



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, February 10, 2020

Volume 47, Issue 3

Is Jesus Safe?

Every once and a while, during our morning Bible studies, we discuss the various myths and misconceptions that people have about God, Jesus, and the Church. One common image that people have about Jesus is that he is a kind, patient, & loving person who - if he saw me today - would smile and have a few kind words of encouragement for me. Now I am sure that it is true that Jesus is kind, patient, forgiving and encouraging to us. My own relationship with him would testify to that. The problem many people have is that ***this represents the entirety of their image/understanding of who Jesus is.*** That's all he is to them. A kind of quiet life coach, who always has a good word and is there to make you feel good about yourself when the world gets you down. As I read through the Bible, I can't help but wonder if this is true? If I got to spend 15 minutes with the "real, live, physical, I can touch him" Jesus, in order to have a conversation and listen to his responses; how would it go? What would I ask? How would he respond? Would he be like how I imagine him? Would he be happy with me?

These are all questions I ponder as I read Mark 10:17, the story of the rich young man. This was a man who got that very opportunity. A chance to ask Jesus any question and hear the master's response. So, he decides to ask him the big one. "What must I do to inherit eternal life?" Jesus' answer is startling. He first tells him to obey all that God commands (which the man claims to have done) and then tells him to sell all his possessions, give his money to the poor, and come and follow him. This saddens the man and he walks away discouraged because he was very attached to his money. What most stands out to me in this story is verse 21 "Jesus looked at the man and loved him." I never really noticed how Jesus felt about this exchange. Jesus cared for this guy. Too often we think of the rich young man as some arrogant rich guy who wants to buy his way into heaven. Or we think of him as a Pharisee type, someone who Jesus probably couldn't stand. Nope, that's not true. Jesus felt towards him pretty much the same way that he feels towards me. He loves him. This was a good guy. Someone who Jesus immediately felt an attachment to. This was someone who really wanted to know the truth and live it. That makes Jesus' response so much more compelling. ***He loved him, and therefore told him the truth.***

Jesus confronted the single biggest barrier that prevented this man from following him. The barrier that stopped him from experiencing a relationship with The Messiah. After the man walks away the disciples are a bit concerned. After all, "they have left everything for Jesus!" Was it enough? Will they get eternal life? Jesus reassures them that no one is worthy, but with God all things are possible. God will indeed give God's very own life, to make them worthy of eternal life. In the meantime,

(Continued on page 5)

BY THE NUMBERS

Attendance 1/19/20	45 + 52	97	Attendance 1/26/20	54 + 40	94
	Attendance 2/2/20		One Service	110	

Required total receipts weekly.....**\$8,215.67**

Gen Fund 1/19/20	\$13,890.00	Gen Fund 1/26/20	\$10,250.00	Gen Fund 2/2/20	\$15,594.75
Forward in Faith	\$3,245.00	Forward in Faith	\$3,260.00	Forward in Faith	\$6,400.00
Surplus/Deficit	+\$8,919.33	Surplus/Deficit	+\$5,284.33	Surplus/Deficit	+\$13,777.08

Unexpected Blessings \$104.00

Surplus/Deficit YTD..... + \$1,453.21 (12/31/19)



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 Lusth, 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, Helen Newsome, Judy Osiwalla, Tom Rakoczy, Tom Rogers, Bob Schult, Jeremy Sturges, Elizabeth Tankersley, Don Tennant, Brendan WelshPenny Wendling, Sharon Wrye and Karen & Delaney Younglove.

All In the Family

Nancy Lorenzen sends her thanks for the birthday wishes and flowers she received.
Barb Shelton expressed her thanks for the prayers, cards and kind words after her mother's death.

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 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.

February 16th—Lillian Hagen; Don & Judy Gugliemetti; Betty Davis; and Darold & Sharon Walker.

February 23rd—Todd, Kristine, Kinsley & Kylie Cloyd; Joan Greeny; Jacob Greeny; Mike & Diane Griffey; and Doris Fransen.



Thursday, February 13th—Rejoicing Spirits Valentine's Dance, Gymnasium, 6 PM

Thursday, February 20th—NO Council Meeting

Saturday, February 22nd—Council Organizational Meeting, Conference Room #1, 9 AM

Tuesday, February 25th—Shrove Pancake Supper, 5—7 PM

Wednesday, February 26th—Ash Wednesday Worship, 11AM & 7 PM

Friday, February 28th—Lifeline Screenin



Second Sunday @ Katie's Cup. Second Sunday is a youth group led youth. All high school youth are encouraged to attend the second Sunday of every month, 7 PM at Katie's Cup. There is meaningful worship, coffee, games and more. To stay up-to-date on Second Sunday things, be sure to like Second Sunday Rockford on Facebook and follow @secondsundayrockford on Instagram.



Thank you to everyone who attended our **Annual Meeting, Sunday, February 2nd**. We especially thank John & David Linde along with our youth for the lunch served before the meeting. We were able to vote in our 2020 Council members and passed the 2020 Budget. Copies of the 2019 Annual Report are still available in the coat room for those who would like a copy. When the copies are gone, Lynn can make more if needed.

2019 Giving Statements have been sent out if you were unable to pick up your copy Sunday, February 2nd. If you have any questions or corrections, please contact Lynn in the office and she will be glad to help you.

From the SCRIP Desk:

Valentines Day is fast approaching. Remember that someone special by taking them out for a special dinner. SCRIP carries many area restaurants such as Texas Roadhouse, Olive Garden, Red Lobster, Outback and many more. Need to add a little sweetness to your dinner SCRIP carries Fannie May gift cards and who can resist a piece of chocolate from Fannie May especially their pixies. Remember you will need to pick up a card that states how special that someone is - guess what SCRIP carries Hallmark gift cards too. (Deb Geeser)

KEEP CALM...SHOP SCRIP

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. We also love to have you celebrate birthdays, anniversaries, or other special occasions with your Alpine family. Just sign up on the poster by the coffee. If you are new to doing this, or if you'd just like some help in serving, please contact Laurel McVinnie.

A new **Those Who Serve schedule phone/e-mail list** was is now available on the Care & Concern counter along with any remaining schedules that have not been picked up.



You are invited to a night of fun, food and fellowship (with a side of competition). **Alpine Academy's "Family Feud"** fundraiser dinner is **Saturday, March 14th**. Come and enjoy some Italian food, silent auction items, door prizes and of course some Family Feud entertainment. Scott Dabson will be available between worship services to purchase your tickets. This event hopes to become an Alpine favorite! We thank you for your support of our school.

"For dust you are and to dust you shall return" (Genesis 3:19)
Wednesday, February 26th is Ash Wednesday. We will have worship services with the imposition of ashes at both 11 AM and 7 PM.

Friday, February 28th, Alpine will host **Lifeline Screening**. These screenings go beyond regular checkups to look inside your arteries for signs of plaque build-up. Registration is required with 3 ways to register: call 866-229-0469; register online at lifelinescreening.com/communitycircle; or text "circle" to 797979.

Please Take Note: This month's Rejoicing Spirits Worship, Thursday, February 13th, will be a Valentine's Dance in the gymnasium. All patrons can enter through the school entrance.

Calling all those who are musically inclined! Both of our choirs, the Chancel Choir and the Hand Bell Choir are in need of additional members. We especially need people during the winter months when a portion of our choirs "fly south." Please see Richard Dowling or just come to our rehearsals. Both choirs meet on Tuesday evenings, Hand Bell Choir meets at 6 PM and Chancel Choir meets at 7:15 PM. (Richard Dowling)

We have created an **email list** of all members with an email on file. Start watching your email for announcements of important happenings at Alpine. If you would prefer to be removed from the list, please let Lynn know in the office and she can make the change or you can hit the "Unsubscribe" button in the email.



Thanks to Chelsea Johnson, Rebecca Fahrney, and Stacy Lidvall with our CPTO, we have had some afterschool activities this past month. Last Friday night, a Family Fit Night was held in the gym. Over a dozen people participated in the athletic activities and in the healthy choice discussion led by our parent- Jen Troy. Last night, students attended a family skate night at Skateland, also sponsored by the CPTO. And, at the end of this month on Feb. 21, we will have a Goodies for Grownups in the gymnasium during the early morning before school begins. This replaces the Muffins with Mom and the Donuts with Dad, that we have had in the past. All adults, who are with one of our students are welcome to enjoy the time with the students and the treats. Moms, dads, grandparents, relatives, friends are welcome. Come and meet other families.

The Alpine Academy fund raising dinner is coming soon. March 14 is the date. \$15 is the cost. Food will be from Sam's Ristorante. We will be offering salad, bread, mostaccioli, Italian sausage, baked chicken, drink and dessert. We will have a competition between adults from Alpine Lutheran Church and Alpine Academy playing Family Feud. Four teams have been created. Two teams compete for the school and two teams compete for the church. Children, the age of our students, may attend a supervised movie and playtime in Fellowship Hall, while parents watch the Family Feud in the gym. For \$5 these students will have pizza and drink. If students attend the dinner in the gym, the cost is \$15. We will have auctions and raffles to help the finances of the school. We hope you have fun and the Academy has a successful fund raiser.

Our students celebrated "First 100 Days" of school this past week. Our youngest students dressed as 100 year old adults. You can check out their wardrobe on our Facebook page. It's entertaining to learn how they consider we (old people) dress.

In Christ,
Principal Bob McVinnie



Join us 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.

Attention 2020 Council members: Our annual Council Organizational meeting will be held on Saturday, February 22nd, from 9 AM to 1 PM. We will be meeting at church in Conference room #1. (Scott Dabson)

The report is in, the **ELCA "Soup"er Bowl for Hunger** collection brought in a total of **\$198.68**. It was a well fought fight for both teams but in the final seconds...the Bears pulled ahead to win the game. The final score was Bears \$133.50 and Packers \$65.18. We thank everyone for contributing to help feed the hungry here and around the world.

The February issue of "**Living Lutheran**" is in and available to pick up from the Care & Concern counter. In this month's issue the lead article, "A mirror and a lens—Technology and spiritual development", discusses how the digital age can both help and hinder; how can we encounter God in online spaces; and the ethics of the digital world.

Do you give electronically? We have envelopes for celebration Sundays, Lent, Advent, etc. made up for you. You may pick up a batch from the counter in the coat room. Thank you for your support of Alpine Lutheran. (Laurel McVinnie)

The **Adult Forum schedule** will be a bit different for the months of March and April. On the **1st Sunday, March 1st**, there will be a forum on the mental health referendum that is proposed for the March voting ballot. On the **3rd Sunday, March 15th**, Al Geeser will be holding a forum in the sanctuary discussing safety procedures. Then finally on the **5th Sunday, March 29th**, there will be a forum to discuss the Vitality conference that was held in February and how Alpine can benefit from what was learned. In April, the 1st Sunday is Palm Sunday and the 2nd Sunday is Easter, there will not be any forums in April. (Mike Schultz)



Shrove Tuesday, or Fat Tuesday, is the day before Lent, the period of traditional fasting and prayer that precedes Easter. The tradition of eating pancakes on Shrove Tuesday began as a way to use up ingredients including butter, milk and eggs that were not supposed to be eaten and would go bad during the period of Lent. **Tuesday, February 25th**, the youth will be serving a Shrove Pancake Supper from 5 – 7 PM in Fellowship Hall. Come and enjoy the celebration. All monies collected will go to youth expenses. We do need donations of pancake mix (just add water kind) and syrup. (John Linde)

The **2020 Flower and Eternal Candle charts** are now up and ready for you to sign-up 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. (Laurel McVinnie)

(Continued from Front Page)

what can they expect? To be led into Jerusalem where Jesus will suffer and die. Then to be scattered and persecuted. It seems to me that Jesus is not leading these people to safe places (at least using the common understanding of safe that most Christians use). Jesus is leading them (and maybe us) towards difficulty and danger. Maybe it is in the form of facing an ugly truth about ourselves that we hide from. Or maybe he is leading us away from the comfortable life we have created for ourselves, a life that insulates us from both the pain of the world and from experiencing God in truth and in depth. The rich young man and the disciples encountered a Jesus very different than what they expected. Should it be any different for us? Amidst all of this is the promise that Jesus gave us. ***"And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."*** Jesus may not be safe (as the world defines it) but he does not abandon us. He makes life worth living.

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-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.

-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.

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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-Coordination are Bob Black & Dave Musser.

On **Saturday, March 14th**, **Becca's Closet** will open for the prom season in Rockford. Becca's Closet collects and distributes formalwear free of charge to young women from Rockford and surrounding communities. We need volunteers during the spring on Saturdays, March 14— May 2, 9 AM - noon with set-up starting at 8:30 am. It is located at: Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd, 1829 North Rockton. We also have a cleaning day before we open for the season, February 29 starting at 9 AM. RALM office, 815.962.4279.



CUP Presents: Second Thursday Concerts

Music on Thursdays . . . on Seventh!



*Beatles Night with The Tribute Trio
Thursday, Feb. 13*

This tight-harmony family band performs the timeless world-changing songs of one of the best-loved bands in the world: The Beatles! Sing along and join in the fun!

Doors open at 6 pm. Concert begins at 7 pm. Free Admission.

CDs and merchandise offered for sale. Katie's Cup full drink and food menu available.

502 7th Street 815.986.0628 katiescupcoffee@gmail.com www.katiescup.com Friend us on Facebook!

Having Your Cake (Or Pie!)

Dinner, with a Delectable, Decadent

Dessert Auction

And Eating it too!

Mauh-Nah-Tee-See Country Club

5151 Guilford Rd, Rockford

Friday, February 21

5:30 PM: Check in/dessert viewing/cash bar

6:15 PM: Dinner—Chicken or Vegetarian

Followed by an exciting Dessert Auction!

\$30 (Tables of 8 available)

Reservation Deadline: February 12

A Fun-draiser for Katie's Cup



Non-profit org
U.S. Postage
PAID
Rockford, IL
Permit #2653

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., February 16, 2020

Ushers: (8:00) Jim Anderson, Bob Fanello,
Bryan Garrett, Kathy Mund
(10:00) Dick Nelson, Mike Schultz, Brandon
Williams, Volunteer
Ambass.: (8:00) Jan Galster, Carole Rogers
(10:00) DiAnne Beynon, Volunteer
Elements: (8:00) Karl & Deb Okeson
(10:00) Mark & Christine Stohle
Lector: (8:00) Alan Garrett (10:00) Lynn
Valentine
Lay Assist: (8:00) Alan Garrett, Glen
McDonald
(10:00) Zada & Zoey Doubek
Altar Guild: Anita Rumage, Cary Ralston
Praise Singers: Chuck & Lynn Valentine

Sun., February 23, 2020

Ushers: (8:00) Les Johnson, Karl Okeson,
Randy Teske
(10:00) John Linde, Volunteers
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) Randy Teske (10:00) Dick
Nelson
Lay Assist: (8:00) Tonya Mund, Deb Okeson
(10:00) Mike Schultz, Dick Nelson
Altar Guild: Janet Gentry, Laurel McVinnie
Praise Singers: Chuck & Lynn Valentine