



Special points of interest:

Sunday Worship
 8:00 AM Traditional
 10:00 AM Praise
 10:00 AM Facebook Live

Academy Chapel
 Every Tuesday, 2:15 PM
 YouTube

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

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Monday, May 10 2021

Volume 48, Issue 9

From Pastor's Desk:

Having Faith in Difficult Times

The vision of life in Christ that Paul sets out in 1 Thessalonians is that Jesus is victorious (both in saving us and in sanctifying us) despite the circumstances that might be happening around us. We learn that both Paul and the assembly/church in Thessaloniki have experienced hardships. Life has not gone the way that they had hope or desired, despite their faith. There were setbacks and persecution, often by their own neighbors and fellow countryman. Despite their circumstances ***"The Lord's message rang out from you not only in Macedonia and Achaia— your faith in God has become known everywhere"*** (1 Thess. 1:8) Their faith (thus the work of Christ) could not be contained or stopped. This is a message that is relevant for the church in any age. Too often we allow our opinion of God to be set by how well our lives are going.

There is so much that we can learn from Paul's relationship with this church, especially his emphasis on loving sacrificially, encouraging, helping, caring, and even holding others accountable. Paul clearly urges them to lead a life worthy of the calling. Luther would interpret this as the difference between justification and sanctification. Jesus makes us worthy, he saves us, but we still have a life to live. This life is tied to the mission of God. The more we lead this life, the more our faith grows, the more the Gospel is spread. His motivations for leading a life worthy of the calling are to give thanks for what Jesus did (saving us), growing your faith, and spreading the gospel. This belief may be grounded in Paul's Judaism, but it is shaped by the Good News.

One of the biggest counter cultural patterns that Paul give us that can impact the church in our cultural context is a great life motto ***"Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus"*** (5:16) Not that you suffer, but that the good news will spread despite the awful things happening in this world. Indeed, it seems to me that if we were to follow this pattern it would go a long way in helping us to overcome our cultural indulgence with self fulfillment via the obtaining or experiencing of pleasure. It would help by getting our eyes off ourselves and our achievement and instead focusing on rejoicing; for the events of his world cannot destroy the work that God accomplished in Christ. The main point he makes about the Jesus' eventual return is simple. Don't worry, you won't miss it. In the meantime, focus on living the life God has called you to and doing your part in the ministry of reconciling people through Jesus Christ to God. This is especially relevant today as we struggle with what life will look like as we move past this pandemic. Paul's message rings out clear. Don't sweat it, just lead a life worthy of the calling.

Maybe our focus should be *"Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing"* (5.11). Stay on mission, do not get caught up with things you cannot control or predict. I guess the most powerful message from this letter can be summed up like this; **Our circumstances in life should not determine our faith in Christ. But our Faith in Christ should determine how we respond to the circumstances of life.**

BY THE NUMBERS

		Rejoicing Spirits		38		
4/25/21	29+24	53		5/2/21	31+27	59
4/11 Online views		26		5/2 Online views	23	

Required total receipts weekly.....\$7,902.73

Gen Fund 4/25/21	\$6,006.50	Gen Fund 5/2/21	\$4,498.00
Forward in Faith	\$1,322.50	Forward in Faith	\$1,270.00
Surplus/Deficit	-\$558.73	Surplus/Deficit	-\$2,134.73
	53/54		\$15.00

*Please note, the giving amounts at the beginning of the year include several full year pledge receipts.

Surplus/Deficit YTD..... + \$12,919.13 (3/31/21)



Pray for Alpine members:

Pat Anderson, Linda Becker, Vince Bertolotto, Tim Beynon, Rick Bried, Cindy Bulthaus, Chris & Pat Christiansen, Ernest & Mary DeNale, Doris Fransen, Marybeth Gillette, Joan Greeny, Louise Hemenway, Rich & Jan Hill, Dave & Peggy Lillegaard, Norma Lucas, Pastor Rick Meier, Valerie Miller, Ron & Jan Pauly, Marge Pearson, JR Stropes, Melissa (Bukowski) Stucky & family, and Pat Turmo.

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 **Gil Okeson** and **Karl Okeson**. Thank you to our entire Alpine family for your prayers, cards, visits, gifts of food, and Memorials during Darold's journey and passing. You have touched our hearts. God bless you. Love, **Sharon and family**. **Gil Okeson** expressed his thanks to Alpine, Richard Nelson and Pam Hemenway for the gift bags he has received.

Worship Schedule :

Sunday Worship:

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

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

Academy Chapel: 2:15 PM every Tuesday via Alpine Academy of Rockford 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.)

Bible Studies, Women's Circles, Adult Forums & Men's Breakfasts See the announcement on page 3 for information on the Tuesday Men's Bible Study.

Wednesday Evening Prayer meeting: every Wednesday on Facebook, 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.**

May 16th — Michael, Alyssa Kreigbaum, & Chase Valentine; Shawn & Judy Lee; Jeremy Logston; and Jerry & Linda McGhee.

May 23rd — Marge Rakoczy; Freddy, Sara & Nico Nowak; Richard, Karla, Karter, & Kamden Lovitt; and Al, Sarah, Matthew & Alexis Neumann.



Tuesday, May 11th—Men's Bible Study via Zoom, 7 AM
Thursday, May 13th—Rejoicing Spirits via Zoom, 6 PM
Saturday, May 15th—Alpine Vitality Event: Outdoor Movie Night, 7 PM (movie at dusk)
Thursday, May 20th—Church Council, 7 PM

ATTENTION ALL GRADUATES: Graduation time is fast approaching. As you make your plan to celebrate your graduation don't forget to please contact the church office so we may join in your celebration by acknowledging you in the Summit. (Lynn Valentine)

Scholarship applications are being collected 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)

Coffee Hour to Return! This Sunday, May 16th, Jack & Carla Phillips will host an outside coffee hour after our 8:00 AM worship service. We would like to start scheduling a coffee hour on a regular basis. Please look for a sign-up sheet or look for Laurel McVinne to schedule when you would like to host. We will start with coffee hours outside, weather permitting, then move inside as we feel more comfortable socially.

Announcing a return to Pastor Dan's office hours. Starting this month, Pastor Dan will be in the office for the following times: Mondays 9:00-12:00; Tuesdays 9:00 – 3:00; Wednesdays 9:00 – 3:00; and Thursdays 1:00 – 3:00. He is also available at other times by appointment.

From the SCRIP Desk:

Now that Mother's Day is over guess what is right around the corner...Father's Day . That's right Father's Day will be here in a few short weeks. So it is time to get those gifts that dad would love. If you are having problems picking out the best gift why not get him a gift card from Scrip so he can pick out his favorite gift. Shop Scrip it is easy and fun. (Deb Geeser)

KEEP CALM...SHOP SCRIP

On behalf of the **property committee** we would like to thank all of the volunteers that came out to work day. The church property needed some TLC which was definitely delivered on work day. If you would like to continue volunteering please contact Scott Dabson.

Doing your Spring cleaning? The youth will be holding a **garage sale** in the gym on the weekend of **June 4th & 5th**. Donations may be dropped off at the church and placed in the Fellowship Hall behind the partitions. Please contact John Linde with any questions. Please no TVs.

Do you have any aluminum cans to dispose of? Kathy Cordonnier is collecting them for the Shriners. You can drop them off in the barrel in the coat room.

It is almost time for **Rockford's Midtown Market** to start for the 2021 season. Rockford's bike-friendly, family-friendly, and pet-friendly farmers market will be held every Thursday morning from 9AM—1PM. The Rockford Midtown Market runs June 3rd through September 30th in the RPS parking lot on 7th St.

The May edition of "**Living Lutheran**" is here and ready to be picked up and shared. The cover story highlights the series "I'm a Lutheran" and a member of Grace Lutheran in Evanston, IL. Read how music plays a part in her life as a Lutheran. Copies are on the Cars and Concern counter as well as in the box outside of door F.



Alpine Academy
of Rockford

FAITH • FAMILY • FUTURE

I'm writing this as we finish up Teacher Appreciation Week at Alpine and begin to prepare to close out this school year. This school year has been great at Alpine contrary to what we see on the news. I'm excited to close out this school year with a few additional positive activities.

At Alpine Academy we take advantage of Teacher Appreciation and use it as an opportunity to thank all of our staff for all they do for our school. Every individual who works or volunteers at Alpine Academy is here teaching something to our students. We are all role models and have a unique opportunity to walk alongside our students in their faith walk. In many cases the staff and volunteers at Alpine Academy provide a student's first connection to Jesus and the Bible. I am so grateful to be able to work with wonderful caring and compassionate Teachers and Staff at Alpine Academy.

As we look to the close of this school year we are looking forward to a few more opportunities to thank those who made it possible for us to have this successful school year. We look forward to expressing that thanks in the coming weeks. We also look forward to our Field Day on Monday May 24th. If you are interested in volunteering for this event please contact the school and let us know. This is a fun event that all the kids look forward to. We will continue following all our guidelines during this event. Thank you in advance to all who are able to join us and volunteer.

We are also currently enrolling for our Summer Day Camp now called "Thunderland." If you know anyone who is looking for a safe, fun, Christian Summer Day Camp for this summer please encourage them to contact us to get signed up for "Thunderland" for this summer!

In Christ
Scott Dabson, Admissions Director
Alpine Academy



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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:

Sun., May 16, 2021

Ushers: (8:00) Jack & Carla Phillips
(10:00) Bob & Violet Peterson
Remote Lector: Chuck Valentine
Cantor: Becky Toro
Praise Singer: Chuck & Lynn Valentine

Sun., May 23, 2021

Ushers: (8:00) Al Geeser, Mari Hanson
(10:00) Marge Rakoczy, Mike Schultz
Remote Lector: Terry Hodges
Cantor: Pam Lojewski
Praise Singer: Becky Toro

Alpine Lutheran Vitality Events

Save These Dates:

May 15th—Outdoor Movie Night, 7 PM
(movie at dusk)

June 12th—Ice Cream Social

July 10th—Neighborhood Picnic

August 22nd—AlpineFest

These events are designed to connect and build relationships with our community around us and to keep the vitality of Alpine Lutheran going into our future.