



Special points of interest:

Sunday Worship
 8:00 AM Traditional
 10:00 AM Praise Worship
 with Children's Church
 10:00 AM YouTube Live

Church Office Hours
 Mon.—Thurs.
 8:30 AM—4:30 PM
 (Lunch 12:30—1:30 PM)

In this issue:

Trunk-or-Treat	3
Snowbirds	3
Confirmation Classes	3
Call/Search Updates	4

Monday, September 30, 2024

Volume 51, Issue 18

“For and Against”

Are you a Cubs fan? A Sox fan? (A moment of silence if so.) It is possible to be for the Cubs and not against the Sox, unless they're playing each other. Although it's not possible to be for the Cubs and not against the Cardinals, who have been pounding on the Cubs for too many years for it to be otherwise.

Most of our choices are not binary. When we choose something for dinner or something to wear or somewhere to go on vacation, the choice is usually for a preference at that time, and not against all other choices for all time.

I believe that one of the things that we are losing by considering so much of our shared life to be binary, insisting on an “against” opposed to every “for,” is a healthy respect for preference, for nuance, for ambiguity, and for internal critique.

Even more, though, is that if even small things get defined as “for” or “against,” we lose sight of the big things that truly are. We keep our commitments or we don't. We care for our families or we don't. We speak the truth as we believe or we don't. It's not about how we feel about commitments or families or honesty, it's about actions taken or not taken toward them.

In the Gospel reading for Sunday, September 29th, Jesus's disciples encounter someone casting out demons in the name of Jesus, and they try to stop him, because he wasn't one of Jesus's chosen disciples. But Jesus takes a different approach. He says that no one who can accomplish a deed of power by the power and authority of Jesus will then speak against Jesus. He summarizes by saying, “Whoever is not against us is for us.”

In both Matthew and Luke, Jesus says what sounds like exactly the opposite thing, “Whoever is not with me is against me.” But the context is very different. The people in question here have accused Jesus of casting out demons by the power of Satan. They are rejecting the means of Jesus's saving work. Here is a true binary choice; one cannot be for Jesus and neutral toward Satan. There is no nuance or ambiguity to this.

Few of us find ourselves in position to exorcise demons. But there is much that Jesus commends, including giving a cup of cold water to his followers, that demonstrates a “for” or “with” choice. Sports fans wear jerseys to show the world whose team they're for. As followers of Jesus, it is our actions that demonstrate it. May it be unambiguously clear whose team we are on.

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Don

BY THE NUMBERS

9/15/24	38 + 40	78	9/22/24	45 + 45	90
Online Views		16	Online Views		11

Required total receipts weekly.....\$8,332.98

Gen Fund 9/15/24	\$7,112.87	Gen Fund 9/22/24	\$9,508.11
Forward in Faith	\$1,718.00	Forward in Faith	\$765.00
Surplus/Deficit	+\$497.89	Surplus/Deficit	+\$1,940.13



Pray for Alpine members:

Wendy Barton, Roger Bastian, Tim Beynon, Diane Billert, Donna Brenner, Cindy Bulthaus, Scott Christiansen, Mary DeNale, Rolly Greenland, Jan Hill, Pam Hodges, Les Johnson, Heidi Lykken, John McCue, Glen McDonald, Valerie Miller, JR Stropes, Jeanne Tengren, and Pat Turmo.

Pray for our friends and family of Alpine:

Sally Atkinson, Wally Bastian, Angela Boogard, Kim Braun, Cornelia Foley, Daniel Hendrickson, Darlene Johnson, Ron Johnson, Ralph Latai family, Tomas Leitzinger, Gabe & Damien Mier, Haley Miller's parents, Maryann Moorhouse, Peggy Moorhouse, Brenda Newcomb, Rev. Willard Olson, Judy Osiwalla, Bob Schult, Derek Sisson, Bob Slothower, Bob Swenson, Don Tennant, Penny Wendling, Michael White, Deb Williams, Ali Younglove, and all those in the Ukraine & Israel-Gaza conflicts.

All in the Family

Birthday thanks came in from **Kathy Cordonnier** and **Bonnie Barton**.

Worship Schedule :

- **Sunday Worship:**
8:00 AM Traditional Worship
10:00 AM Praise Worship/ YouTube-Facebook Live
- **Children's Church** will meet at the 10 AM worship during the service, resuming September 8th, seasonal Grab & Go packets will continue to be available for pick-up.
- **Adult Forums** will be on the 3rd Sunday of the month, between worship services.
- **Academy Chapel:** 2:15 PM every Tuesday, Everyone is invited to join us.
- **Rejoicing Spirits: Every 1st (in person) & 3rd (Zoom) Thursday,** 6:00 PM This service is for those with developmental disabilities, their families, caregivers, and others.
- **Tuesday Bible Breakfast:** 8:00 AM Tuesdays, Sunrise Restaurant
- **Thursday Bible & Brews:** 7:00 PM, Brewsky's - meeting every Thursday.

Pastoral Needs: Pastor Wink plans to be in his office on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays, He will be working from home on Mondays and can be contacted through the office on that day or when he is not in the office.



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 the office whenever the need arises for extra prayers you may have.

**Together we worship, together we pray,
together we love.**

Oct. 6th — Al, Sarah, Matt & Alexis Neumann; Luke, Heidi & Kristian Lykken; and Pat Turmo.

Oct. 13th — Al & Marlene Garrett; Carl Stohle; Amanda & Morgan Dabson; and Dick Nelson.

Sunday, October 6, 2024

Ushers: (8) Jack Phillips, Andrea Tack (10) John Gustafson, Mari Hanson

Ambassadors: (8) Gene & Donna Seefeldt (10) Rivera Family

Lector: (8) Carla Phillips (10) Jari Sproule

Lay Assistant: (8) David DeNale (10) Nancy Matthews

Praise Singer: Bob McVinnie

Sunday, October 13, 2024

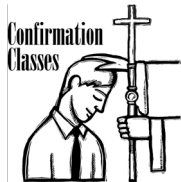
Ushers: (8) Bob Fanello, Volunteer (10) DiAnne Beynon, Bob Peterson

Ambassadors: (8) Karl & Deb Okeson (10) Amanda Dabson, Mari Hanson

Lector: (8) Bob Fanello (10) Allen Neumann

Lay Assistant: (8) Mike Schultz (10) Allen & Matt Neumann

Praise Singer: Jaime Doubek



Confirmation Class: Alpine students and friends in grades 6-8 are encouraged to be part of monthly confirmation gatherings. We'll be working collaboratively with three other ELCA churches: Our Savior's, Salem, and Good Shepherd. As I write this I do not have the exact times and locations, but the first four Saturdays are September 21st, October 19th, November 16th, and December 7th. Please contact me (Pastor Don) for more details.

Snowbirds I know it is hard to believe but summer has ended. Many of you are starting to make your plans to head south to get away from the impending Illinois winter. Please remember to notify the church office as to when you will be leaving and an approximate date of return. The Postal Service charges us for all returned mail. Additionally, if you would prefer to receive your Summit via email, the office can make that change for you. Thank you. (Lynn Valentine)

Thursday Bible Study: Prior to "Covid" Alpine had a Bible study group that met on Wednesday mornings in the conference room. Pastor Don has started that group up again only it meets on **Thursday mornings at 10 AM (*11 AM on 10/3 & 10/10)**. This group is for everyone, not just women. We will be talking about various lessons from the Bible. Come with your Bible and join our discussion. (Pastor Don Wink)

Bible & Brew has resumed our weekly schedule. We will now meet at **Blackhawk Athletic Club** at 7 PM. We will be using the book "What If Jesus Was Serious?" by Skye Jethani. "If you've traditionally been dissatisfied with Christian devotional resources but love to learn about Jesus and think deeply, this book was written for you." We have purchased a few extra copies of the book, please see Scott Dabson. We welcome all new members to our group. (Outreach Committee)

Adult Forum - Our adult forums have begun. They will be held on the 3rd Sunday of the month between services, starting at 9:15 in Fellowship Hall. If you have any topics that you would like to see, please contact Lisa Slothower, 815-289-6933, or any member from the Christian Ed Committee.



Alpine Outreach is planning a community **Fall Fest & Trunk-or-Treat** for Saturday, October 26th (time TBD). We need donations of candy (or monetary donations to purchase candy) as well as "trunks" to distribute the candy to the kids in our community. Please see Scott Dabson if you are able to volunteer for this event. A sign-up sheet is in the narthex.

Sunday Morning Coffee Hour—It's great spending time between services enjoying conversations with other members and visitors. It's especially nice when you can share a bite to eat and a beverage. We need volunteers to provide those snacks. All you need to bring are some treats (purchased or home baked) and a cold beverage. Everything else is provided. Just sign up on the poster by the coffee. Thank you.



The time is now! Our list of volunteers for our worship services has been slowly depleting especially when it comes time for our "snow birds" to fly south. Have you ever thought of helping during our services; ushering, greeting, reading or lay assisting? Our new schedule goes through the beginning of December. There are many areas that still need to be filled. If you would like to volunteer for a particular opening, please contact Lynn in the office and she can add your name to fill the volunteer position. We hope to have a group meeting in October or November to update current volunteers and give information to new volunteers. (Lynn Valentine)



Children's Church has returned from our summer break. All kids are invited to join us during our 10 AM worship service. We will learn about the lessons from the worship service through crafts and a children's worship folder. Come and invite your friends!



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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

Called by Christ, our mission is to share God's love.

Call Committee/Music Director Search Update

At Alpine we continue to search for new worship leadership through our Call Committee and Music Director Search Team. Both of these groups are preparing to receive candidates and are looking forward to the interview process. We know that the right Pastor and Music Director will come to us during this process. Please continue to pray for the discernment of those that are leading in this process to search for new professional leaders at Alpine.

Property Committee Help Needed

As the Property Committee continues to work to maintain and improve the property at Alpine we are in need of some assistance. Please see the list below or talk with Scott Dabson or Jack Phillips about areas we are in need of some volunteers

- Weeding in landscaping plant areas
- Volunteers to help complete demo of floors in Fellowship Hall Bathrooms
- Painting of walls

Thank you to those Committees who took time clean out/organize their storage areas We will be putting a volunteer board with ongoing projects into the coat room soon. We appreciate all the volunteers who have been helping and those that will find something that suits them going forward.