



**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, February 9, 2026

Volume 53, Issue 3

*From the Pastor's desk:*

Grace and Peace to our Alpine community and neighbors!

We have had a wonderful start to the 2026 year so far! Pastor Josh Ebner from the Northern Illinois Synod joined us early in the month to walk us through the vitality survey you did last year. I understand the results of that survey probably do not adequately represent where we are today, but it was wonderful to have guided conversation. This conversation gave me a starting point to better understand where we are and where we want to go. I intend on continuing these conversations throughout the year. Thank you for your participation and honest feedback!

I have many ideas of things that I want to try throughout the year, but I am needing your help. If you have any suggestions on things you would like to see us participate in as a congregation, I would love to hear it! If you have any ideas on ministries you would like to see us try, please let me know! I would love to brainstorm ways to connect to our immediate community and neighbors and be more actively present in our surrounding area.

We are still in conversation with Our Saviors Lutheran Church about ways that we can connect our youth with theirs outside of confirmation classes. Please get in touch with me if your youth would like to participate in a summer service trip!

Our annual meeting is going to be March 1st. We will have one service that day and you are encouraged to stay after for our meeting.

I want to acknowledge the weight of suffering that is happening in our country and around the world. This is a time of deep sadness and concern for all of God's children. If you are feeling overwhelmed by the constant influx of bad news and trauma, I would like to encourage you to take a break. We all need to find ways to reconnect with ourselves and with God. If you enjoy knitting, knit for an hour each day. If you enjoy getting outside, take a walk and feel the cold air around you. Try new things if what used to sustain you isn't working anymore. Turn the tv off and put your phones down. Sit in silence. Sit in the truth that God is with us, today and everyday. We are called to love God's children and to uplift the voices of the oppressed. We cannot do what we are called to do if we are not taking care of ourselves.

God, be with us in moments of silence. Be with us when we are scared and worried and overwhelmed with the suffering of your children. Be with us as we learn to listen to our bodies and care for ourselves. We trust in your overflowing love and unending grace. Amen.

Pastor Rachel

**BY THE NUMBERS**

<b>11/25/26</b>	17 + 33	50	<b>2/1/26</b>	29 + 40	69
Online Views		23	Online Views		26

Required total receipts weekly (2025 figure).....\$8,279.29

Gen Fund 1/25/26	\$10,385.42	Gen Fund 1/11/26	\$4,906.00
Forward in Faith	\$2,450.00	Forward in Faith	\$1,160.00
Surplus/Deficit	+\$4,556.11	Surplus/Deficit	-\$2,193.29

Unexpected Blessings.....\$20



**Pray for Alpine members:**

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

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

Sally Atkinson, Brynn Ballard, Kim Braun, Blake Dummer, Daniel Hendrickson, Sandy Jackson, Darlene Johnson, Bill LeGault, Rosalind Lykken, Serenity Messenger, 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 **Carole Rogers**. We share our love and sympathies with **Kathy Christiansen** and the family of Scott Christiansen. Scott died on Saturday, January 24<sup>th</sup>. A service will be planned in the late spring. **Irv Johnson** sends his thanks for the flowers he received. **Carole Rogers** also sends her thanks for the flowers she received. **Rolly Greenland** expressed his thanks for the poinsettia that was delivered to him.

**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 your Summit for announcements of dates.
- **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



**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 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.**

**Feb. 15<sup>th</sup>** — Linda Radford; Cristi Parker; Diana Sundeen; and Jim & Linda Whole.

**Feb. 22<sup>nd</sup>** — Marge Rakoczy; Gene & Donna Seefeldt; Dorothy Susag; Corey, Brianna, Brandon & Brett Williams.

### Sunday, February 15, 2026

Ushers: (8) Karl Okeson, Andrea Tack (10) Jim Burnett, Dick Nelson  
Ambassadors: (8) Carol Johnson (10) Scott & Jody Dabson  
Lector: (8) Bob Fanello (10) Becky Toro  
Lay Assistant: (8) Bob Fanello (10) Chuck Valentine  
Praise Singer: Becky Toro

### Sunday, February 22, 2026

Ushers: (8) Jack Phillips, Volunteer (10) Scott Dabson, Marge Rakoczy  
Ambassadors: (8) Sharon Walker (10) Amanda Dabson, Mari Hanson  
Lector: (8) Carla Phillips (10) Allen Neumann  
Lay Assistant: (8) David DeNale (10) Matt & Allen Neumann  
Praise Singers: Chuck & Lynn Valentine

### **Official Notice:**

**The congregation of Alpine Lutheran Church is hereby convened for its annual meeting to take place on Sunday, March 1, 2026 at 11:30 AM. The meeting will include reports and election of members to the church council.**

**\*The Council has voted to keep our outside doors locked during the week days. Please ring the RING doorbell and someone will be with you as soon as possible.**

We will hold an **Adult Forum** on **Sunday, February 15<sup>th</sup>**. Pastor Rachel will share some of her experiences from one of her mission trips. Come and learn how God's Love is being shared in other countries around the world. We will keep everyone posted about future forums.

**2025 Giving Statements** are on the counter in the coat room. 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.

**2026 Altar Flower and Eternal Candle** charts are up and ready for your dedications. Remember loved ones passed or celebrate a special event. Each sponsorship helps to defray the cost of our flowers every year and we thank everyone for contributing to this ministry. (Altar Guild)

**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.

We are currently looking for someone to clean the church twice a week. This paid position involves cleaning bathrooms, vacuuming, emptying trash, dusting and various other cleaning duties. If you know of someone, please have them call the office.



"For dust you are and to dust you shall return" (Genesis 3:19) **Wednesday, February 18<sup>th</sup>, is Ash Wednesday.** We will have worship services with the imposition of ashes at both 11 AM and 7 PM. This marks the beginning of the Lenten season and our journey towards the cross.

With Lent beginning on Ash Wednesday, our **Soup Suppers will begin on Wednesday, February 25<sup>th</sup>.** Join us each week as we join in fellowship for a meal and worship. In preparation, the Soup Supper sign-up poster is in the narthex. Please consider helping with bringing a soup, bread or dessert. Committees help with setup and clean-up. This evening of is always an Alpine favorite.

For our **Lenten worship services** this year, we will meet in Fellowship Hall following the Soup Supper. Join us as we delve into the series written by the Northern IL Synod entitled "*Going Deeper: Conversations with Jesus*".

Our **Lenten devotionals** for this year are entitled "*Love Out-poured*", a collection of devotions written by several pastors and bishops from the ELCA. They have been ordered and will be available in the Memorial Lounge soon. Please start with one per family.

You are invited to the **Congregational Resourcing Event** on **Saturday, March 7<sup>th</sup>**, at Sauk Valley Community College in Dixon. Come gather together with lay and rostered members from across our synod as we share ideas and inspiration for all the great ways we can go deeper in faith in our congregations and in our communities. Alpine will pay your registration fees. Registration closes February 20<sup>th</sup>. Please see Pastor Rachel if you are interested in attending.

### **Children's Church**



**Join us for Children's Church!** The children leave the 10 AM service at the beginning of the worship service after the opening song to allow for more time for learning. Seasonal grab bags will be available for pick-up.



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Non-profit org  
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Permit #2653

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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

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See what Alpine has to  
offer you on the Web!  
[alpinelutheran.com](http://alpinelutheran.com)

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

### **Community Highlight: Bridges to Prosperity, Northern Illinois**

Serving a 5 county area including, Boone, DeKalb, Stevenson, Ogle and Winnebago

At Bridges to Prosperity Northern Illinois, we've realized that lasting change requires addressing the root causes of poverty, not just alleviating its symptoms. Our approach to poverty reduction encompasses all aspects from providing individuals a way to build stability, to providing local organizations with tools to create better outcomes, to our work at the community and policy level improving cooperation and systems.

To us, poverty reduction means coming together as a community to better understand the barriers that prevent our under-resourced neighbors from reaching economic opportunity and committing to a shared plan that drives meaningful change in the lives of our residents.

In partnership with agencies, nonprofits and our faith community, we are rethinking our approach to poverty to create better communities, purposefully moving from intention to impact. It takes all of us working together to make a difference. Learn more about our work below.