



Special points of interest:

Sunday Worship
8:00 AM & 10:00 AM

Academy Chapel
Every Tuesday, 2:15 PM

Rejoicing Spirits
6:00 PM (2nd Thursday)

Family Worship (Gym)
4:30 PM (2nd Saturday)

815-399-5013

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From Pastor Desk:

Monday, December 9, 2019

Volume 46, Issue 24

Rejoice, Communicate, Give Thanks...

Advent is here, and with it lots of events, parties, decorating, and waiting. We wait in lines, in parking lots, for our orders to arrive, for the holidays to come, for gifts to be delivered, in traffic jams, and we wait to hear from that loved one who is far away. It sometimes feels like this is a season of waiting. This is particularly tough for us as Americans because we have been conditioned to believe that waiting is wrong. It is unproductive and a waste of time. It is not surprising then that phones and social media have become so ingrained in our lives. We can constantly feel like we are being productive- even though we are probably just being constantly preoccupied - but at least we do not have to feel like we are waiting.

As we go through this season of waiting, I am confronted by our upcoming scripture reading from I Thess. 5:16-18

"Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, and give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

These are such simple instructions. It is ironic that they tend to be activities that we struggle with. It seems like our need to be productive and establish or self-worth has made it so hard for us to stop constantly doing stuff that we rarely have time or strength to devote ourselves to rejoicing, having a conversation with God, and verbalizing thanks and gratitude. But if I understand these verses correctly, the thing God desires most for us, God's very will for our lives, is that we learn to rejoice, communicate with God, and give thanks despite the circumstances of life we find ourselves in. There must be something about cultivating these three traits/habits/rhythms/attitudes that helps to offset the incredible self-centeredness that our society attempts to imbue in us. *Maybe our takeaway from this Advent scripture can be to stop focusing on the need to be busy and instead allow our hearts to live, to rejoice, to pray (even heartfelt, sorrowful words) and give thanks.* This is one way we can recapture the powerfulness of Advent in our lives. John the Baptist is our traditional figure during Advent. We always read the scriptures about his life and think about his ministry. The most important thing I remember about John is not his crazy lifestyle choices, his eccentric clothing, or his rudimentary diet. No, instead it is his focus on wanting help people change their hearts so that they could receive the gift of Christmas in ways that would stick. Ways that would change them and free them from the hurtful influence of a dangerous world. I wonder, what ways can we change our hearts this Advent while we wait?

BY THE NUMBERS

Attendance 11/17/19	73 + 52	125	Attendance 11/24/19	45 + 39	84
Attendance Thanksgiving	26 + 76	102	Attendance 12/1/19	60 + 43	103

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

Gen Fund 11/17/19	\$2,640.00	Gen Fund 11/24/19	\$3,278.75	Gen Fund 12/1/19	\$4,407.00
Forward in Faith	\$530.00	Forward in Faith	\$835.00	Forward in Faith	\$1,012.00
Surplus/Deficit	-\$5,043.71	Surplus/Deficit	-\$4,099.96	Surplus/Deficit	-\$3,794.71
Festival	\$560.00	53 rd /54 th Week	\$70.00	Unexp. Blessings	\$10.00

Surplus/Deficit YTD..... -\$7,864.16 (10/31/19)



Prayer Requests

Pray for Alpine members:

Pat Anderson, Rick Bried, Cindy Bulthaus, Pat Christiansen, Scott Christiansen, Ernest & Mary DeNale, Doris Fransen, Chuck & Janet Gentry, Marybeth Gillette, Rich & Jan Hill, Gary Hunt, Peggy Lillegaard, Ed Lorenzen, Richard Lovitt, Jack & Norma Lucas, Marguerite Luth, Valerie Miller, Marian Olson, Ron Pauly, Marge Pearson, Donna Steele, JR Stropes, Melissa (Bukowski) Stucky & Family and Darold Walker.

Pray for our friends and family of Alpine:

Sally Atkinson, Tim Babcock, Kim Braun, Linda Carter, Linda Conness, Linda Fry, Jerome Gill, Daniel Hendrickson, Kathleen Lovins, Todd McDonald, Sharon Mund, Carol Nelsen, Judy Osiwalla, Tom Rakoczy, David Rawls, Felicia Rawls, Tom Rogers, Sharon Schnier, Bob Schult, Jeremy Sturges, Elizabeth Tankersley, Don Tennant, Penny Wendling, Sharon Wrye and Karen & Delaney Younglove.

All In the Family

Birthday thanks came in from **Carla Phillips** and **Irv Johnson**. We join in celebration for the baptism of **Jack & Stella Romine**, son & daughter of Grant & Jessica Romine. **Gil Okeson** sent his thanks for the altar flowers he received. Many thanks from **Ed Lorenzen** for the altar flowers, get well wishes and birthday cards.

Worship Schedule :

Sunday Worship service times are **8 & 10:00 AM**. Children's Church will continue to meet during the 10:00 AM service. Every 2nd Thursday, Rejoicing Spirits Worship at **6 PM**. A service for those with developmental disabilities, their families, caregivers, and others. Every 2nd Saturday, Family Worship at **4:30 PM**. A service in our gym with family activities following.

Bible Studies :

- * Tuesday Men's Breakfast Bible Study at 6:45 am at Sunrise Restaurant on Stowmarket
- * Wednesday Morning Bible Study at 10 AM, Conference Room #1

Adult Forums: Meets between services on the 1st Sunday of every month. A light breakfast will be served. Doesn't meet during Summer.

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 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 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.

December 15th—Bob & Laurel McVinnie; Karl & Deb Okeson; Keenan, Samantha & Elia Perry; and Tom & Carole Rogers.

December 22nd—Jan Rungren; Velma Shoudy; Rich Erika, Rowan, Peyton & Reed Hillbolt; and Paul & Marguerite Godlewski.



Thursday, December 12th—Rejoicing Spirits & Angel Gift Shop, 6 PM
Thursday, December 12th—Council Meeting, 7 PM
Saturday, December 14th—Men's Breakfast, 9 AM
Saturday, December 14th—Family Worship, Gym, 4:30 PM
Sunday, December 15th—3rd Sunday of Advent

(cont. next column)

Thursday, December 19th—Alpine Academy Christmas Program, Gym, 6:30 PM

Sunday, December 22nd—4th Sunday of Advent, Christmas Cantata "Love Made a Way" @ 10 AM Worship

Tuesday, December 24th—Christmas Eve Worship, 3 & 10 PM



Second Sunday

Second Sunday is a youth group led by your peers, other high schoolers, that meets the second Sunday of every month at Katie's Cup from 7-8:30 PM. There is worship, coffee, games and more.



Let's fill the Mitten Tree! The Altar Guild has set up a tree in the entryway by the front door, in the vestibule. Please bring in mittens, hats and scarves, hand made or purchased, and place them on the tree. All items will be collected through out the month and then donated to the Salvation Army to warm those less fortunate than ourselves. So many people in the Rockford area need something warm to wear for the winter. Share the warmth of the season with others! (Laurel McVinnie)

Rejoicing Spirits Worship Service is **Thursday, December 12th, 6:00 PM** All are welcome at this no-shush worship that enriches the lives of all people, especially those with intellectual and developmental disabilities. . This year we are starting an **Angel Gift Shop** so they can give gifts to their family and friends. We need volunteers to help I the shop and to wrap the presents for our participants.

You are invited to attend the **Alpine Academy Christmas Program** on Thursday, December 19th, at 6:30 PM in the gym. Come and show your support to our Academy students as they prepare for this blessed season.



The **Alpine Lutheran C & E Choir** invites you **Sunday, December 22nd**, to our Christmas Cantata, "Love Made a Way", by Mary McDonald and Jay Rouse. This year, as we have done in past years, our C & E Choir will perform their special presentation 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)

Holiday Summit Schedule: Due to the way the holidays fall on the calendar this year we have had to change our Summit schedule. Here are the dates that you will receive one, 12/16 and 1/13/2020. Any article for the Summit needs to be turned in one week prior.



Candlelight Christmas Eve services are at **3 & 10 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. The later service is our traditional candlelight service. The church office will be closing early on both Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve, and will be closed Christmas Day, the day after Christmas, and New Year's Day.

Christmas Eve Assistants & Ushers needed: We need volunteers to assist with communion and to usher at both worship services on Christmas Eve, 3 & 10 PM. Please contact the office if you can serve or sign-up on the poster in the narthex.

From the SCRIP Desk:

A couple of friendly reminders for the Christmas season. One, shop early for your SCRIP cards some we are able to order, but do not keep in stock. It takes one week to fill orders that we do not carry in stock. All orders should be ready in time for Christmas if you order by/on Sunday December 15th. Two, remember the low denominational cards are for a limited time so don't wait to order these special cards. Three, don't forget what the season is truly about. (Deb Geeser)

KEEP CALM...SHOP SCRIP

The **Church Council of Alpine Lutheran** has started a collection for a 2019 Christmas bonus for our full-time staff; Pastor Dan, Lynn Valentine, Tim Babcock, and Richard Dowling. 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 January. We thank them for all they do for Alpine all year long! (Scott Dabson)

As the **end of the year** approaches, Alpine has much to be thankful for. We especially thank you for your commitment to Alpine's ministries both spiritually and financially. The end of the year is also the time to review your stewardship commitment to ensure you are current with your pledge. If you have any questions about where you are at with your giving, please call Lynn in the church office. We will be closing our books for 2019 December 31st.



**Alpine Academy
of Rockford**
Faith • Family • Future

Students are so excited that Christmas is coming. We had our Chapel lesson, this week, on the meaning of Advent. Students talked about their family Christmas preparation traditions. We bake special cookies. We shop for presents. We decorate the house in colors of red and green. We buy presents. We help people in need. We discussed how these are some of America's cultural Advent preparations. I then was able to show students the religious traditions for Advent. This was a truly learning Chapel.

This week we are providing a Christmas Store for students. For a minimal price, students can choose gifts for their families. The student does the shopping. Parents provide the money. Students may have \$20 to purchase gifts, so they learn how to spend their money wisely. We help them to learn the process and then we bag the gifts in Christmas bags and put names on them so the students can take the presents home and put them under their Christmas tree.

The Academy also provides an opportunity for helping people. We collect gloves in size-men's extra large. Mrs. Ford's Third grade class has taken this project on as a community service. The gloves will be given to Carpenter's Place. We have told the students that if they bring smaller size gloves we will put them on the Alpine Church Mitten Tree. These then go to Salvation Army or Rock House Kids.

We thank those of you who were able to donate to, or attend the Thanksgiving service and lunch. We had a good supply of food and we were able to donate 180 pounds of cooked food to the Rockford Rescue Mission.

We invite you to our Christmas Program on December 19 at 6:30. I am looking forward to this family event.

Thank you,
In Christ and Merry Christmas,
Principal Bob McVinnie



Children's Church

Join us on Sunday for Children's Church during the 10 AM worship. We will be learning about the lessons from the worship service and how we can share God's Word with others. On 12/22 & 12/29, we will not be meeting for Children's Church. Classes will resume

THANKS
from the
HEART

Many thanks to all those who helped to ensure the **Thanksgiving feast** at Alpine was once again a success. Special thanks to Stacy Lidvall, Gwen Brechtel, Jody Dabson, Bob and Laurel McVinnie, Lori Holmer, Freddy Nowak, Janet and Chuck Gentry, Sarah and Al Neumann, Marlene Bukowski, Heidi Lykken, Pat Turmo, Madison Reid, Carol and Les Johnson, Gil Okeson and Bea Lundgren for cooking turkeys, helping setup, serving and volunteering through out the feast as needed. If I forgot anyone I apologize and thank you as well. The feast was successful due to all your hard work and dedication to our Alpine Family. We also donated offering and **180 pounds of food** to the Rockford Rescue Mission. (Scott Dabson)

Council Reminder: This month we are meeting on the second Thursday, **December 12th**, as opposed to the third. This is also the same night as the Rejoicing Spirits worship service. Please come early and join us in worship.

We are in need of people to provide treats and juice for the **coffee hours**. There is a sign up poster on the coffee table in the narthex. **Special Coffee Hour on Sunday, December 29th:** Coffee will be served between worship services as usual. We welcome you to bring any leftover Christmas treats to share with the congregation.

Social Ministries continues collecting for the **Holiday Food Baskets**. All items need to be collected by Thursday, December 19th. A list of items needed is on the barrel. As always, money to purchase the foods can also be donated. We thank you again for your generosity in helping others. (Social Ministry)

Are you a Thrivent Financial member? If so, did you know that you are allowed 2 Action Team cards per calendar year that can benefit projects and events at Alpine? This \$250 card provides seed money to make the event or project a success. **John Linde** is looking for a card to purchase supplies and food for the Annual Meeting. Please see him if you are able to help with a card.

We are still collecting **2020 Pledge cards** if you have not turned in yours yet. Please make sure to put your name and envelope number on the card. Please prayerfully consider your giving to Alpine. We thank you for your support of Alpine and its ministries. (Finance & Stewardship Committee)

Those Who Serve: Have you noticed the email reminders you have been receiving for when you serve? This new feature is set up through our scheduling program. We would like to note that if you have asked someone to sub for you it will still send you the reminder. Please see Laurel McVinnie if you are not receiving the emails. It could be that the email we have is not correct or we don't have one in the system at all. Thank you for serving Alpine! (Laurel McVinnie)



-Katie's Choice Book Club meets every 2nd Thursday of the month at 10 AM. Each month a new book is chosen to discuss. Bring your copy and join the discussion. We will not meet in December.

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

-Second Thursday Concert: Thursday, December 12, 7 PM. **Trinadora!**

Trains are coming to Katie's! Saturday, December 14, 9 AM - 4 PM. "Hands-on" train set-ups for children of all ages!

* * * * *

Laundry Love—This program, part of **RALM**, provides free laundry services to the needy every **3rd 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-ordinators 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.

December Needs for Carpenter's Place—Boots, vinyl gloves (waterproof), socks, hats, and bar soap/body wash. Donations can be dropped off at Carpenter's Place M-F, 9-3 PM, 1149 Railroad Ave.

First Lutheran Church announces its

6 1st Annual Lucia Celebration

Saturday, December 14

9 am - noon



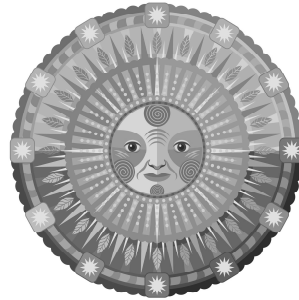
Traditional Kaffe Kalas
with
Santa Lucia
Candy Boy & Girl

*Musical entertainment
provided by Joseph Schenk*

Crafts, "treasures," & homemade bakery
plus Swedish Korv sausage made using
Tabor Lutheran's original recipe!

*Holiday Concert at 10 am in the sanctuary
Music Academy of Rockford students*

225 S. Third Street, corner of Third & Oak
in the heart of Rockford's historic Haight Village
815.962.6691



Longest Night

Calling Back the Sun

*Christmas, Hannuka, Solistice and
Winter Celebrations from Around the World*

A Multimedia Songfest
with Composer, Guitarist, Singer

Jim Scott

and

*David Stocker, percussion
and Louisa Scott, violin*



7:00 PM Saturday December 21

Emmanuel Lutheran Church
920 Third Ave. Rockford IL

Suggested donation \$15 - or visit www.elrockford.org

In this time of the shortest days and long dark nights, the human family has always turned to story and song. Jim leads an exciting multimedia program of music, words and pictures of many faiths and their observations in this season.



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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., December 15, 2019

Ushers: (8:00) Jim Anderson, Bob Fanello,
Bryan Garrett, Kathy Mund
(10:00) Dick Nelson, Mike Schultz, Brandon
Williams, Volunteer
Ambass.: (8:00) Jan Anderson, Sandy Cooley
(10:00) David Linde, John Linde
Elements: (8:00) Matt & Debbie Hier
(10:00) DiAnne Beynon, Pam Hodges
Lector: (8:00) Alan Garrett (10:00) Violet
Peterson
Lay Assist: (8:00) Alan Garrett, Glen
McDonald
(10:00) Bob & Violet Peterson
Altar Guild: Laurel McVinnie, Cary Ralston
Praise Singers: Chuck & Lynn Valentine

Sun., December 22, 2019

Ushers: (8:00) Les Johnson, Karl Okeson,
Randy Teske, Volunteer
(10:00) John Linde, Volunteers
Ambass.: (8:00) Nancy Matthews, Shirley
Schou
(10:00) Amanda Dabson, Mari Hanson
Elements: (8:00) Eugene Mund, Kathy Mund
(10:00) Amanda Dabson, Mari Hanson
Lector: (8:00) Randy Teske (10:00) Allen
Neumann
Lay Assist: (8:00) David DeNale, Deb Okeson
(10:00) Terry Hodges, Allen Neumann
Altar Guild: Janet Gentry, JoAnn Christiansen
Praise Singers: Chuck & Lynn Valentine