



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, December 8, 2025

Volume 52, Issue 22



Blessed Advent, Alpine community!

As we enter into the Advent season, we are invited into the time of waiting. You all know what waiting is like, as a church and as individuals. You have just journeyed through your own period of waiting for a new Pastor. You experienced the multitude of emotions and expressions that waiting presents itself as. At times you felt hopeful. At times you doubted. At times you were reminded of the gift of God's call and presence along our journeys. At the end of your waiting, you were invited into a New Beginning. The time of Advent is like this, too. We are waiting for the Messiah to come, the new King of kings, the Son of God. We know what is coming. We remain hopeful for the gift to us all. We are excited to enter into the New Beginning in Jesus Christ.

Throughout the Advent season, I am going to be posting to our Facebook page daily. The Northern Illinois Synod has created a daily reflection plan until Christmas day. Each day we are invited to reflect on a specific word and share a picture that goes along with each daily word. I am inviting you to join me on this daily reflection photo series. I think it will be a great way to remain connected throughout this season while also allowing us to get to know one another more!

God is present with us now and always. We wait for the coming of the Lord and give thanks to God for the joys and gifts that this season brings.

BY THE NUMBERS

| | | | | | | |
|--------------|---------|----|---------|----|----------------------|-----------------|
| 11/23/25 | 25 + 53 | 78 | Thx Eve | 32 | 11/30/25 One Service | 27 (snow storm) |
| Online Views | | 10 | | | Online Views | 44 |

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

| | | | |
|-------------------|-------------|-------------------|-------------|
| Gen Fund 11/23/25 | \$17,086.01 | Gen Fund 11/30/25 | \$1,475.00 |
| Forward in Faith | \$760.00 | Forward in Faith | \$820.00 |
| Surplus/Deficit | +\$9,606.72 | Surplus/Deficit | -\$5,654.29 |

Festival.....\$370 New Beginnings.....\$28,755



Pray for Alpine members:

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

Pray for our friends and family of Alpine:

Sally Atkinson, Brynn Ballard, Kim Braun, Daniel Hendrickson, Sandy Jackson, Darlene Johnson, Bill LeGault, Rosalind Lykken, Danny Moorhouse, Michael Moorhouse, Peggy Moorhouse, Rev. Willard Olson, 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 **Carla Phillips**. Our love and sympathies go out to **Dave & Diane McCue** and family. Long time member, **John McCue** died on November 21st. Arrangements are pending. **Kathy Cordonnier** sends her thanks for the flowers she received.

Worship Schedule :

- **Sunday Worship:**
8:00 AM Traditional Worship
10:00 AM Praise Worship & Children's Church/
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



Pastoral Needs: Pastor Rachel will be off on Mondays and in the office Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday. She will also be available by appointment on Fridays. All other times, please contact the office, 815-399-5013.



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.**

Dec. 14th — David Lillegard; Valerie Miller; and Steve & Terri Bohren.

Dec. 21st — Joseph & Emily Panzini; Lisa Robinson; and Michael & Tina Speaker.

Sunday, December 14, 2025

Ushers: (8) Bob Fanello, Gene Seefeldt (10) DiAnne Beynon, Bob Peterson
Ambassadors: (8) Andrea Tack (10) Aaron Ayen, Mike Schultz
Lector: (8) Gwyn Brechtel (10) Allen Neumann
Lay Assistant: (8) Deb Okeson (10) Allen & Matt Neumann
Praise Singer: Jaime Doubek

Sunday, December 21, 2025

Ushers: (8) Karl Okeson, Randy Teske (10) Jim Burnett, Dick Nelson
Ambassadors: (8) Deb Okeson (10) Aaron Ayen, Mike Schultz
Lector: (8) Pam Lojewski (10) Jari Sproule
Lay Assistant: (8) Pam Lojewski (10) Mike Schultz
Praise Singer: Becky Toro



The **C & E Choir** along with our **Hand Bell Choir** and **Praise Band** invite you to our presentation of the **Christmas Cantata "Images of Adoration"** by Pepper Choplin on Sunday, December 14th 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)

Christmas Card Blizzard! The Alpine In-reach committee has made a list of Shut-ins and others who might enjoy Christmas greetings from their friends at Alpine. Use your extra cards to brighten some one's day. Need a few more cards to send? There are some available on the Cares & Concerns counter, along with the list. (In-reach Committee)

We have begun using a few songs from the hymnal "**All Creation Sings**" at both of our worship services. We have some copies available in memorial Lounge for your use. If you are interested in purchasing a copy, please contact the office.

The season of Advent is upon us. Please stop and pick up an Advent devotional to help you prepare for the coming of Emmanuel. The Worship & Music Committee has chosen our **Advent devotional** for this year; "**Our Dear Christ Enters In**" by Jane Wilke. "In these devotions ... we will see that what sets a home apart is placing Christ at the center, because true blessing comes to every home where Christ has entered and is centered." Devotionals are available in the Memorial Lounge.

The **Church Council of Alpine Lutheran** has started a collection for a 2025 Christmas gift for our full-time staff; Pastor Rachel Perkins-Gama, Lynn Valentine and Richard Popp. 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 the beginning of January. We thank them for all they do for Alpine all year long! (Scott Dabson, Council President)

With our Snow Birds beginning their migration south, there are many openings in our **Those Who Serve** volunteer schedule. If you notice "volunteer" written in for a duty that you can help with, we appreciate anyone stepping in to assist. Thank you in advance. (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. Both service times will be our traditional candlelight service. Please share these times with your neighbors, family and friends to attend. **Christmas Eve Communion Assistants & Ushers needed:** We need volunteers to assist with communion and to usher at the Christmas Eve worship service, at 3 & 7 PM. Please contact the office if you can serve.

Stewardship Special Collection: Recently you received a letter and envelope from our Stewardship Committee for the **New Beginnings Stewardship Collection.** This collection is over and above your normal giving. We ask that you use the envelope or note the special collection on your check so that it may be counted correctly. We will continue to collect any donations to this fund into next year. Stewardship will be sending out 2026 pledge cards after Christmas. (Jack Phillips)



Altar Guild has put up the **Mitten Tree** early in hopes to donate all the items collected before Christmas. If you are out doing some early Christmas shopping keep donations of mittens, hats and scarves in mind. This year they will be donating them to 2 needy schools in our area. (Laurel McVinnie)

Adult Forums - Please watch for the next announcement of an Adult forum after Christmas. If you have any topics that you would like to see for future adult forums, please contact Lisa Slothower, 815-289-6933, or any member from the Christian Ed Committee.

Children's Church



We will take a break from our Children's Church schedule for the holiday season. We will not meet from December 21st through January 4th. We will resume on Sunday, January 11th. Seasonal grab bags will continue to be available to take home.



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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.



The **Rock River Valley Food Pantry** is collecting non-perishable food items for the holidays. A barrel is in the vestibule by the front door. Collection will continue through December 14th.



The **Katie's Cup Book Club** takes a break in December! We'll re-convene on Thursday, January 8, 10 am, at the coffee bar, when we'll discuss "Frozen River" by Ariel Lawhon. We hope to see you then!

Ruthie's Kitchen & Closet Collection: Recently, a volunteer from Ruthie's Kitchen & Closet spoke at our Adult Forum. With a long history at Zion Lutheran, they serve the people of the Mid-town area. Donations of supplies and money are always welcome. We have a collection box in the front vestibule. Some of their needs are: new underwear; sweatpants and hoodies; socks, shoes and boots; soaps and deodorant; and other hygiene items.

Lutheran burial plots available: We were recently contacted by Lisa Fowler who has 4 burial plots for sale. They are in the Lutheran section at Sunset Memorial Gardens. If you are interested in learning more about them, please contact her at 951-692-2250.