



#### Special points of interest:

Worship Sunday

8:00 AM

10:00 AM

Rejoicing Spirits

6:00 PM (2nd Thursday)

Contact:

office@alpinelutheran.com

815-399-5013

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## From Pastor Desk:

Monday, May 13, 2019

Volume 46, Issue 10

### What can you do when God feels far away?

The Bible reassures us that once God finds a home in our hearts, God will never leave us. God will always be there, despite the circumstances of our lives. This is a very important and reassuring truth. It is a truth that we can base our trust and faith upon. There is one difficulty though that many of us encounter. God doesn't always **feel** all that close. In fact, sometimes it can feel like God is very far away. This can cause fear, guilt (are people of faith supposed to feel this way?), doubt, worry and all sorts of other anxieties and problems. So what is a good Christian supposed to do in these instances? Some people might say to just shake it off and ignore or deny those feelings. Others might conclude that this happens because we have turned from God and need to repent and "just trust in Jesus."

In order to get at what we should do in these situations, we must first examine why they occur. There are of course many reasons why we might feel distant from God. We could be putting up barriers (through sin or a refusal to forgive for example). We could have false expectations of God (God was supposed to do such & such for me... where is God?). We also might be looking for God in the wrong places (in our achievements, modern science, money, fame, pleasures etc...). The feelings of separation could be a result of our brokenness and our inability to experience intimacy or closeness. They might appear during times of trial that we need to go through so that our faith can become strong. You see there are many circumstances that can lead to us feeling separate or distant from God. Some of them are our fault. Some of them products of the circumstances of our lives. Tragically, Christians too often jump to conclusions or judgments deciding that such a person simply lacks faith. On the contrary, sometimes the feeling can be caused by the Holy Spirit who is speaking to us. Trying to get our attention or to draw our concern towards a certain situation or difficulty in our lives.

So what can we do? First off, we can praise God. This is so important and should be a default reaction to difficult or unknown circumstances. We can praise God for our emotions - for without them we would not be alive. We can praise God for our present circumstances - for despite how tough they are, God is still with us (and that is far better than true loneliness). By praising God, we get our eyes off ourselves and that is crucial. Once we move our eyes off ourselves, we can ask God for wisdom and guidance in figuring out the source of our feelings. What causes us to feel far from God when in fact God is close by? By praying and listening, we often discover that there is a truth we need to learn. A barrier that needs to be removed. A sin that needs to be repented of. A false belief or expectation that should be cleared up. An attitude to adapt or trust that needs to be rebuilt. This is just a few examples of the learning and shaping process that might be going on at a time like this.

Two important things to keep in mind. 1) When God feels distant for whatever reason, a great way to respond is to get back in touch with Jesus. To experience Jesus in some powerful new way, through worship, study, service, etc... Often God can feel far away because we have lost connection to the source of love, strength, and grace in our lives. 2) During times like these we need the community of saints around us. The encouragement of others, the advice of those who have gone before us, the intercessory prayers of other Christians are all indispensable. This is when we need other Christians more than ever. To lean on them for faith and strength. Sadly, too many people walk away from Church out of embarrassment, shame, bitterness, rage, guilt and a whole host of other reasons. Don't let this happen to you. Turn to God and remember that our faith is built when we exercise it. We exercise our faith when we trust God and are obedient, even when we can't feel God. That coincidentally is what faith is all about.

## BY THE NUMBERS

Attendance 4/28/19	44 + 65	109	Attendance 5/5/19	70 + 48	118
	Saturday Family Worship 5/4/19			35	

**Required total receipts weekly.....\$8,213.71**

Gen Fund 4/28/19	\$5,616.25	Gen Fund 5/5/19	\$12,363.00
Forward in Faith	\$2,527.50	Forward in Faith	\$3,465.00
Festival	\$215.00	Festival	\$220.00
Surplus/Deficit	+\$145.04	Surplus/Deficit	+\$7,834.29
53/54		\$1,045.00	

**Surplus/Deficit YTD..... +\$2,280 (3/31/19)**

\*Please note that year to date totals include several pre-payments of annual pledges.



### **Pray for Alpine members:**

Pat Anderson, Rick Bried, Mike Bukowski, Cindy Bulthaus, Pat Christiansen, Ernest & Mary DeNale, Doris Fransen, Al Garrett, Marybeth Gillette, Rich & Jan Hill, Peggy Lillegaard, Richard Lovitt, Jack & Norma Lucas, Marguerite Lusth, Marian Olson, Ron & Jan Pauly, Donna Steele, JR Stropes, Melissa (Bukowski) Stucky & Family and Darold Walker.

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

Sally Atkinson, Kim Braun, Linda Carter, Linda Conness, Patrick Cooper, Jerome Gill, Daniel Hendrickson, Shirley Kagel, Kathleen Lovins, Sharon Mund, Carol Nelsen, Aileen Petersen, Tom Rogers, Bob Schult, Jeremy Sturges, Don Tennant, Brendan Welsh, and Penny Wendling.

## **All In the Family**

Birthday thanks came in from **Shirley Finger** and **Harriet Brown**. Congratulations and God's blessings go out to **Co-hen Edward Parry**, who was baptized on Sunday May 5th. His parents are Chad & Martha Parry. Our love and sympathy go out to **JoAnn Christiansen** whose brother recently died. **Becky Toro** sent her thanks for the prayers and expressions of sympathy following her sister's death. **Kathy Cordonnier** expressed her thanks for the flowers she recently received.



### **Worship Schedule :**

Our Sunday worship service times are **8 & 10:00 AM**. Children's Church will continue to meet during the 10:00 AM worship service.

### **Bible Studies :**

- \* Tuesday Men's Breakfast Bible Study at 6:45 am at Sunrise Restaurant
- \* Wednesday Morning Bible Study at 10 AM, Conference Room

**Adult Forums:** Meet between services on the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of every month, unless announced otherwise. A light breakfast will be served.

**To reach Pastor Dan after office hours**, you may call 815-399-5487. Please leave a message and he will respond as soon as possible.

**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 Pastor Dan whenever the need arises for extra prayers you may have.

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

Here are the members for the next few weeks.

**May 19<sup>th</sup>**—Robert & Bea Lundgren; Kathy & Lisa Robinson; Martha Carlson; and Mark, Christine, Holly & Renee Stohle.

**May 26<sup>th</sup>**—Darrell & Donna Brenner; Fred & Ardy Stevens; Mike & Marlene Bukowski; and Melissa (Bukowski) Stucky.



**Thursday, May 16<sup>th</sup>**—Church Council, 7 PM  
**Saturday, May 18<sup>th</sup>**—Academy Carnival  
**Tuesday, May 21<sup>st</sup>**—Knit, Crochet, Pray, 1 PM  
**Monday, May 27<sup>th</sup>**—Memorial Day, Office Closed  
**Wednesday, May 29<sup>th</sup>**—Alpine Academy 5th & 6th Grade Graduation  
**Friday, May 31<sup>st</sup>**—Youth Garage Sale  
**Saturday, June 1<sup>st</sup>**—Youth Garage Sale



Don't forget, John Linde could use all the help he can get for the **Youth Garage Sale** on **Friday & Saturday, May 31<sup>st</sup> & June 1<sup>st</sup>**. All proceeds will go towards the work camp expenses.

**Second Sunday Youth Worship @ Katie's Cup.** To stay up-to-date on Second Sunday things, be sure to like Second Sunday Rockford on Facebook and follow @secondsundayrockford on Instagram.

**May is Mental Health Month.** People with mental problems are our neighbors, members of our congregations, members of our families, members in our community. Our faith communities can be an important part of the recovery process through education, support and by helping individuals and families feel part of a caring community. (Mike Schultz)

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)

**Would you like to give automatically from your bank account?** We can schedule your withdrawal weekly, monthly or twice a month. Please see Lynn in the office for more details.



The youth will be holding a **Garage Sale** in the gym on **May 31<sup>st</sup> and June 1<sup>st</sup>**. Donations may be dropped off at the church and placed in the Fellowship Hall behind the partitions. Please contact John Linde with any questions. There will also be a **Plant Sale** during the garage sale. Come and get your perennials at a great price while shopping our great deals. All proceeds will go towards the Youth Gathering trip this summer. (John Linde)

If you are planting any plants around your yard this spring, consider saving the **larger plastic containers** for Violet Peterson. She uses them for perennials sold at the **Plant Sale** held during the Youth Garage Sale. (Violet Peterson)

**We thank all our volunteers** who make our worship experience at Alpine a good one. The summer schedule for **Those Who Serve** is complete. If we have your email on file, it was emailed out to you otherwise, it is on the Care & Concern counter for you to pick up soon. Please check your email or stop by the Care & Concern counter. (Laurel McVinnie)



### Worship in the Park!

This summer, Alpine Lutheran, joined with Shepherd of the Valley, will be holding a worship service and meal in the great outdoors. On **Sunday, August 11<sup>th</sup>** we will gather at **Olson Swedish Heritage Park** for our Sunday service. This will be a great opportunity to connect with family, friends and neighbors through God's Word and great fellowship. We are looking for volunteers to help coordinate and plan this event along with volunteers from Shepherd of the Valley. Please contact Pastor Dan if you are interested.

**Please take note:** the address listed on the birthday list for Nick DeNale was incorrect. His current address is 509 Fieldstone Ln. #204, Chesapeake, VA, 23323.

### Property Committee:

The property committee would like to **THANK** everyone that came for the Spring clean up and donate flowers. The grounds are starting to look great. If you were unable to attend the clean up and would like to help out around the church feel free to contact any property members.

**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. (Laurel McVinnie)

You are invited to attend the **Alpine Academy Graduation** on **Wednesday, May 29<sup>th</sup>** at 6:30 PM in the sanctuary. This year will be a little different than as in years past. Our graduation ceremony will include both our 6<sup>th</sup> graders and 5<sup>th</sup> graders. The Alpine Academy School Board has decided that our school will only go up to 5<sup>th</sup> grade. Rockford Lutheran Junior High school begins with 6<sup>th</sup> grade and many of our Academy families move their children up to junior high.



I send a huge THANK YOU to the church council of Alpine Lutheran Church and to Pastor Dan and President Scott Dabson for again offering a Saturday Family worship service for the community that focused on all families. Our Academy parents have received this well with 35 members attending this first service in May. Next month the service will be the second Saturday of June, and I expect more Alpine school members to attend. We will keep this worship service in our prayers.

Graduation is coming up on May 29. We will graduate our Sixth grade class, and, for the first time, our Fifth grade class. We have decided to no longer offer a Sixth grade program. Should our enrollment continue to improve over the next two years, we will revisit offering Sixth grade. Our enrollment will conclude this year with 109 students. This is the most we have had in 9 years. Most of the students are in the lower grades.

Summer camp arrives the first of June. We will be offering a full day of activities for students age 3-10. Parents may have children attend for 2-5 days a week. If you know of a family in need of a day camp over the summer, please let them know about Alpine Summer Camp.

May God keep you safe within his arms.

In Christ,

Principal Bob McVinnie



We have begun a **Stop Light Collection** for our Alpine Fest expenses. You will find the stop light in the Narthex and may donate your change to help us fund our annual celebration.

**ATTENTION ALL GRADUATES:** Graduation time is fast approaching. As you make your plan to celebrate your graduation don't forget to please contact the church office so we may join in your celebration by acknowledging you in the Summit. (Lynn Valentine)

#### From the SCRIP Desk:

A request is coming from your college student "I need gift cards from SCRIP". As final's approach for those college student so does their late night eating binges begin. They would appreciate any food related gift cards from SCRIP. WARNING graduation season will be here in a few weeks remember to stop by the SCRIP desk and pick up a few SCRIP gift cards for that special graduate. They too will soon be a college student and would appreciate some food related gift cards. (Deb Geeser)

**KEEP CALM...SHOP SCRIP**



**Memorial Day is Monday, May 27<sup>th</sup>.** The church office will be closed in observance of the holiday. If you need anything please call the church and leave a message or contact Pastor Dan at 815-399-5487.

The May edition of "**Living Lutheran**" is available on the Care & Concern Counter in the narthex. With May being Mental Health Month, the cover story, "Dignity and grace in the face of mental illness" highlights how we as Christians need to help and support those with mental illness. We need to help create safe, judgement-free spaces for them to go. Please stop and pick up a copy to take home then share it with a friend.

#### Alpine's Children Ministry



Although there is no specific **Vacation Bible School** scheduled, like last year, Alpine Academy's Summer Camp program, "Passport to Fun", will include a Bible lesson.

Every Tuesday through Friday a short lesson exploring Paul's travels around the world will be enjoyed. Please contact Alpine Academy for more info, camp registration and fees.

**815-227-8894**



**-Katie's Choice Book Club meets** every 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the month at 10 AM. Each month a new book is chosen to discuss. Bring your copy and join the discussion.

**-Katie's Cup Bunco:** Join us every 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month at Katie's Cup for a session of Bunco and great fellowship. We meet from 1:30—3 PM.

**-Katie's Cup Conversation:** Plans for Hospital Expansion, Tuesday, May 21, 11:00 AM 12:00 PM. Swedish American Hospital has a long history and presence in the Midtown neighborhoods. We will hear about that history and what the current and future plans for Swedish American Hospital. The \$126 million expansion plan is expanding its East State Street campus! The hospital will have invested more than \$630 million at its 35-acre campus since 2001. Join us as we learn more about this important neighborhood and community partner. A presentation and conversation with Dr. Michael Born, CEO and Jedediah Cantrell, V.P. of Operations.

**Katie's Cup is presently seeking a part-time, salaried administrator** for 20-25 hours weekly. The administrator will oversee the daily operations, staff, volunteers, and customer service of the coffeebar, reporting to, and accountable to, the Seventh Street Coffee, Inc. Board. Food service experience is preferred, as well as familiarity and proficiency with a variety of computer programs, social media and marketing venues. The Administrator must have excellent customer service, leadership and management skills and understand the mission and vision of Katie's Cup. To apply, send a cover letter and resume to: Katie's Cup, Attention: Mariel Heinke, 502 Seventh Street, Rockford, IL 61104. Applications are due no later than June 15.

\* \* \* \* \*

**Laundry Love—**This program, part of **RALM**, provides free laundry services to the needy every 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month at Charles Street Laundromat. The program exists to help alleviate the strain that poor health and hygiene places on the most venerable members of our community. Co-Coordinator are Bob Black & Dave Musser.

**Keep Alpine Updated:** With current HIPAA laws, **the church is not informed when you are hospitalized.** Please have a friend or family member notify the church directly. OSF St. Anthony's and Rockford Memorial does not call at all, Swedish American only calls when you are admitted to the hospital through your physician, not the ER. We want to keep in contact with you especially when you are in need of support.



## Alpine Academy Summer Camp

Preschool 3 yr. to 5<sup>th</sup> grade

**Camp Starts Friday, May 31<sup>st</sup>, 8 AM—3 PM**

Cost is \$125/week or \$35/day

A registration fee of \$25

will be collected from each family.

Enrollment forms  
are available outside the school office or online at  
[alpineacademyofrockford.com](http://alpineacademyofrockford.com)



2nd Annual

# #CycleToSynod

ELCA World Hunger  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
God's work. Our hands.

2019

Tuesday, June 11 - Friday, June 14  
to raise money for **ELCA World Hunger**  
[nisynod.org/cycletosynod](http://nisynod.org/cycletosynod)

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ELCA World Hunger  
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God's work. Our hands.

Breaking the  
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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

See what Alpine has to  
offer you on the Web!  
alpinelutheran.com

## THOSE WHO SERVE

### Sun., May 19, 2019

**Ushers:** (8:00) Jim Anderson, Bob Fanello, Bryan Garrett, Kathy Mund  
(10:00) Russ Hornbeck, Dick Nelson, Mike Schultz, Brandon Williams  
**Ambass.:** (8:00) Al & Deb Geeser  
(10:00) Amanda Dabson, Mari Hanson  
**Elements:** (8:00) Al & Deb Geeser  
(10:00) Amanda Dabson, Mari Hanson  
**Lector:** (8:00) Carla Phillips (10:00) Violet Peterson  
**Lay Assist:** (8:00) Glen McDonald, Volunteer  
(10:00) Bob & Violet Peterson  
**Altar Guild:** Laurel McVinnie, Cary Ralston  
**Praise Singers:** Chuck & Lynn Valentine

### Sun., May 26, 2019

**Ushers:** (8:00) Les Johnson, Karl Okeson, Randy Teske, Volunteer  
(10:00) John Linde, Volunteers  
**Ambass.:** (8:00) Larry & Joni Graham  
(10:00) Bob & Laurel McVinnie  
**Elements:** (8:00) Kathy Mund, Eugene Mund  
(10:00) Bob & Laurel McVinnie  
**Lector:** (8:00) Alan Garrett (10:00) Dick Nelson  
**Lay Assist:** (8:00) Alan Garrett, Chuck Gentry  
(10:00) Dick Nelson, Mike Schultz  
**Altar Guild:** Janet Gentry, JoAnn Christiansen  
**Praise Singers:** Chuck & Lynn Valentine