



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 25, 2021

Volume 48, Issue 2

Christmas & Epiphany Takeaways

Growing in our faith during a pandemic has been a challenge. With so many supports, activities, freedoms etc... having been temporarily taken away, many of us have felt distanced from God and each other. Isolation is tough and over time it can eat away at our faith. In our worship services the last several months we have been reminded repeatedly that God uses the circumstances of this world to help us both encounter God and grow in our faith.

Learning how God chooses to be part of our lives, calling us to live a life greater than we could ever dream of - has been a big part of what we have learned. Here are some more of our takeaways (remember takeaways are the Biblical truths we discover in worship that we can hook our faith on, take home with us, and put into practice throughout the week).

Advent 2020 Takeaways

- God uses the circumstances of this world to help us prepare for Our Coming Savior.
- A big part of advent is allowing God to remove/heal the unhealthy connections we have to this world.
- During Advent, God meets us - even in the wilderness.
- Repentance is often what follows after a powerful encounter with God.
- Getting ready for Christmas might include sacrificing your plans for the benefit of someone else.
- A path to Joy often involves taking our eyes off what we have lost and seeing what we have gained.

Christmas & Epiphany Takeaways

- Jesus came for people like you and me.
- Christmas provides a wonderful opportunity to reconnect with Jesus.
- We are the blessing. The treasures we receive from God are meant to guide us in being this blessing to the world.
- You are my Child, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.
- We have some cleanup work to do. God's image has been tarnished by the events of this past week. Staying silent and avoiding the task only makes us complicit.
- Jesus knows who we really are. Yet he calls us to follow him anyways.
- The attribute that makes it easier to follow Jesus - Having no deception in us.
- There is a difference between observing Jesus and following Jesus.
- Change will happen in us. How we act, feel, think, see others, our speech and our decision making - everything will be transformed as we follow Jesus.
- In following Jesus, we become Agents of Transformation.

BY THE NUMBERS

1/10/21	Online views	74	1/17/21	Online views	61
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Required total receipts weekly.....\$8,215.67 (2020)

Gen Fund 1/10/21	\$3,665.00	Gen Fund 1/17/21	\$7,420.00
Forward in Faith	\$1,088.00	Forward in Faith	\$845.00
Surplus/Deficit	- \$3,462.67	Surplus/Deficit	+ \$49.33

Unexpected Blessings \$120.00

Surplus/Deficit YTD..... - \$11,608.63 (12/31/20)



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 **Ernest DeNale and Donna Brenner.**

Worship Schedule :

Sunday Worship:

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

*Children's Church on hiatus, monthly Grab & Go packets will be available January 24th.

Academy Chapel: 2:15 PM every Tuesday via Academy YouTube channel

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 31st —Janice Peden; Ron & Jean Johnson; Rhonda Paravala; and Jim Stropes, Jr.

February 7th —Kathy & Lisa Robinson; Ron & Jan Pauly; Kathy & Eugene Mund; and Glen McDonald.



Thursday, January 28th—Rejoicing Spirits via Zoom, 6 PM
Tuesday, February 2nd—Worship & Music, 6 PM
Tuesday, February 2nd—Christian Ed/Youth, 6:30 PM
Tuesday, February 2nd—Soc Min/Connections, 7 PM
Thursday, February 4th—Property, 6:30 PM
Sunday, February 7th—Annual Meeting, 11:30 AM
Tuesday, February 9th—Finance, 6:30 PM
Saturday, February 13th—Altar Guild, 9 AM

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 in person (reservations will be required, spaces are limited) or virtually via Zoom or Zoom call in. Please mark your calendars. Our Annual Meeting is on February 7th 11:30 AM.

The **Nominating Committee** is having difficulty making contacts to fill church council vacancies. If you are interested in serving on the church council or willing to serve, please let us know by calling the church office. (DiAnne Beynon)

From the SCRIP Desk:

Valentine's Day will be here before we know it. Do you have a special gift for that special someone? SCRIP is here to help you. Just call and check if we have the cards you are looking for and we can have them ready for you to pick up. (Deb Geeser)

KEEP CALM...SHOP SCRIP

Please note: A birthday was inadvertently left off of the January birthday list. Please add **Jeff Doubek's** birthday to your list which was on January 13th.

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 in-person and Facebook/YouTube service.

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. If you 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.

The **Staff of Alpine** wishes to thank everyone for their generous gift for 2020. We are very blessed to work in such a loving church whose congregation shows so much support as we work together to share God's Word.

Starting January 24th 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!**

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.

February Katie's Cup Book Club selection: **Homegoing** by Yaa Gyasi. The book will be discussed, via Zoom, on **Thursday, February 11, 10 AM**. As is our custom, we will send the needed link at least the day before to those who might be interested. Contact katiescuprockford@gmail.com to receive it.

*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.

Please prayerfully consider volunteering for a ministry at Alpine. It is becoming more and more difficult to complete our "Those Who Serve" schedule especially during our "snow-bird" months. If you are interested in the any of the areas of serving, please contact the church office and we will direct you to the person who heads up each volunteer position. (Lynn Valentine)



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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: :

Our second semester is off to a fantastic start! Our students and staff have returned to the classrooms healthy and ready to learn together. We're excited for what this new year will bring us at Alpine Academy. Our future is bright.

The last couple weeks students have spent time learning about the work of Martin Luther King Jr. A man whose principal teachings still apply to all of us today. Our students are gaining understanding of equality and how that affects us all. Students have also spent time preparing for the Inauguration of a new President. This is an excellent learning opportunity to allow our students to experience history and not just hear about it. Classes watched the swearing in of our next President and saw how our nation still places God in a place of importance for our country.

Families at Alpine recently began applying again for the Empower Illinois Scholarships on Jan. 13th. This program continues to allow us at Alpine to support and walk alongside students and families who are seeking a closer relationship with Jesus. These scholarship benefit families who are looking to choose a Christian Education for their students but otherwise could not afford it. If you would like to consider making a donation to this program I'd be happy to discuss the details with you. Students lives are being changed due to the generosity of those who have donated to this program.

Thank you for continuing to support the Ministry of Alpine Academy!

Scott Dabson
Operations Director
Alpine Academy



Alpine Academy
of Rockford
Faith • Family • Future