



Special points of interest:

Sunday Worship
10:00 AM Facebook Live

Academy Chapel
Every Tuesday, 2:15 PM

Rejoicing Spirits
6:00 PM (2nd & 4th
Thursday via Zoom)

815-399-5013

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From Pastor's Desk:

Monday, January 11, 2021

Volume 48, Issue 1

Epiphany: God Appearing - People Taking Notice

Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you! Isaiah 60:1

Today, in the rhythm of the church year, we celebrate the feast of the Epiphany—that is, the manifestation of God in earthly form. Following the journey of the Magi, foreign astrologers who undertook a journey of discovery prompted by the rising of a mysterious star, Epiphany reminds us that God's presence shines in unexpected places and in unexpected ways among ordinary people in ordinary settings.

"The fact that Mary and Joseph were an ordinary young couple making the best of a tough situation, reminds us that the light of God's presence can shine in the midst of our own dark nights.

The fact that ordinary shepherds were among the first witnesses of the greatest story ever told, encourages us to be awake and alert to the good news of Christ's presence in the wilderness places of our own lives.

The fact that the Magi were Gentiles—foreigners!—reminds us that even though Jesus was the King of the Jews, he was born as a Savior for all humankind, not just those who were specially chosen. Their presence at the manger represents Christ as Light to the whole world!

And the fact that so much of what took place in the Christmas story was guided through dreams and unusual signs in the sky reminds us that God reveals God's self to us in mysterious ways, and we'd best be paying attention (Ruth Haley Barton)."

Epiphany is all about noticing that God is indeed here. God is part of our lives and that the best response we can have is to devote our hearts and minds to discovering what God is doing.

*When the song of the angels is stilled
when the star in the sky is gone
when the kings and princes are home
when the shepherds are back with their flocks
the work of Christmas begins:
to find the lost
to heal the broken
to feed the hungry
to release the prisoner
to rebuild the nations
to bring peace among the people
to make music in the heart.*

Howard Thurman

BY THE NUMBERS

12/20/20 Online Views	92	12/24/20 Drive-up/Reservation	26 cars + 14 cars + 23	12/24/20 Online views	78
12/27/20 Online Views	111	1/3/21 Online Views	121	Rejoicing Spirits	44

Required total receipts weekly.....\$8,215.67 (2020)

Gen Fund 12/20/20	\$4,595.00	Gen Fund 12/27/20	\$6,693.00	Gen Fund 1/3/21	\$2,700.00
Forward in Faith	\$880.00	Forward in Faith	\$1,545.00	Forward in Faith	\$520.00
Surplus/Deficit	-\$2,740.67	Surplus/Deficit	+\$22.33	Surplus/Deficit	-\$4,995.67
Festival	\$1,490.00	53rd/54th week	\$1,160.00	Unexpected Blessings	\$6,9221.52
		Giving Tuesday	\$215.00		

Surplus/Deficit YTD..... - \$16,111.97 (12/31/20 pre-audit)



Pray for Alpine members:

Pat Anderson, Linda Becker, Vince Bertolotto, Tim Beynon, Rick Bried, Cindy Bulthaus, Tim & JoAnn Christiansen, Pat Christiansen, Scott Christiansen, Ernest & Mary DeNale, Doris Fransen, Marybeth Gillette, Louise Hemenway, Rich & Jan Hill, Jim Hill, Peggy Lillegaard, Norma Lucas, Marguerite Lusth, Pastor Rick Meier, Valerie Miller, Ron & Jan Pauly, Marge Pearson, Steve Shoudy, JR Stropes, Melissa (Bukowski) Stucky & family, Gyla Tomlinson, Pat Turmo and Darold & Sharron 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, Tina Randolph, Tom Rogers, Bob Schult, Jeremy Sturges, Don Tennant, Penny Wendling, all those on the front line and those affected with Covid-19.



All in the Family

Birthday thanks came in from **Diane Billert** and **Nancy Lorenzen**. **Kathy Cordonnier** sends her thanks for the get well wishes she received. Our love and sympathy goes out to **June Tongue** and family after the death of Jerry.

Worship Schedule :

Sunday Worship:

8:00 AM Traditional Worship (suspended)
10:00 AM Praise Worship/ Facebook Live (in-person suspended)

*Children's Church on hiatus, monthly Grab & Go packets will be available when we return to in-person worship

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 **Worship, 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 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.**

January 17th—Cathy & Madeline Merwin; R. C., Rhonda, Conlan, Chase & Bobby Pottinger; and Gil Okeson.

January 24th—Robert, Jaron Sproule; Jennifer Sproule; Gyla Tomlinson; and Gregory Wermick & Christine Morel.



Tuesday, January 12th—Academy Chapel via YouTube, 2:15 PM

Thursday, January 14th—Rejoicing Spirits via Zoom, 6 PM

Saturday, January 16th—Financial Audit, 9 AM

Tuesday, January 19th—Academy Chapel via YouTube, 2:15 PM

Monday, January 18th—Annual reports are due

Thursday, January 21st—Church Council, 7 PM

Sunday, January 24th—Drive-up Communion, 11AM—12:30 PM

Official Notice:

The congregation of Alpine Lutheran Church is hereby convened for its annual meeting to take place on Sunday, February 7, 2021 at 11:30 AM. The meeting will include reports and election of members to the church council.

Annual Meeting Announcement!

Our Alpine Lutheran Church Annual meeting will take place on February 7th at 11:30 AM. You can attend virtually or in person (reservations will be required, spaces are limited). Please mark your calendars. Our Annual Meeting is on February 7th 11:30 AM.

Committee Chairpersons: The 2021 Annual Meeting will be here before we know it. We need all annual reports to be sent to the office as soon as you can by no later than January 18th. It would be very helpful if all reports could be in electronic form and in Word format. This makes it easier for me to do any manipulation for printing. If you are unable to submit your report this way, I will understand. Thank you for your quick response to this request. (Lynn Valentine)



Gifts for the Staff

The **Church Council** of Alpine Lutheran is continuing collection for a **2020 Christmas gift** for our full-time staff; Pastor Dan, Lynn Valentine, Tim Babcock, and Richard Dowling. We will be collecting through January. We thank them for all they do for Alpine all year long! (Scott Dabson)

From the SCRIP Desk:

We thank Alpine for your continued support of SCRIP. If you would like to make an order, we will continue to have order forms available and you may call to set up a time to pick up your order as soon as it is ready. (Deb Geeser)

KEEP CALM...SHOP SCRIP

A **2021 Altar Flower and Eternal Candle** chart will be up soon. Remember loved ones passed or celebrate a special event. Each sponsorship helps to defray the cost of our flowers every year and we thank everyone for contributing to this ministry. Since we are not currently worshipping in-person, you may call either Laurel, 815-980-5326, or Lynn in the office, 815-399-5013, to sign-up.

During our **Live YouTube/Facebook** worship services, you may make **prayer requests** in the comment section. These requests will be collected and given to Pastor Dan to pray during the Prayers of the Church. We hope to get to all of the requests each service.

Starting January 17th our online services will be broadcast from our YouTube Channel. What this means is that to watch our services online you can:

1. Go to our Alpine Lutheran Church YouTube Channel and click on the worship service link.
2. Go to our Alpine Lutheran Church of Rockford Facebook Page. A Link will appear there on Sunday mornings at 10:00 AM. Simply click on the link (it will take you to our YouTube channel) and then click on the worship service.
3. Download our Church app via the google play store or Apple app store and watch the service via our church app.

This change will be easier for people to watch our services on their smart TV's as well as their phones, computers, and tablets.

See you Sunday at 10!

Sunday, January 24th, Pastor Dan will host an **in-person communion**. From 11 AM to 12:30 PM, after the online worship service, you may drive up to door "C" to receive communion and a blessing from Pastor Dan. You may drop off any offerings for that week if you would like as well.

2020 Statements will be mailed out at the end of this month. If you would like to save postage and have it emailed, please contact Lynn in the office.

A new **Those Who Serve** schedule coming out soon. Please note that it will include a schedule as if we were back to in person worship with 2 services. As of the writing of this Summit, we are still just doing a 10 AM Facebook/YouTube service.

The January edition of the **Living Lutheran** is now available for you to pick up. Copies will be in the box outside of door "F" or from Lynn in the office. The lead article this month, which makes me feel old, celebrates the 60th Anniversary of the animated children's show "Davey and Goliath". Follow the progression of the show that the children of the 60's & 70's grew up watching Sunday mornings.

*With the ever changing mandates it is important that you receive our **emails or notices** on Facebook to know the most up to date information. If you would like to add your email to our list please notify Lynn in the office. You may find us on Facebook by searching Alpine Lutheran Church of Rockford. Like the page and then turn on notifications for new posts.



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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: :



Alpine Academy
of Rockford
Faith • Family • Future

Happy New Year from the Academy! We are back in school after a wonderful break celebrating Christmas and the start of this new year. I am excited to see what is in store for us in 2021 and I hope that you are too.

Our students and staff have returned to school safe and healthy following our break. We're continuing to follow WCHD guidelines and navigating this school year safely and confidently due to the commitment of our staff, students and families. I'm so proud of the efforts of our entire Alpine Family to be able to ensure that our students receive the education and care that they desire here at Alpine.

As we enter this new calendar year we also begin our preparations for our next school year. Over break I began preparing information for re enrollment for our 2021-22 school year and to begin inviting new students and families to join us. This is always an exciting time of year as I get an opportunity to connect with new families and share our story of Alpine with them. Inviting new families to join our Alpine Family is an easy part of our work together. I am proud to be a part of this Alpine Family and I love sharing that with others. If you share my pride in our family I'd also encourage you to invite others to join us, whether it be at school or church, we are all one Alpine Family. A personal invitation goes a long way in ensuring our growth together.

This new year has also seen us lose a couple families and four students as employment has forced them to move, one to a new state and the other to Guam. While we will miss these four students and their families I am happy to say we have also welcomed 6 new students into our Alpine Family to begin our new semester and possibly a few more who are in the process of enrollment. God is certainly looking out for us at Alpine and trusting us with these new families. I have no doubt we will succeed in welcoming them to our Family.

Happy New Year Alpine!
Scott Dabson, Operations Director
Alpine Academy