



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 & 4th
Thursday via Zoom)

815-399-5013

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Monday, October 19, 2020

Volume 47, Issue 21

From Pastor Lucy's Desk:

**Christian Politics
By Pastor Lucy Wynard**

"Jesus said, "You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your being, and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: You must love your neighbor as you love yourself. All the Law and the Prophets depend on these two commands." Matthew 22:37-40

In case you have missed this part of the news – it's an election year! The next few weeks will be full of political ads, robo-calls, personal conversations (or avoiding conversations), sensationalized news, presidential debates (maybe?), and almost certainly downright ugly partisan politics.

So what does it mean to be a Christian in these particular weeks? From voting to conversations on Facebook to anticipating the next family get-together... what does following Jesus look like for us in difficult political times? I know many people who would like to keep faith and politics utterly and completely separate – "politics doesn't belong in the church pastor!" is a sentiment I've heard more than once. To that I say, "Faith belongs in every corner of our lives! Including our politics!" Besides, at its most basic, politics is simply the way that groups of people make decisions and figure out how to live together. Politics is about how people live in relationship with one another. And the Bible has a whole lot to say about that.

So if we can't keep our faith and our politics apart – what does it mean to be a political Christian? Or what faith principles guide us in our political decisions – from how we vote to how we engage (or not) in political conversations? Let me offer a few suggestions:

- To be political as a Christian always means putting love of God and love of neighbor first. Jesus leads us in a way of being in relationship that lays down our rights and privileges and instead honors others' needs before our own. Ask yourself, "What does it mean as I look at my ballot to consider others' needs first? What does it mean to think about the least, the marginalized, the "lost sheep" as I evaluate the choices before me?" We know God cares about the poor, about the hurting, about the forgotten and the persecuted. We know God speaks up for justice for the oppressed. A political Christian does their best to follow God's greatest commands in all that they do.
- To be political as a Christian means to conduct ourselves with humility, patience, forgiveness and love. To listen with compassion to one another. To see the image of Christ in others. To refuse to engage in gossip or slander that tears down but to speak the truth in love. Christians will disagree about what it means to love God & our neighbor as we think about laws and who to vote for – but can we listen and speak to one another with humility, with compassion, with a desire to keep unity (not uniformity) in Christ? ** Note: Political attack ads and memes poking fun at "the other side" are almost always some form of gossip and slander. Commit to scrolling right on by, not reacting, not reading the comments, and not passing them along! **
- To be political as a Christian is to realize that Jesus is Lord and Savior, and only Jesus can save us. There is no political party platform, no politician, no law of human beings that can bring the salvation, justice, peace and hope that we so desperately need. Only Jesus saves. And though God is highly political, God isn't partisan. The gospel stands as a critique against all human systems and structures. As Christians we ought to make those politicians we support a little nervous and always on their best behavior, because they know our ultimate allegiance is to God's Kingdom, not their campaign or any political party.

(Continued on page 4)

BY THE NUMBERS

Attendance 10/4/20	15 + 15	30	Attendance 10/11/20	22 + 13	35
Online Views		88	Online views		51

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

Gen Fund 10/4/20	\$2,603.00	Gen Fund 10/11/20	\$4,315.00
Forward in Faith	\$620.00	Forward in Faith	\$1,258.00
Surplus/Deficit	- \$4,992.67	Surplus/Deficit	- \$2,642.67
	53 rd /54 th week		\$2,102.00

Surplus/Deficit YTD..... - \$36,004.52 (9/30/20)



Pray for Alpine members:

Pat Anderson, Tim Beynon, Rick Bried, Cindy Bulthaus, Tim & JoAnn Christiansen, Pat Christiansen, Scott Christiansen, Ernest & Mary DeNale, Doris Fransen, Marybeth Gillette, Rich & Jan Hill, Jim Hill, Peggy Lillegaard, Ed Lorenzen,, Jack & Norma Lucas, Marguerite Lusth, Diane McCue, Valerie Miller, Ron & Jan Pauly, Marge Pearson, Steve Shoudy, JR Stropes, Melissa (Bukowski) Stucky & family, Karen Bateman Swanson, Pat Turmo 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, Judy Osiwalla, Dale Peterson, Tom Rogers, Bob Schult, Jeremy Sturges, Don Tennant, Penny Wendling, Karen & Delaney Younglove, all those on the front line and those affected with Covid-19.

All in the Family

Birthday thanks came in from **Joan Greeny, Ardy Stevens** and **Marge Rakoczy. Norma Lucas** would like to thank Richard Nelson & Pam Hemenway for the goodies she received. **Karl & Deb Okeson** send their thanks for the flowers they received. Our condolences go out to **Bea Lundgren & Nancy Lorenzen** whose brother recently died. Our sympathies also go out to **Rick Bried** whose brother died.

Worship Schedule :

Sunday Worship:

8:00 AM Traditional Worship
 10:00 AM Praise Worship/ Facebook Live
 *Children's Church is on hiatus until further notice but monthly Grab & Go packets are available.

Academy Chapel: 2:15 PM every Tuesday

Rejoicing Spirits: Every 2nd & 4th Thursday, via Zoom, 6:00 PM (This service is for those with developmental disabilities, their families, caregivers, and others.)

Our in person **Bible Studies, Women's Circles, Adult Forums & Men's Breakfasts** will be on hold during the Covid-19 Phase 4 until further notice.

Wednesday Evening Prayer meeting: Facebook Live at 7 PM



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.**

Oct. 25th—Elliott, Rebecca, Charlotte, & Elizabeth Kallstrom; Debbie & Ryan Matthews; Kent & Barb Milton; Charlie & Gail Davison; and Bill & Pam Frey.

Nov. 1st—Kathy Cordonnier; Mike & Marlene Bukowski; Don Busekros; and Chris & Pat Christiansen.



Alpine Schedule

Thursday, October 22nd—Rejoicing Spirits via Zoom, 6 PM
Saturday, October 24th—Academy Trunk-or-Treat, 4 PM
Sunday, October 25th—Reformation Sunday
Saturday, October 31st—Fall Back one hour
Sunday, November 1st—All Saints Sunday
Sunday, November 8th—Stewardship “Celebrate Joy” begins

From the SCRIP Desk:

The holidays are coming! The holidays are coming! Have you started stocking up on SCRIP cards for the holidays? You can buy grocery cards for Thanksgiving. You could buy those cards for Black Friday. You can start your Christmas shopping without the lines at the stores. The possibilities are endless cause “The holidays are coming!” (Deb Geeser)

KEEP CALM...SHOP SCRIP

Celebrating Joy: As we enter into the fall, it is time for our **2021 Stewardship** campaign. We will be starting our campaign November 8th and culminate on November 22nd, Stewardship Sunday. Pledge cards will be going out soon for you to prayerfully consider your giving for 2021. As always we thank you for your support of Alpine Lutheran both financially and spiritually.

Sunday, October 25th is Reformation Sunday. It is a **RED** Sunday so bring out your best red outfit and join in celebration of the Reformation.

It is that time of year when **Social Ministries** begins collecting for the **Holiday Food Baskets**. With the pandemic we have had to make some changes. This year we will be collecting items every Wednesday in the barrel which will be placed outside door “C” as we did for our summer collections. Here is a list of items needed: instant mashed potatoes, Stove Top Stuffing, canned green beans, canned corn, dry gravy packets or canned gravy, canned cranberry sauce, canned fruit, and Jell-O. Additional items that can be donated for the families are: cereal, macaroni & cheese or other dry pastas, canned soups, canned ravioli/spaghetti, canned meats—tuna, Ramen Noodles, and other non-perishable non-expired foods. As always, money to purchase the foods can also be donated. Please make a notation for the baskets on your check. We thank you again for your generosity in helping others.

Additional Ways to connect with Alpine: As we continue our in-person worship services, we will also continue to broadcast our worship services at 10 AM Sundays via Facebook Live and then post a recording to YouTube shortly after. Pastor Dan is posting a devotional on Mondays, Wednesdays & Fridays on Facebook and YouTube. Our Wednesday Evening Prayer meeting has resumed and is on Facebook Live at 7 PM every Wednesday. You can find us on Facebook and YouTube by searching Alpine Lutheran Church of Rockford.

FINANCIAL UPDATE: As of 9/30/2020, Alpine is showing a loss of \$36,000. Our expenses are less than last year but we have not been able to maintain any of our income accounts. Please pray about what you can give for the remaining 2020.

Stewardship/Finance Committee



All Saints Sunday is November 1st. Since we are social distancing and remaining in our seats during worship we would like everyone to email us photos of loved ones who has passed and a photo of your family around a candle in remembrance of them.. We will then gather all of the photos together for a video to be played during the worship service. Please email them to office@alpinelutheran.com by no later than Monday, October 26th.

The school has been given the go-ahead to have a **Trunk-or-Treat** on **Saturday, October 24th at 4 PM.** We need cars and candy to hand out. You can drop off candy donations to the church office. If you are able to provide a trunk (and hand), please contact the school office, 815-227-8894, or Scott Dabson by email at info@alpineacademyofrockford.com. He must know how many cars he has **by Wednesday, October 21st.**

During the pandemic many of our **shut-ins** have been unable to leave their place of residence and may not be able to visit with any friends inside their facility. Please feel free to contact the office for a list of names and their addresses or telephone numbers as we are sure they would appreciate a “thinking of you” note or phone call to brighten their day.



Children's Church will be on hiatus until later this year. We will evaluate our safety situation as time passes and update everyone.

In the mean time, we have created **Grab and Go** packets that you may pick-up for the children or grandchildren in your family. The packet contains one activity and the Children's bulletins for the month. Each month a new packet will be made ready for you to pick up and take home.

We hope to see you soon!



Alpine Academy
of Rockford
Faith • Family • Future

We have definitely entered the fall season at Alpine Academy. Parent Teacher Conferences are coming up, students are preparing for a Veterans Program (which will be virtual on YouTube) and the weather is getting cooler. We will continue to navigate and have a successful school year as we move forward.

Covid-19 continues to affect how we approach school this year and our music program is no different. This years Veterans Program is still being planned but will be broadcast online on YouTube and Facebook on Veterans Day Nov. 11th. Celebrating those who have bravely served and protected our country is still an important part of our year here at Alpine and we look forward to doing it this year in a unique way. Please mark your calanders and watch for more information about this years Veterans Program.

This month we will also be hosting our annual Trunk or Treat event on Oct 24th at 4:00pm. This years Trunk or Treat will take place earlier in the day and be moved from the north parking lot to the school parking lot to help us manage Health Dept requirements. While this event also may look a little different we are excited that we will be able to offer it to the kids in our Alpine Family. Please know that you are welcome to bring your kids and/or grandkids to join us for a safe time trick or treating.

Overall everyone at the Academy from students and parents to our amazing staff continue to work hard, stay safe and learn together. We continue to thank God for the support of all of our Alpine Family and supporters. Please continue to stay safe, wash your hands, wear a mask and practice social distancing!

In Christ
Scott Dabson
Operations Director
Alpine Academy

The US has been hit with many disasters recently; wildfires, severe storms, flooding, hurricanes and of course the pandemic. **Lutheran Disaster Response** is responding to them all with teams evaluating the current needs of those who have been traumatized by each event. Your help is needed. If you are willing to donate to their efforts, please visit <https://www.elca.org/Our-Work/Relief-and-Development/Lutheran-Disaster-Response>

Nettie's Mercantile is a coming together of Rockford Rescue Mission's Remade Store and Restoration Café, in the former café's location at 625 West State St. Nettie's offers a delectable eatery, unique shopping and so much more. Where else can you savor a cup of coffee, enjoy a freshly baked muffin or cookie, find a gift ... and change a life? Most of the furniture and décor is created or repurposed by individuals rebuilding their lives through our Life Recovery programs along with Mission staff and volunteers. All Nettie's Mercantile proceeds benefit Rockford Rescue Mission programs.

(Continued from front page)

Finally, I hope you're praying this election season. Praying for our country – and for all the countries of the world, many of whom will also be affected by the outcome of this election, and all of whom are beloved by God. Praying for your neighbors, especially perhaps for those who have different political views than you – not that God would change their mind so much as that God would enable you to love them. Praying for your own heart – for God to fill you with hope and joy in God's work, regardless of the outcome of the election.

May God raise up elected leaders who honor the biblical values of justice, peace, and care for the least of these. And may God make us – God's church – a physical sign of a radically different Kingdom in this hurting world.

With you in the hope of God's goodness, Pastor Lucy Wynard

GoFundMe Breakfast 815

The Rock River Valley Pantry (RRVP) announced today a new GoFundMe Campaign today called Breakfast815. The Campaign will start Sunday September 6, 2020 thru October 31st, 2020. All donations are 100% tax deductible, with all proceeds going to the Rock River Valley Pantry, Northern Illinois largest food pantry. With the support of our community we can reach the goal of \$50,000 by the end of this Campaign.

The Rock River Valley Pantry is Northern Illinois largest Food Pantry. Support for Families who have urgent needs now can easily support this extremely important event. Go to www.gofundme.com/f/Breakfast-815 and donate quickly on a secured server. For more information please visit our website RRVP.org. or call 815-965-2466.



Daylight Savings ends on Saturday, October 31st. Don't forget to turn your clocks back one hour!



The **Rockford Midtown Market** is up and going. It is every Saturday through October 31st from 9am-1pm in the parking lot at 502 Seventh St. The Market's purpose is to encourage a safe and socially distanced community gathering for farm produce, coffee drinks, activities, music, and crafts. The Rockford Midtown Market is a partnership between Katie's Cup and the Rockford Midtown District Association.

+ Rockford Area Lutheran Ministries

Virtual TRIVIA NIGHT

Friday, November 6



Trivia Night has gone Virtual
7 pm play begins
\$ 10 suggested per person

Groups of 8 available or sign up individually

www.RockTheGood.com
RalmMail@aol.com 815-962-4279

Do you like us on facebook?
www.facebook.com/RockfordAreaLutheran



Pre-registration required



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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 :

Sunday, October 11, 2020

(8:00 AM) Usher/Greeter: Gwyn Brechtel,
Mari Hanson

Cantor: Pam Lojewski

Remote Lector: Lynn Valentine

(10:00 AM) Usher/Greeter: John Linde,
Marge Rakoczy

Praise Singer: Bob McVinnie

Sunday, October 18, 2020
Drive-In Worship

No 8 AM Worship

(10:00 AM) Usher/Greeter: DiAnne Beynon,
Mike Schultz

Praise Singers: Chuck & Lynn Valentine