



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, December 6, 2024

Volume 51, Issue 23

From the Pastor's desk:

Hearing from God

Have you seen recent reports that Bible sales in the U.S. increased by 22% through October over last year? This by itself is remarkable, even more so considering that overall book sales over the same period have increased by only 1%.

Why is that? Publishers and purchasers quoted attribute some of the growth to new designs and marketing to specific demographic groups. No surprise there. But some of the growth is coming from people, especially among younger generations, who are looking for something solid to hold onto in times of turbulence and rapid change.

I find this encouraging. There has been no greater influence in my life than hearing from God through His Word. The Bible comforts, challenges, connects, and compels in ways and measures that are unmatched. Much of my engagement with the Bible has been in and through the church. But for many of these newer readers, it may take a different path. If they are starting on their own, I hope and pray that they will soon find guidance to hear from God in the presence of other people. In intentional groups, in worship services, or both.

We are nearing our celebration of Christmas, the birth of God with us, Jesus of Nazareth, the Word made flesh who lived among us. For any who are seeking to hear or open to hearing from God, here is a time when the world's hunger, God's provision and the calendar converge.

We'll gather at Alpine on Christmas Eve at 3 and 7 p.m. I look forward to gathering with you to hear again a story that never grows old, of God's love that holds us from before we were born and that never ends. But don't just take my word for it. You can hear it directly from God.

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Don Wink

BY THE NUMBERS

11/24/24	32 + 55	87	12/1/24	46 + 40	86
Online Views		16	Online Views		9
	11/26/24 (Thx. 11:15)		48 (with kids)		
	Required total receipts weekly.....\$8,332.98				
Gen Fund 11/24/24	\$6,652.01		Gen Fund 12/1/24	\$5,334.87	
Forward in Faith	\$765.00		Forward in Faith	\$1,005.00	
Surplus/Deficit	-\$859.97		Surplus/Deficit	+\$4,138.89	
Festival....\$370.00	53/54th Week.....\$5,715.00		Unexpected Blessing.....\$103.00		



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

Birthday thanks came in from **Irv Johnson** and **Mike Bukowski**. **Irv Johnson** would also like to thank everyone for the Thanksgiving cards he received.

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 January 12th, 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. 15th — Larry Johnson; Ralph & Becky Toro; and Gene & Donna Seefeldt.

Dec. 22nd — Jeanne Tengren; Barb Yahn; David & Diane McCue; and Jerry & Linda McGhee.

Sunday, December 15, 2024

Ushers: (8) Karl Okeson, Randy Teske (10) Jim Burnett, Dick Nelson

Ambassadors: (8) Jack & Carla Phillips (10) Amanda Dabson, Mari Hanson

Lector: (8) Andrea Tack (10) Lynn Valentine

Lay Assistant: (8) Tonya Bagwell (10) Chuck Valentine

Praise Singer: Becky Toro

Sunday, December 22, 2024

Ushers: (8) Tonya Bagwell, Jack Phillips (10) John Linde, Marge Rakoczy

Ambassadors: (8) Gwyn Brechtel, Andrea Tack (10) Volunteers

Lector: (8) Pam Lojewski (10) Becky Toro

Lay Assistant: (8) Pam Lojewski (10) Mike Schultz, Aaron Ayen

Praise Singers: Chuck & Lynn Valentine

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 through out the month and then donated to the Rock House Kids to warm those less fortunate than ourselves. (Laurel McVinnie)

The season of **Advent** is upon us. 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.

You are invited to attend the **Alpine Academy Christmas Program** on Thursday, December 19th at 6 PM in the gym. Come and show your support to our Academy students as they prepare for this blessed season.

Just a reminder that **Sunday, December 29th is a 5th Sunday, ONE SERVICE** Sunday. We will gather to worship together and sing our favorite carols at 10 AM.

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)



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)

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. Please look for more update coming soon! (Scott Dabson)



Candlelight Christmas Eve services are at 3 & 7 PM. The earlier service will hopefully make it easier for families with younger children or those who don't drive at night to be able to attend this very special worship. Both service times will be our traditional candlelight service. Please share these times with your neighbors, family and friends to attend.

Christmas Eve Communion Assistants & Ushers needed: We need volunteers to assist with communion and to usher at the Christmas Eve worship service, at 3 & 7 PM. Please contact the office if you can serve.

As the end of the year approaches, Alpine has much to be thankful for. We especially **thank you for your commitment to Alpine's ministries both spiritually and financially.** The end of the year is also the time to review your stewardship commitment to ensure you are current with your pledge. If you have any questions about where you are at with your giving, please call Lynn in the church office. We will be closing our books for 2024 December 31st. (Finance & Stewardship Committee)



FOOD DRIVE

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.



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
U.S. Postage
PAID
Rockford, IL
Permit #2653

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.

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. For anyone who would like to order the non-local cards as gifts for Christmas gifts, we will make one more order on **December 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.

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.

A new **Those Who Serve** schedule has been completed and sent out. Please mark your calendars with when you serve. As you can see, we are in need of more volunteers. Ask a friend! With our Snow Birds migration south, there are many openings in our 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)



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.