



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:

Please Pray for...	2
Youth Work Camp	3
Face Masks needed	3
Academy Update	4

Monday, April 20, 2020

Volume 47, Issue 8

From Pastor Desk:

Serving Others in the Time of Covid-19

The story of the Good Samaritan is familiar to many of us. A Jewish man travelling to Jericho gets robbed and left for dead by the side of the road. Two men encounter him, and simply cross the road to the other side and ignore him. A third man stops and not only bandages the man's wounds, but gives him a ride to town, putting him up at an inn, and picking up his tab for however many days it will take for him to recover (Luke 10). In this story there are a couple of observations that stand out to me.

- The first two men are a priest and a Levite, two people whom you would expect to stop and help someone (like a police officer, minister, or paramedic today). For some reason they allow their fear, busyness, un-comfortableness, suspicion, or unwillingness to sacrifice of themselves to guide them in the decision to not help the man lying by the side of the road.
- I am sure these men had a good rationalization as to why they failed to stop. We all do in such situations. *"It might be a set up and dangerous to me", "If the person wants help he will ask for it", "I have more important things to do", "I can't be seen actually doing this", "I might get my shirt dirty etc..."* These are the types of thoughts and excuses that we use to convince ourselves that we are better off not getting involved.
- The one person who does stop is a Samaritan. The Samaritans were a rival ethnicity to the Jewish people. They lived in their own areas, had their own forms of worship, and in general did not get along well with Jewish people. There were all sorts of laws, social customs, and mores that regulated how the two groups could interact. The ethnic tension between them was deep and divisive.

Yet despite all the barriers, this Samaritan decides to go out of his way and help someone whom society has told him he should not touch, should not have compassion towards, and someone whom he should avoid. The Samaritan is even willing to take several big risks. When he escorts him into Jericho, he risks the wrath of the locals who might become angry with him for having contact with a Jewish man and very well might blame him for all that befell this man. He risks financial hardship when he promises to cover all the medical expenses for the man's recovery. He risks all the inconveniences of having to go out of his way to help him, as well as returning on his home journey to check on his welfare.

But all of the risks do not seem important compared to the need to show mercy. The Samaritan is willing to take these risks so that he can show love through an act of service. Too often we let all sorts of obstacles and excuses prevent us from doing simple acts of service towards the people we love (let alone strangers). There seems to be so many things that get in our own way. Our own pride, busy schedules, fear of being taken advantage of, or our inability to give of ourselves to name a few. We allow excuses and rationalizations to guide our decisions instead of love. For some, acts of service is their primary love language. The language that they need to be loved in. We simply can't allow anything to stop us from loving others through acts of service, it is too important. One final observation. If it is difficult for you to perform acts of service towards people in your life, check your own love tank. We will never be able to adequately love in this way, if we ourselves are not filled with love. It can't be done for very long. We need to have our tank filled via our own relationships with people and with God. This fuels us to love others (or fuels them to love us) through acts of service.

BY THE NUMBERS

Online Views 4/19/20

107

Online Views 4/26/20

139

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

Gen Fund 4/19/20	\$4,975.00	Gen Fund 4/26/20	\$3,422.00
Forward in Faith	\$560.00	Forward in Faith	\$1,820.00
Surplus/Deficit	-\$2,680.67	Surplus/Deficit	-\$2,973.67
Festival.....	\$745.00	Unexpected Blessing.....	\$50.00

***Surplus/Deficit YTD..... + \$8,177.06 (3/31/20)**

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



Pray for Alpine members:

Pat Anderson, Vince Bertolotto, Tim Beynon, Rick Bried, Cindy Bulthaus, Pat Christiansen, Ernest & Mary DeNale, Bettie Everson, 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, Irving Perala, 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 **Bill Billert, Karl Okeson, Glen McDonald, Richard & Connie Dowling and Gil Okeson. Kathy Cordonnier** wishes to thank everyone for the cards and memorials received for both mother, Lill Hagen and uncle, Bert Johnson. As soon as we can be together, we will have a service for each of them.

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

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.

May 10th—Roger Bastian; Richard & Connie Dowling; Tim Dowling; and Pat Anderson.

May 17th—Elliot, Rebecca, Charlie & Elizabeth Kallstrom; Debbie & Ryan Matthews; Greg & Barb Lee; and Aaron Ayen.



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, May 6th—Prayer Meeting, Facebook live, 7 PM
 Sunday, May 10th—Worship service, Facebook live, 9 AM
 Wednesday, May 13th—Prayer Meeting, Facebook live, 7 PM
 Sunday, May 17th—Worship service, Facebook live, 9 AM



Just a note to all those who planned on attending this year's Youth Work Camp. It has been postponed until 2021. The payments and deposits that you have made will be carried over to next year. If you will be unable to attend next year, please contact John Linde and arrangements can be made for a refund.

Ways to connect with Alpine: We continue to broadcast our worship services at 9 AM Sundays online via Facebook and then post them shortly after on YouTube. Pastor Dan is posting a devotional every day (except Sunday) on Facebook and YouTube. Every Wednesday evening, Pastor Dan holds a prayer meeting via Facebook at 7 PM. You can find us on Facebook and YouTube by searching Alpine Lutheran Church of Rockford. Even though we are apart, we can be together in the Lord.

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)

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.

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

Many people have wondered about the **Altar Flowers** for our Sunday services. Even though we are not meeting physically, we are still ordering the flowers each week. Not only does that give us a sense of normalcy while worshipping, it also supports a local business. Since we can't deliver the flowers to our shut-ins, if you would like to pick up the flowers you sponsored, they can be put outside the doors on Monday. Please call the office if you would like us to put them out for you.

Due to the unknowns from the Coronavirus for this summer, the **2020 Youth Work Camp** has been postponed until the following year. We will continue to raise money for the trip and thank you for all of your support with our fundraisers. With that said, we will postpone the "**Garage Sale**" that was to be held in June. Please continue to save items that can be donated for the sale that we hope to hold next June, 2021. Thank you again for all of your support. (John Linde)



OK all you crafty people. We are in need of face masks in preparation of worshipping at Alpine together again. We would also like to be able to provide a mask for anyone who is unable to get one during the new state mandates. If you sew or can donate any masks, they will be greatly appreciated. Together we can fight this invisible enemy and keep each other safe.

Our "**Snow Birds**" have begun making their return flight to the Midwest. If you receive your Summit via mail, please notify Lynn, in the office, when you have returned and she will put you back on the mailing list. We wish everyone a safe return!

We thank all of our **Chancel Choir** and **Hand Bell Choir** members for their dedication to music at Alpine. Due to our distancing, it has been decided to end our rehearsals and performances until fall. Please look for an announcement for when we will get together again.

ATTENTION GRADUATES: Graduation may be different this year but we would still like to acknowledge you. Please contact the church office so we may join in your celebration. (Lynn Valentine)

The April (and March) issues of **Living Lutheran** are here and will be put in the box outside of the door behind the flower pot. Please share your copy with those who may not have access to this resource.



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.



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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

ALPINE ACADEMY UPDATE:

The month of May will bring an end to the current school year and as that happens, we turn our sights towards planning for the 2020-21 school year. Let's look for happy endings in different ways and prepare for that fresh beginning.

We watch our 5th Grade students move on toward their next chapter in Junior High. They have been with us for quite some time and we are proud of them and their accomplishments. We will find ways as we close this 2019-20 School year to recognize these students and celebrate them as they prepare for that next step.

As we begin planning for our next school year we would like to encourage you to consider donating to the Invest In Kids Act with Empower Illinois. Through generous donations made this past year we were able to provide a Christian education to 24 students, many of whom would have never found another way to attend. Some students have made a real connection to Jesus for the first time. Making a donation to Empower Illinois can make these dreams continue for those students, while allowing you to claim a 75% tax credit on the donation made. Please contact me if you have any questions on how this program works. If making a donation doesn't work for you, yet you'd still like to help, please contact me directly and we can work with you to determine the best way to help.

As we continue to plan and prepare for a new school year at Alpine please pray that God will guide us into a path that allows us to be successful for our students, their families and our staff. Alpine has always had a strong education connection in ministry efforts and we will continue at the Academy to work to make this congregation proud of the ministry of Alpine Academy! We are one Alpine Family together.

In Christ,
Scott Dabson
Admissions Director
Alpine Academy



Alpine Academy
of Rockford
Faith • Family • Future