



**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

**In this issue:**

Prayers for Alpine Members **2**

Academy Update **3**

Report from Council **3**

Survey from ELCA **4**

**From Pastor Desk:**

Monday, April 20, 2020

Volume 47, Issue 8

## Celebrating Easter in the context of the Covid-19 pandemic

This past Easter Sunday we celebrated the resurrection of our Lord. For some, this was a difficult thing to do. "How do we celebrate while so much death is going on all around us?" "How can we rejoice when there is so much fear and anxiety?" As I read through the story last week, it struck me that the Easter story is itself filled with fear. The disciples are constantly described as being afraid or responding in fear. The authorities are driven by fear and do the unthinkable. Even the women who first encounter the risen Jesus are afraid. Death – obviously – is a huge part of this story. Suffering, pain, abandonment, tragedy... check. They are all important parts of this story.

Easter is the story of God's response to this whole big mess that we are in. As we read further through the story in Acts, we see that the world does not change all that much. It is still filled with powerful people hurting those who are vulnerable. It is still filled with suffering, disease, injustice, and death. Just like it is today. God did not come to make a paradise here on earth. Rather God came to redeem us, God's people. To transform us so that we could lead grace filled lives. ***The big post resurrection changes we see in the Bible were not in the structure of the world but instead in the character of the people who followed Jesus.*** Lives transformed with Resurrection power so that they shine in the middle of a dark and broken world. This brings us much hope because, though our lives are full of sorrow and pain, sickness and unwanted diagnoses, death and betrayal, Jesus' death brings us hope in this messy life. Hope because we are not supposed to be experiencing a life without suffering. Instead our lives are meant to be a road to help others to connect with Jesus and receive the hope and salvation that we have.

Because of the death and resurrection of Jesus, we can boldly proclaim the truth that Paul proclaims in Romans: "For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is going to be revealed to us" (8:18). We have a hope awaiting us in heaven that infinitely outshines the suffering and pain that we might experience here. The resurrection of Jesus confirms hope for us.

So we rejoice! We rejoice because we are confident that what is happening now is the world around us is not all that there is to life. Here is a great quote that I heard recently. *"In Easter morning, the Christian community, with its great and beautiful diversity in cultures, traditions and languages, affirms that Life is stronger than death. Christ, who shared our human condition through moments of injustice and suffering, is risen from death by God, his Father and giver of all life, growth and existence. And we believe that "he lives forever!" He comes to us in this moment of anguish and pain; He comes to heal the sick and bring new life to those who are in the darkness of loneliness, exhaustion and despair. Life will prevail over death once again (Bruno Marie Duffé)"*

**Jesus Has Risen! He Has Risen Indeed Alleluia!**

**BY THE NUMBERS**

Online Views 4/5/20	205	Maundy Thursday Views	327
Good Friday Views	179	Online Views 4/12/20	237

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

Gen Fund 4/5/20	\$4,243.00	Gen Fund 3/29/20	\$5,740.00
Forward in Faith	\$565.00	Forward in Faith	\$1,333.00
Surplus/Deficit	-\$3,407.67	Surplus/Deficit	-\$1,142.67
Festival.....	\$830.00	53/54.....	\$30.00

**\*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, Peggy Lillegaard, Ed Lorenzen, Richard Lovitt, Jack & Norma Lucas, Marguerite Lusth, Valerie Miller, 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, Karen & Delaney Younglove, all those on the front line and those affected with Covid-19.



**All In the Family**

Birthday thanks came in from **Bob & Bea Lundgren.**

**Worship Schedule :** (when we are able to again)

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

Every 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday, Rejoicing Spirits Worship at **6 PM**. A service for those with developmental disabilities, their families, caregivers, and others.

Every 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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.**

**April 26<sup>th</sup>**—Bobby Mounts & Landon; Carl Stohle; Joan Chockalingam & Nicholas; and Jack & Norma Lucas.

**May 3<sup>rd</sup>**—Michael, Ashley, Ava, Kamryn & Maxwell Spohr; Mike & Gwyn Brechtel; Megan Brechtel; Gil Okeson; and Jeff, Jaime, Zada & Zoey Doubek.



**All church, Academy and outside activities and meetings are either canceled or postponed through the end of the stay at home order. We will reevaluate as we are updated by officials.**

Wednesday, April 22<sup>nd</sup>—Prayer Meeting, Facebook live, 7 PM  
 Sunday, April 26<sup>th</sup>—Worship service, Facebook live, 9 AM  
 Wednesday, April 29<sup>th</sup>—Prayer Meeting, Facebook live, 7 PM  
 Sunday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>—Worship service, Facebook live, 9 AM



**Children's Church**

Join us for Children's Church during the 10 AM worship once we are back for church services. 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.



**Alpine Academy  
of Rockford**

Faith • Family • Future

Throughout a little over the past month school has been very different across our country. This has been no different at Alpine. Students are now working remotely from home and teachers are learning new ways to provide remote or e-learning opportunities for students. Our Teachers, students and their families have all been rising to the occasion and making the best of these educational opportunities in this difficult time. We are all thankful for an Alpine Family who is supporting one another to achieve the best results we can for our students.

As we continue through this period we also attempt to look ahead and have begun to plan for a new school year in the Fall. Currently having our usual Open House events is not available to us, however, I ask that if you know someone who will be looking for a new school in the Fall please have them contact me at 815.227.8894 ext. 101 and I will provide a virtual tour of our school. It is important that while we are in an unusual period of time that we remain steadfast in our goal to continue to reach students and families in our area with a Christian Education. We continue to look to the partnership with Alpine Lutheran Church as a important piece in our ability to get the word out about our school.

The Academy has hosted a school Zoom Session on Sunday afternoons for the past several weeks. We've used this opportunity to connect with families and asked Pastor Dan to join us to pray for many pray requests that our students and families have shared. This has been a wonderful way to remain connected with our Academy families.

We will continue to work hard for our students and look forward to the time that we can have them back in our building. Thank you to Alpine Lutheran Church for the partnership and for joining together with the Academy as on Alpine Family together.

In Christ  
 Scott Dabson  
 Admissions Director  
 Alpine Academy

If anyone has an old **i-phone or i-pad** that they are no longer using, version 6 or above, and would like to donate it to the church, please contact Scott Dabson, 815-494-3002. We only need the Wi-Fi and camera, no cell service, for recording the worship services.

**Note from Council:**

As I write, we are planning for our Alpine Lutheran Church Council Meeting on Zoom. It is important for our Congregation to know that your Council is working diligently to ensure that we continue in our ministry during this time. We are discussing all actions that may be needed to ensure that we are stable throughout this "Stay at Home" order from our Governor. If you have any questions or concerns please contact a council member or myself directly and we will work to answer that or address your concerns. Thank you for being a part of our Alpine Family. **"Called by Christ, Our Mission is to share God's Love."**

In His service,  
 Scott Dabson  
 Council President

**From the SCRIP Desk:**

With our current situation, sales of SCRIP are on hold. As things change we will keep you informed. (Deb Geeser)

**KEEP CALM...SHOP SCRIP**

The **Alpine Scholarship Committee** will begin collecting scholarship applications now through the end of May. Applications may be requested by calling 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)

**Please Note:** A birthday was missed on the April birthday list. Please add Sarah Neumann to your birthday calendar. Her birthday is April 25<sup>th</sup>.

**The May calendar that is being sent with this Summit has all activities that would normally occur (positive thinking). Of course we will abide by any orders that come through our city and state officials.**



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### Sun. Worship Times

8:00 & 10:00 AM



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

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## SURVEY FROM THE ELCA

**“For baptized Christians, civic engagement is a vital means of discipleship.”**

Dear church,

The idea of government was already very much in focus because this was an election year, and the pandemic has focused it more so. But what does the ELCA teach about the nature and function of government in relation to God’s purposes? What is a faithful Lutheran response regarding citizenship and civic engagement?

To help guide our church on these questions, the 2019 Churchwide Assembly asked for the preparation of a social message. At this time, the message is in draft form. Through May 27, you are invited to provide feedback on how to strengthen the message.

I invite you to go to [https://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/SocMsgOnGov\\_Draft4PublicComment.pdf](https://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/SocMsgOnGov_Draft4PublicComment.pdf) to read “A Draft Social Message on Government and Civic Engagement: Discipleship in a Democracy.” To offer feedback, please fill out the survey at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/SocialMessageReviewForm> . You may also choose to email comments to [draftsocialmessage@elca.org](mailto:draftsocialmessage@elca.org). The comment period ends May 27. To learn more about what social messages are, click [www.elca.org/socialmessages](http://www.elca.org/socialmessages).