



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)

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Monday, November 25, 2024

Volume 51, Issue 22

From the Pastor's desk:

Awaiting Arrival

When we walk through airports, each gate has an area around it filled with seating (never quite enough), small tables and charging stations for electronic devices (also never quite enough). Those seated or standing in these areas are all waiting to leave. Wherever they are, some combination of obligations, misfortune (cancelled or rerouted flights), and desires has them waiting to go somewhere else.

Some of us are old enough to remember when gate areas also included people who were waiting for incoming flights to **arrive**. Before security concerns restricted gate areas to ticketed passengers, we had the ability to meet our colleagues, friends and family when they arrived. We were then able to escort them to transportation and our shared destinations.

We devote a lot of time and energy to waiting. Sometimes we wait to go somewhere or do something. Sometimes we wait for someone or something to arrive. Are you more comfortable waiting for a departure or for an arrival? When do you find yourself particularly restless? Most at peace?

The season of Advent is devoted to awaiting arrival. Not the arrival of friends or family, not the arrival of parties and gatherings, not the arrival of a tree, decorations, gifts and favored meals, though each of those can be wonderful, even joyful. **Advent awaits the arrival of Jesus returning as Lord of all.** In this way, the four weeks of Advent align with our real-time lives more fully than any other holiday or season in the church year.

Each other season adds something of God in and as Jesus Christ to our lives, something that has the power to draw us closer to Him and to each other. Christmas fully joins God to humanity as Immanuel, "God with us." Epiphany reveals Jesus to be the light of the world. Lent lives out the tension between the ways of God and those who would and do reject Jesus. Easter celebrates Jesus raised from death, alive and reigning as Savior and Lord. Pentecost renews and expands the reach of the Holy Spirit, and deepens Christian community and service to the world.

These are each and all life-giving, and there is enough in them to sustain us through the beauty and struggle of our lives. But the struggle is real, and sometimes overwhelming. The forces of sin and evil that put Jesus to death are still active and present in the world. Jesus's work is completed, but not yet finished. He has promised to return and reign over all without opposition. We need not depart for this; we need only await his arrival. Until that day, we celebrate Advent.

Grace and Peace,
 Pastor Don Wink

BY THE NUMBERS

11/10/24	33 + 47	80	11/17/24	41 + 37	78
Online Views		10	Online Views		11

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

Gen Fund 11/10/24	\$5,508.87	Gen Fund 11/17/24	\$6,905.05
Forward in Faith	\$1,428.00	Forward in Faith	\$1,415.00
Surplus/Deficit	-\$1,853.68	Surplus/Deficit	-\$45.98
53/54th Week.....	\$2,015.00	Unexpected Blessing.....	\$1,907.54



Pray for Alpine members:

Wendy Barton, Roger Bastian, Tim Beynon, Diane Billert, Donna Brenner, Cindy Bulthaus, 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, Angela Boogard, Kim Braun, Cornelia Foley, Daniel Hendrickson, Darlene Johnson, Peggy Moorhouse, Rev. Willard Olson, Judy Osiwalla, Bob Schult, Derek Sisson, Bob Swenson, Don Tennant, Penny Wendling, Ali Younglove, the recent hurricane victims, and all those in the Ukraine & Israel-Gaza conflicts.

All in the Family

Birthdays thanks came in from **Dick Barton, Kathy Mund, and Pam Hemenway. Dave & Laura DeNale** send their thanks for all of the cards and prayers following Mary DeNale's death. **Irv Johnson** sends his thanks for the flowers and goodies he received. **Darrell & Donna Brenner** expressed their many thanks for the flowers they received and for Pastor Don's visit.

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, Blackhawk Athletic Club - 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.**

Dec. 1st — Dick & Wendy Barton; Bobby, Michelle, Landon & Chloe Mounts; and Even, Erin, Logan & John Peyton

Dec. 8th — Mike & Loretta Schultz; Mike, Alyssa Kreighbaum, Chase & Camden Valentine; Emily Panzani, and Martin Scott

Sunday, December 1, 2024

Ushers: (8) Karl Okeson, Andrea Tack (10) John Gustafson, Mari Hanson

Ambassadors: (8) Les & Carol Johnson (10) Rivera Family

Lector: (8) Randy Teske (10) John Fridh

Lay Assistant: (8) Deb Okeson (10) John Fridh

Praise Singer: Bob McVinnie

Sunday, December 8, 2024

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

Ambassadors: (8) Andrea Tack (10) Terry & Pam Hodges

Lector: (8) Andrea Tack (10) Allen Neumann

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

Praise Singer: Jaime Doubek



Alpine will have a **Thanksgiving worship** service on **Tuesday, November 26th at 11:15 AM**. Outreach will host a Thanksgiving Feast in Fellowship Hall at 12:00 following the worship service. Come and give thanks to God for all of the blessings he has bestowed upon us. Invite your neighbors, family and friends to attend as well.

Alpine, along with Alpine Academy, is hosting our traditional **Thanksgiving Meal** to follow our 11:15 AM Tuesday worship service the week of Thanksgiving. We are asking for donations of pasta salads, Jello salads, and desserts. We also need volunteers to cook turkeys, help serve the meal, and help with clean up. Please see Scott Dabson if you can help in any way, 815-494-3002.



Help us decorate the church with poinsettias. Altar Guild is now collecting orders for the **Christmas Poinsettias**. The cost is \$15 per plant. Order envelopes are on the kiosk in the narthex and will be collected until Sunday, December 8th. (Laurel McVinnie)

Let's fill the Mitten Tree! The Altar Guild has set up a tree in the entryway by the front door, in the vestibule. Please bring in mittens, hats, gloves, scarves and warm socks, hand made or purchased, and place them on the tree. All items will be collected throughout the month and then donated to the Rock House Kids to warm those less fortunate than ourselves. (Laurel McVinnie)

Christmas Card Flurry! The Alpine In-reach committee will be making a list of Shut-ins and others who might enjoy Christmas greetings from their friends at Alpine. Use your extra cards to brighten some one's day. Need a few more cards to send? There are some available on the Cares & Concerns counter, along with the list. (In-reach Committee)

John Linde wishes to thank everyone who sponsored him in this year's **Crop Walk**. Your continued support is appreciated.

Adult Forum: We will not meet in the month of December. Details for January's forum will be coming soon. (Christian Ed)



The season of **Advent** begins on **Sunday, December 1st**. Please stop and pick up an Advent devotional to help you prepare for the coming of Emmanuel. This year our Worship & Music committee has chosen the devotional "**O Come, O Come, Emmanuel**". It is a collection inspired from the writings of Henri Nouwen. We also have bookmarks that you may pick up with a reminder of our preparation.

SCRIP Holiday Orders: Due to the increased cost of shipping and reduced orders, our SCRIP program has not been earning money for the various programs it was meant to help. As we are still able to purchase local cards and make a portion for the church, ordering the cards from Raise Right Gift Cards is counter productive. We would like to provide 2 order dates for anyone who would like to order the non-local cards as gifts for Christmas gifts. We will make an order on **December 8th and 15th**. We will continue to order our local cards throughout the year as long as it continues to benefit the church. We appreciate all who have been so faithful in ordering cards to help support our ministries.

The **Church Council of Alpine Lutheran** has started a collection for a 2024 Christmas gift for our full-time staff; Pastor Don Wink and Lynn Valentine. If you would like to contribute, all donations can be placed in the offering marked Staff Christmas or dropped off at the office. We will be collecting through the beginning of January. We thank them for all they do for Alpine all year long! (Scott Dabson, Council President)

With our Snow Birds beginning their migration south, there are many openings in our **Those Who Serve** volunteer schedule. If you notice "volunteer" written in for a duty that you can help with, we appreciate anyone stepping in to assist. Thank you in advance. (Lynn Valentine)



Children's Church Break

Children's Church will be taking a break over the holidays, 12/22, 12/29 and 1/5. We will resume on 1/12. During this time the Grab-n-Go bags will be available to pick up as well as the canvas bags for during worship.



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Non-profit org
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Sun. Worship Times
8:00 & 10:00 AM



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offer you on the Web!
alpinelutheran.com

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



The **Social Ministry Committee** continues collecting for the **Christmas Holiday Food Baskets**. All items need to be collected by Thursday, December 19th. 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 non-perishable non-expired foods can be donated for the families. 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.

Hurricanes Helene & Milton have brought life-threatening storm surge, flooding and winds, even wiping out whole towns in their paths. **Lutheran Disaster Response** is prepared to serve our neighbors impacted by both hurricanes. Please visit elca.org to donate.



We continue to collect **2025 Stewardship Commitment** cards. You may mail them, drop them off to the office, or place them in the offering plate on Sunday. We appreciate your financial support of Alpine Lutheran and our ministries. As we collect your 2025 commitments we are better able to plan our budget for next year.

As a part of Outreach, a **new website** is being assembled with a more updated look. Our current app will no longer be live after the end of November. We hope to have most of the new website ready at the same time. Please look for more update coming soon! (Scott Dabson)