

**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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Monday, March 23, 2020

Volume 47, Issue 6

From Pastor Desk:**Dear Alpine Family,**

With our current situation, many notifications have been sent out via email and Facebook. If you are not receiving these notifications, please call the office and make sure we have an updated email address. If you do not use email you may call the office with questions. We are following the guidelines given by our government officials. We will continue with live broadcasts of our worship services and devotions through the week. These are on our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/AlpineLutheranChurch> and our YouTube page <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCQt26lABEyn311qHXoX3x3w>. Below, I would like to share a letter from Bishop Clements of the Northern IL Synod.

Dear siblings in Christ:

Hear the words of the Psalmist:

God is our refuge and strength,
a very present help in trouble.
Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change,
though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea;
though its waters roar and foam,
though the mountains tremble with its tumult. Psalm 46:1-3 (NRSV)

There is something about these days that is simply disorienting. The world we know has been upended and is not feeling very comfortable. In fact, it is just kind of scary. As we face the COVID-19 virus, allow me to remind you that God is with us. Everywhere and always. God is our refuge and strength. So, this is a time when we must intentionally stay connected to God.

It is difficult to stay connected to God while we are distancing ourselves from each other. We depend so much on our corporate worship for both connecting to God and to each other. If your congregation has not yet done so, I am recommending that all congregations of the Northern Illinois Synod suspend worship for the remainder of March. Our local, state and federal officials have asked for our cooperation. Now is not the time to think that you are the exception. "Social distancing" is meant to protect all of us.

In recent days, I have also suggested to your pastor, interim pastor, vicar or Synodically Authorized Minister, to prepare for the possibility of not being together for Holy Week or Easter worship. I am not sure that you can understand how hard it is for me to even imagine that. I am, however, asking congregations to remain nimble enough to resume worship quickly when it becomes safer.

BY THE NUMBERS

Wednesday 3/4/20	42	Attendance 3/8/20	50 + 51	101
Wednesday 3/11/20	42	Attendance 3/15/20	15 + 51	113
Required total receipts weekly..... \$8,215.67				
Gen Fund 3/8/20	\$4,825.00	Gen Fund 3/15/20	\$6,105.00	
Forward in Faith	\$3,610.00	Forward in Faith	\$630.00	
Surplus/Deficit	+\$219.33	Surplus/Deficit	-\$1,480.67	
Festival.....\$140.00				

***Surplus/Deficit YTD..... + \$12,691.48 (2/29/20)**

*Please note that these figures include several prepayments of full pledges.



Pray for Alpine members:

Pat Anderson, Tim Beynon, Rick Bried, Cindy Bulthaus, Pat Christiansen, Ernest & Mary DeNale, Doris Fransen, Chuck & Janet Gentry, Marybeth Gillette, Rich & Jan Hill, Gary Hunt, Bert Johnson, 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, Kim Braun, Linda Carter, Linda Conness, Linda Fry, Jerome Gill, Daniel Hendrickson, Debra Johnson, Kathleen Lovins, Todd McDonald, Sharon Mund, Helen Newsome, Judy Osiwalla, Tom Rogers, Bob Schult, Jeremy Sturges, Elizabeth Tankersley, Don Tennant, Brendan Welsh, Penny Wendling, Sharon Wrye and Karen & Delaney Younglove.



All In the Family

Birthday thanks came in from **Janet Gentry** and **Marlene Bukowski**. **Carol Nelsen** called to thank her Alpine family for helping her celebrate her 80th birthday. We share our love and sympathy with the family of **Lillian Hagen** who died on March 15th.

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.

March 29th—Jack & Carla Phillips; Gene & Donna Seefeldt; Richard Ewert; and Harriet Brown.

April 5th—Fred & Ardy Stevens; Donna Larson; Robert & Carol Loucks; and Vince Bertolotto.



All church, Academy and outside activities and meetings are either canceled or postponed through March 30th. We will reevaluate as we are updated by officials.

Thursday, April 2nd—Soup Supper, Fellowship Hall, 6 PM
Thursday, April 2nd—Rejoicing Spirits Worship, 6 PM
Saturday, April 4th—Academy Easter Egg Hunt, Gym, 9 AM
Sunday, April 5th—Palm Sunday, 8 & 10 AM
Sunday, April 5th—Worship & Meal at Rescue Mission, 5 PM



Reminder: Your payment is due for Work Camp.

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.

***In compliance with the Winnebago County Health Department and mandates from the State of IL, Alpine Lutheran will be closed to all non-essential meetings and events. This includes Scouts, Bible studies, soup suppers, choirs, committee meetings and the like. There will be a limited staff at the church and the office will be run remotely. We will be sanitizing all areas of the church for your protection and to limit the spread of this virus.**

Please watch your emails or check our Facebook page for the most up-to-date notices on all church activities and worship services. If you know of someone who is unable to receive notifications this way, please share the information with them.

We appreciate everyone who is keeping up with their giving. We understand that there may be some of us who are unable to do this with many businesses closed for our protection. There are several ways to keep current: you can mail your giving directly to the church, you can use electronic bill pay through your bank if offered, or you can ask to sign-up to do auto collection as a direct payment from your bank account.

***PLEASE TAKE NOTE:** The last week of Lent, if allowed, we will hold our Wednesday soup supper and Lenten worship to **Thursday, April 2nd**. This will allow Alpine to include our Rejoicing Spirits worshipers in our Lenten traditions. Please watch for updates on our Facebook page or in your emails.

Alpine Lutheran & the Alpine Academy are currently still planning on hosting an **Easter Egg Hunt** on **Saturday, April 4th** and we need your help. We are looking for donations of candy and gift items (both for the eggs and door prizes) by March 30th. If you are able to help, please call Scott Dabson, 815-494-3002, for a time you can drop off donations.



The **Altar Guild** is selling **2020 Easter Glory Garden** flowers through **Sunday, March 29th**. Add beauty to our Easter celebration while you remember or celebrate an important person or event in your life. The cost is \$12 per plant. We will have traditional lilies & red and yellow tulips. With the current situation, you may call in your orders to Laurel McVinnie, 815-980-5326, and then pay for them when you return to church.

Our **daily devotional for Lent** has become even more important with the situation this year. If you did not pick one up, please call the office to find a time Lynn will be in the office and you can stop in to get a copy. This year's daily devotional for the Lenten season is "**From Suffering to Salvation**" by Henri J. M. Nouwen.

From the SCRIP Desk:

Spring cleaning is upon us and even more imperative this year, are you ready? Don't forget to get your SCRIP cards for your inside and outside cleaning. Mark your calendars, **Spring Work Day** at Alpine will be Saturday April 25. You will need lawn bags, paint brushes, cleaning supplies and hand tools for work day. If you are low on any of these supplies SCRIP can help you with our wide variety of SCRIP cards. If for some reason you are unable to attend - you better have a great excuse why you can not attend - the property committee could use extra gift cards to help buy supplies. (Deb Geeser)

KEEP CALM...SHOP SCRIP

Hand Bell Choir, Chancel Choir & C & E Singers, and Praise Band members: We will not be meeting until the mandates are lifted. We are hoping bells and our singers can begin rehearsing on Tuesday, March 31st. Please keep watch for notices regarding all rehearsals. **For all C& E Singers,** please continue to listen to you cantata CDs to help you learn the music. Hopefully we will be able to get in some practices before Easter Sunday. Thank you in advance for all of your hard work to present the Easter Cantata.

Please call the office if you are able to contribute sack-meals for our **Rescue Mission service, on Sunday, April 5th**. We are still not sure if this event will be held but need to know if we have enough meals prepared if it is.



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

Thank you to all who bought tickets and picked up dinners from our fund raising dinner last Saturday. We want everyone to remain healthy, so we will postpone the event until times are better.

School is not in session, but our teachers are sending work home so students can stay on top of their education. Many planned school events will be postponed.

I appreciate the leadership the church has taken in the cleaning of the building and the safety of all who enter the building.

We will keep you in our prayers. Please keep us in your prayers.

In Christ,

Bob McVinnie



**Children's
Church**

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 through crafts and games.



Palm Sunday: 8 & 10 AM

We celebrate Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem with praise and palms.

Maunder Thursday: 11 AM & 7 PM

We will meet in Fellowship Hall for a more intimate, personal worship service commemorating the Last Supper Jesus shared with the disciples.

Good Friday: 7 PM

This moving worship service marks the Passion of Christ and his love for us; dying for our sins on a cross.

Easter Sunday: 8 & 10 (Cantata) AM

Jesus is risen! We celebrate the empty tomb! He has risen from the dead.

Our youth will serve breakfast between worship services in Fellowship Hall. All proceeds will go towards our youth's work camp mission trip in the summer.

*Please keep in mind, if we are still not allowed to meet, the worship services will still be held. They will be broadcasted live on Facebook and recorded and posted to YouTube (see the front page article for the links).

The **Adult Forums in March have been postponed.** We will be rescheduling them "as soon as the smoke clears". Once again, please watch your emails or check our Facebook page.

Rockford Lutheran has offered to let Alpine use their **van on Sundays** to transport people to church for second service. We are going to see what interest there is starting with people at Peterson Meadows. If you would be willing to drive one Sunday a month, no special license is required, please let Laurel McVinnie or the office know. (Scott Christiansen)

Are you making the most of your Thrivent account?

Each year you need to designate where your Thrivent Choice Dollars go. The deadline for designating your Choice Dollars is March 31st. Last year, \$3,230 was contributed to Alpine through this program. This does not count the amount we received through the Action Team monies that are available for different fundraising projects. Please contact your Thrivent Financial agent for more information or see the flyers posted on the bulletin board in the narthex.

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. (Lynn Valentine)

Do you already give electronically?

We have envelopes for celebration Sundays, Lent, Advent, etc. made up for you. You may pick them up from the counter in the coat room. Thank you for supporting Alpine Lutheran. (Laurel McVinnie)

(Bishop Clements' message continued from pg. 1)

Here are three things we can do to keep the church strong in these difficult days:

1. **JOIN TOGETHER IN PRAYER.** I am calling this synod to pray together at noon each day. Please stop and take a moment to pray for your congregation, the Northern Illinois Synod and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Pray for your members. Pray for yourself. Pray for the ill, the frightened, the vulnerable, and the poor. Pray for the dying. Pray for world leaders and our own elected leaders. Pray for our healthcare workers. Pray for researchers. Pray for the unemployed, underemployed and laid off. Pray for all students from college to kindergarten who have been forced away from school. Pray for your pastor or whomever leads your congregation.

Will you join me in prayer at noon beginning tomorrow and continuing through May 13?

2. **PRACTICE SOUND FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP.** Your congregation is probably not prepared for a financial crisis. The church's ability to do ministry is dependent upon your regular gifts. The synod and churchwide expressions of the church are dependent upon the generosity of congregations. We will remain strong only if we continue to practice first fruits, proportionate giving. While we are away from corporate worship, please give electronically or mail a check to your congregation. Your pastor and the staff of your congregation is still working hard. Let's not make them worry about their paychecks. Let's maintain our gifts to food pantries, Lutheran Social Services, Grace Place, Lutheran Outdoor Ministries Center and the many other ministries we support.

Will you join me in supporting the work of your congregation on a weekly basis?

3. **DON'T LET SOCIAL DISTANCING BECOME SOCIAL ISOLATION.** My heart has been broken by some of the stories that I have heard. Continue to extend the ministries of the church to the homebound. Take all the precautions to prevent the spread of illness, but check on your neighbors. If you head to the grocery store, shop for someone who cannot. A crisis such as this quickly exposes those who are the most vulnerable. That is who the church is called to serve. Be a source of encouragement.

Will you join me in loving our neighbors and encouraging others?

It feels like the ground is shaking beneath us. These days are disorienting. But, we are in this together. We are church together. We are stronger together. Even when we cannot be together physically.

Thank you for your faithfulness. God bless and keep you.

Walking with you,
Bishop Jeff Clements



-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.

* * * * *

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-Coordinator 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. RALM office, 815.962.4279.



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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

THOSE WHO SERVE

Sun., March 29, 2020

Ushers: (8:00) Allen Geeser, Carol Johnson,
 Tonya Mund, Jack Phillips
 (10:00) Volunteers

Ambass.: (8:00) Karl & Deb Okeson
 (10:00) Amanda Dabson, Mari Hanson

Elements: (8:00) Karl & Deb Okeson
 (10:00) Mark & Christine Stohle

Lector: (8:00) Pam Lojewski (10:00) Lynn
 Valentine

Lay Assist: (8:00) Alan Garrett, Pam Lojewski
 (10:00) Bea Lundgren, Nancy Matthews

Altar Guild: Joan Greeny, Volunteer

Praise Singers: Chuck & Lynn Valentine

Sun., April 5, 2020

Ushers: (8:00) Larry & Joni Graham,
 Volunteers

(10:00) DiAnne Beynon, John Gustafson,
 Volunteers

Ambass.: (8:00) Jan Galster, Louise Hemenway
 (10:00) Amanda Dabson, Mari Hanson

Elements: (8:00) Les & Carol Johnson
 (10:00) Nancy Lorenzen, Bea Lundgren

Lector: (8:00) Gwyn Brechtel (10:00) Dick
 Nelson

Lay Assist: (8:00) Glen McDonald, Tonya
 Mund

(10:00) Dick Nelson, Bob McVinnie

Altar Guild: Gwyn Brechtel, Gail Davidson

Praise Singers: Ted Croisant, Bob McVinnie