



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, June 15, 2020

Volume 47, Issue 12

From Pastor Desk:

What Christians Should Know About Social Justice

There is obviously a lot of turmoil and upheaval going on in our country right now. As people, it is easy to judge, look down on, or condemn anyone who acts differently than us or tries to upset the status quo. The term social justice is brought up often, yet what does that word really mean and why should Christians be concerned about Social Justice? The usual answer to the second question is we should be concerned because God is concerned about Social justice (that is obvious from all of the reference throughout the story of scripture). But what does that really mean. Here is a great explanation from respected author and Pastor Tim Keller

"The Hebrew word for "justice," mishpat, occurs in its various forms more than 200 times in the Hebrew Old Testament. Its most basic meaning is to treat people equitably. It means acquitting or punishing every person on the merits of the case, regardless of race or social status. Anyone who does the same wrong should be given the same penalty.

But mishpat means more than just the punishment of wrongdoing. It also means giving people their rights. Deuteronomy 18 directs that the priests of the tabernacle should be supported by a certain percentage of the people's income. This support is described as "the priests' mishpat," which means their due or their right. Mishpat, then, is giving people what they are due, whether punishment or protection or care."

But to understand the biblical idea of justice, Keller says, we must also consider tzadeqah:

"We get more insight when we consider a second Hebrew word that can be translated as "being just," though it usually translated as "being righteous." The word is tzadeqah, and it refers to a life of right relationships.

When most modern people see the word "righteousness" in the Bible, they tend to think of it in terms of private morality, such as sexual chastity or diligence in prayer and Bible study. But in the Bible, tzadeqah refers to day-to-day living in which a person conducts all relationships in family and society with fairness, generosity and equity. It is not surprising, then, to discover that tzadeqah and mishpat are brought together scores of times in the Bible.

These two words roughly correspond to what some have called "primary" and "rectifying justice." Rectifying justice is mishpat. It means punishing wrongdoers and caring for the victims of unjust treatment. Primary justice, or tzadeqah, is behavior that, if it was prevalent in the world, would render rectifying justice unnecessary, because everyone would be living in right relationship to everyone else. Therefore, though tzadeqah is primarily about being in a right relationship with God, the righteous life that results is profoundly social."

When the two Hebrew words tzadeqah and mishpat are tied together—as they are more than three dozen times—the English expression that best conveys the meaning is "social justice." Social justice, then, would be not only a biblical concept, but also a subset of biblical justice. Claiming that we need only "biblical justice" and not "social justice" is an error, for they are both tied together.

One of the biggest struggles that Christians in America have is in thinking that what happens to other people doesn't really effect my relationship with God. We individualize everything. The Bible tells a different story. My relationship with God (thus my experience of God) is very much connected with my community around me. They are tied together. My relationship is not made right (just) if others around me are not also experiencing Biblical justice (which includes social justice). We tend to live blind lives - not concerned with the injustice all around us - having minimal experiences of the Gospel, simply because it is too uncomfortable or risky to care. But at the heart of the Gospel story is a God who risked everything so we could experience reconciliation, forgiveness, and right relationships. The cost to us has always been giving up our old lives and old ways of thinking and instead seeing the world as God sees it. Living in the world as Jesus did, with love and concern and a deep desire to see social justice happen so that people can encounter this Good News.

BY THE NUMBERS

Online Views 5/30/20	73	Drive-In Worship 6/5/2020	54 + 1 dog
	Online Views 6/7/20	95	

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

Gen Fund 5/30/20	\$2,343.00	Gen Fund 6/7/20	\$12,699.00
Forward in Faith	\$600.00	Forward in Faith	\$1,035.00
Surplus/Deficit	-\$5,272.67	Surplus/Deficit	+\$5,518.33
Unexpected Blessings.....	\$145.00	53rd/54th	\$20.00

***Surplus/Deficit YTD..... - \$4,232.30 (5/31/20)**

*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, Doris Fransen, Marybeth Gillette, Rich & Jan Hill, Nancy Hornbeck, Gary Hunt, Peggy Lillegaard, Ed Lorenzen, Jack & Norma Lucas, Marguerite Lusth, Diane McCue, Valerie Miller, Ron & Jan 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

Pastor Rick & Helen Meier expressed their thanks for the many cards received and to those Alpiners who participated in their 50th Wedding Anniversary Drive by Parade. Our love and sympathy goes out to the family of **Bettie Everson** who passed away this week. Cary Ralston sends her thanks to the "Sunshine Crew" for their delivery.

Update on worship services and building reopening.

Alpine Lutheran Church continues to have worship services live every Sunday at 9:00 AM on Facebook. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, our building is currently closed for all in person meetings and ministry events. The council is working diligently with local authorities and the Winnebago County health department on re-opening our building. When we have put into place all the necessary health measures and feel that it is safe to do so, we will announce when meetings will be able to resume again. We understand that there are many conflicting reports and ideas about how church buildings should or should not be used during these circumstances. We appreciate your support and patience as we seek further clarification, guidance, and establish the best practices we can for our ministry, the people in our congregation, and the community that we serve.

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.

June 21st—Tonya Mund; Al, Sarah, Matthew & Alexis Neumann; Evan, Erin, Logan & John Peyton; and Rev. Jeff ? Clements, Bishop of the No. IL Synod.

June 28th—Doug, Joshua & Zachary Schrank; Mark & Anita Ramage; Melissa Stucky & family; and Rev. Elizabeth A Eaton, Presiding Bishop ELCA.



All church, Academy and outside activities and meetings are either canceled or postponed until further notice. We will reevaluate them as we are updated by local officials.

Wednesday, June 17th—Prayer Meeting, Facebook live, 7 PM
 Thursday, June 18th—Church Council Zoom Meeting, 7 PM
 Sunday, June 21st—Worship service, Facebook live, 9 AM
 (continued next column)

Sunday, June 21st—Father's Day Drive-In Worship, 10 AM
 Wednesday, June 24th—Prayer Meeting, Facebook live, 7 PM
 Sunday, June 28th—Worship service, Facebook live, 9 AM

From the SCRIP Desk:

We are offering a curbside pick-up service for our SCRIP cards. Please call the church office, 815-399-5013, and make an order. A pick-up date and time will then be scheduled for you to receive your cards. If you would like to order prior to our Father's Day Drive-In Worship, we can deliver directly to your car. (Deb Geeser)

KEEP CALM...SHOP SCRIP

Ways to connect with Alpine: We continue to broadcast our worship services at 9 AM Sundays via Facebook and then post them to YouTube shortly after. Pastor Dan is posting a devotional on Mondays, Wednesdays & Fridays on Facebook and YouTube. 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.



Drive-In Worship for Father's Day: Sunday, June 21st is Father's Day and we would like to meet again for a Drive-In Worship service at 10 AM following a Facebook Live Worship which is at 9 AM. You may stay in your cars or bring your lawn chairs to socially distance and enjoy music, the Word and an uplifting message from Pastor Dan. If we have rain, we will move the service to Sunday, June 28th.

ALPINE GRADUATES: Congratulations and God's blessings go out to graduate Alexandra (Bukowski) Whelan who received her MBA from Straver University.

Do you have an Alpine Lutheran Church Yard Signs? We have created yard signs to tell people about Alpine's worship services on Facebook. To receive a sign, email the office, office@alpinelutheran.com. Any donations collected for the signs will go to support Mosaic and Carpenters Place in this difficult time.

Those Who Serve: As we start thinking of gathering once again for in person worship, our volunteer duties for Those Who Serve are changing. Ushers and Greeters will need to help each other. New duties to help keep us all safe are going to have to be put into action. Lay Assistants will no longer sit up front, they will only come forward to distribute communion (pre-packaged). Praise singers, and new cantors, will need to be distanced from the congregation. We know that many of you are not ready to come back yet for various health reasons and that is OK. Recently an email was sent out for you to indicate either way so that we may start planning a new schedule. Also, a meeting for Ushers and Greeters is planned for Monday, June 29th at 4 PM to explain the new methods we must follow. Please check your email and respond with your RSVP answers.

June's Collection Drive: Every Wednesday during the month of June we will be collecting items for **GiGi's Playhouse**, a Down Syndrome Achievement Center. Collection time is from 8 AM to 5 PM. A barrel will be located outside at Door C, under the overhang. The donations needed are: cleaning supplies, paper towels and printer paper. If you would like to contribute financially, check can be made out to the church and mailed in to the office. Let's help ensure their mission.

Church Council will meet again this month via a Zoom meeting on Thursday, June 18th at 7 PM. Please watch your email for a meeting invitation. An email will be sent out that week with any reports as well.

The June/July issue of **Living Lutheran** has arrived and will be placed in the bin outside Door F, behind the flower pot. This month's lead article we meet several "Faithful Families" and the work of the church in forming those families.



Children's Church will be on hiatus until Fall. We will reevaluate our safety situation at that time and update everyone.

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As always, we appreciate and need your help in so many ways, if you are looking for ways to help consider donating to Empower Illinois and designating Alpine Academy for Invest In Kids funds. This will provide a student a chance to continue to receive a quality Christian Education and give you a 75% State Tax Credit as well. Contact me and I'd be happy to assist you in doing this. Another way to help is by sharing the school with others or picking up the marketing items mentioned above. We are looking forward to this next school year and another chance to make our Alpine Family proud. Thank you for all of your support and prayers.

In Christ
 Scott Dabson, Operations/Com Director
 Alpine Academy



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

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 :



Alpine Academy
of Rockford
Faith • Family • Future

It may have been a different way to end the school year but at Alpine Academy we have officially begun our Summer Break! It almost feels in some ways like we've been on break already while working remotely with students and their families. Now we move entirely into preparing for our next school year and our Summer Day Camp.

We are now preparing to begin our 3rd week of our Summer Day Camp. We initially we not expecting to be able to have our Day Camp begin until likely July but were thrilled to be able to begin providing this Day Camp for our Alpine families a couple weeks ago. Diana Sundeen and Jody Dabson are once again working our Summer Day Camp and everyone is off to a great start. This year just like with everything else around us, things are a little different and there are some new precautions but ultimately we are working to provide a fun summer for these kids. If you know of anyone looking for a Summer Day Camp experience for their child please have them contact us at the school we'd love to have them join us.

As we continue in our preparations for next year we have embarked on some new advertising and we'd love to have your help. We have new yard signs that we'd love to have you put in your yard to help get the word out about our Academy. Most recently we've begun running a commercial on WIFR during the news. I'm also expecting to be announcing big news about another opportunity for some great exposure for Alpine soon so stay tuned for that. We also have brand new car window stickers that you can pick up and put on your car window to help us share Alpine Academy wherever you go.

Private tours of our school facility have restarted and while we cannot have a large Open House we are encouraging families to call to schedule a private tour for their family. We currently plan to return to school on time this fall and are working to ensure that we are able to welcome students and staff back as safely as possible.

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