorial service for **Darrell Brenner** will be held at Alpine on Friday, October 3rd beginning at 12 PM, with a visitation prior at 11 AM and a luncheon following the memorial service in Fellowship Hall.

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.
- **Adult Forums** will be on various Sundays. Please watch for announcements of dates.
- **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.**

Oct . 5th — Al & Marlene Garrett; Greg Garrett; Bryan Garrett; and Don Gugliemetti.

Oct . 12th — Garry & Ginny Hunt; Luke, Heidi & Kristian Lyken; and Irving Johnson.

Sunday, October 5, 2025

Ushers: (8) Wendy Barton, Andrea Tack (10) John Gustafson, Mari Hanson
Ambassadors: (8) Sharon Walker (10) Scott & Jody Dabson
Lector: (8) Andrea Tack (10) John Fridh
Lay Assistant: (8) Chuck Valentine (10) John Fridh
Praise Singer: Bob McVinnie

Sunday, October 12, 2025

Ushers: (8) Bob Fanello, Gene Seefeldt (10) DiAnne Beynon, Bob Peterson
Ambassadors: (8) Carol Johnson, Karl Okeson (10) Amanda Dabson, Mari Hanson
Lector: (8) Carla Phillips (10) Violet Peterson
Lay Assistant: (8) Deb Okeson (10) Mike Schultz
Praise Singer: Jaime Doubek



It's that time of year! The annual **Alpine Chili Shoot-Out & Horse Race Game** is planned for Saturday, October 11th at 2 PM. It will be held at the Walker Workshop. The games will be first and then we will feast on the chili selections. A sign-up sheet will soon be in the narthex. This has always been an Alpine favorite. Hope to see you there! (Sharon Walker)

Confirmation Classes: Alpine students and friends in grades 6-8 are encouraged to be part of monthly confirmation gatherings. We'll be working collaboratively with three other ELCA churches: Our Savior's, Salem, and Good Shepherd. We will meet at Our Savior's on the 3rd Sunday of the month from 6-8 PM (with occasional exceptions). Please contact me (Pastor Don) for more details.

We were pleased to install our **Children's Church Teachers** on Sunday, September 21st. We hope God blesses them as they teach our children more about God's Love throughout the coming school year.

Additional Sound/video techs needed! We thank those who have served and continue to serve as our Audio/Video techs for our 8 & 10 AM worship services; Joni Graham, Dave DeNale and Morgan Dabson. We would like to train additional people (at least one per service). Joni may become a snowbird and it won't be long before Morgan will be graduating and heading off to college. If this is something you might enjoy? Please contact Lynn in the office.

Adult Forum - Our adult forums have begun. They will be held on the 3rd Sunday of the month between services, starting at 9:15 in the conference room. If you have any topics that you would like to see, please contact Lisa Slothower, 815-289-6933, or any member from the Christian Ed Committee.

Rock River Valley Pantry would like to help every child start their school day off right. They are having a **Back to School Cereal Drive**. Boxes of cereal can be dropped off at all Rockford Community Bank locations and at Rock River Valley Pantry. **We now have a collection barrel in the front vestibule.** Monetary donations can be mailed to the pantry Attn: Cereal Drive, 421 S. Rockton Ave., Rockford, 61102. Every dollar and box will make a difference to a hungry child!

***As of the printing of this issue of our Summit, Sunday's Meet & Greet of our pastoral candidate followed by a congregational vote, had not yet occurred. Please watch your email for any official notice.**

*Please keep in mind, with the current HIPAA laws, the church is not informed when you are hospitalized. Please have a friend or family member notify the church office so that we may be made aware.

It is time to start thinking ahead to our holiday season. Have you ever thought about participating in our **Christmas cantata**? Every year we welcome our C & E singers to participate in our cantata. Richard has chosen the selection for this year. We will have music books and eventually CDs to help learn the music. Please see Richard if you would like to participate.

We need you! Our list of volunteers for our worship services has been slowly depleting especially when it comes time for our "snow birds" to fly south. Have you ever thought of helping during our services; ushering, greeting, reading or lay assisting? Our new schedule goes through the beginning of January. There is always room for more people to fill our schedule. If you would like to volunteer for a particular opening, please contact Lynn in the office and she can add your name to our list. (Lynn Valentine)

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. Just sign up on the poster by the coffee. Thank you.



Our Children's Church is back!

We have resumed our Children's Church during the 10 AM Worship. Please invite your kids and grandkids to attend. Seasonal grab bags will continue to be available.



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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.



Being active in church means regularly attending services and actively participating in the congregation's ministries, community events, and outreach efforts, which can deepen your faith, build relationships, provide a sense of purpose, and fulfill biblical callings to serve others and spread faith. Alpine offers many areas to be involved from committees, choirs, our praise band, coffee hour and several areas of our worship experience. Please contact Lynn in the office, 815-399-5013, to receive more information. Become involved in Alpine!

Rockford's 2025 Crop Walk for Hunger is Sunday, October 19th. It's mission - that goes back to relief work following WW II - is as vital today as when it first began. It supports the work of Church World Service (CWS) here and around the world where hunger continues - to the point of starvation in some area. To sign up, contribute and reach out to others to do the same, please visit <https://events.crophungerwalk.org/event/rockfordil>.

FREE Community Shred Day

Clear out your old files and protect your privacy at **Northwest Community Bank's** FREE Community Shred Day!

When: Saturday, October 18, 9AM—12 PM, at the Riverside and Machesney Park locations

Drive-thru & hassle-free – just pull up and we'll handle the rest.

Paper Shred Only – No plastic bags, electronics, binders, or non-paper materials.

Limit 2 Bankers Boxes (approx. 15" x 24" in size).