



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, January 13, 2025

Volume 52, Issue 1

From the Pastor's desk:

"I Had an Epiphany"

We call a sudden flash of insight an "epiphany." Broadly used, an epiphany can be anything from finally understanding long division (is that even still taught?) to realizing the fruitlessness of training a cat. But as is often the case, words can have different meanings in Christian community.

Epiphany is both a festival day and a season in the church year. The festival remembers the visit to the newborn Jesus by the wise men of the East. They are credited with being the first gentiles to see and worship Jesus as king. And they brought some amazing gifts.

The season begins with the festival day and ends the day before Ash Wednesday. This year it is longer than usual, lasting from January 6th through March 4th. A major theme of Epiphany is the revelation of Jesus as the light of the world. In the Old Testament or Hebrew Bible, Israel was intended by God to serve as a light to the nations, that the world would come to know Israel's God by their faithfulness and God's favor. But Israel fell short on faithfulness to God, and the light was hard to see for many years.

When Jesus is born, he becomes the means of fulfilling God's promises to Israel, including serving as the light of the world. 2,000 years later, roughly 1/3 of the global population or 2.4 billion people profess Christianity. This is a long way from three wise men, or as more commonly acknowledged, from twelve disciples.

What is the origin story of your own Epiphany? Did you come to see Jesus as the light of the world all at once, or more gradually? If we grew up in the church, as many of us did, it has likely been a more gradual process. We didn't know a world apart from Jesus until we came to see and appreciate the contrast between his light and its absence. As overall church participation declines in the United States, ironically the contrast will be easier to see. We may find ourselves more clear about our faith, but less supported in the wider world.

The physical world is giving us a daily measure of increasing light. Between January 6th and March 4th, we will gain over two hours of daylight in Rockford. We will be able to see more things more clearly for more of each day. As we gather on Sundays and through the week, may we also see more things more clearly through an increasing awareness of God's presence in and as Jesus.

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Don Wink

BY THE NUMBERS

12/22/24	31 + 39	70	12/24/24	83 + 34	117	12/29/24	52
12/19 Online views		28	12/24 Online views		13	12/29 Online views	12
			1/5/2025	29 + 41	70		
			1/5 Online views		18		

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

Gen Fund 12/22/24	\$2,630.01	Gen Fund 12/29/24	\$4,351.00	Gen Fund 12/29/25	\$5,086.87
Forward in Faith	\$565.00	Forward in Faith	\$1,095.00	Forward in Faith	\$1,225.00
Surplus/Deficit	-\$3,547.97	Surplus/Deficit	+\$609.02	Surplus/Deficit	-\$1,921.11
Festival	\$1,246.00	Unexpected Blessings.....	\$2,195.00	53/54	\$1,745.00



Pray for Alpine members:

Wendy Barton, Roger Bastian, Tim & DiAnne Beynon, Diane Billert, Donna Brenner, Cindy Bulthaus, Kathy Cordonnier, 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 California fire victims, and all those in the Ukraine & Israel-Gaza conflicts.

All in the Family



Birthday thanks came in from **Donna Brenner** and **Nancy Lorenzen**. Thanks from **Darrel & Donna Brenner** and **Kathy Cordonnier** were also received for the many holiday cards that were 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, 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.
- **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 pray-ers you may have.

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

Jan. 19th — Beverly Clayton; Craig & Louise Skolrood; and Teresa Schoepski.

Jan. 26th — June Tongue; Sharon Walker; Tim & DiAnne Beynon; Jessica, Arayah, Joslyn, & Remijio Rivera.

Sunday, January 19, 20245

Ushers: (8) Karl Okeson, Randy Teske (10) Jim Burnett, Dick Nelson
Ambassadors: (8) Les & Carol Johnson (10) Rivera Family
Lector: (8) Randy Teske (10) Bob McVinnie
Lay Assistant: (8) Deb Okeson (10) Mike Schultz
Praise Singer: Becky Toro

Sunday, January 26, 20245

Ushers: (8) Tonya Bagwell, Jack Phillips (10) John Linde, Marge Rakoczy
Ambassadors: (8) Les & Carol Johnson (10) Scott & Jody Dabson
Lector: (8) Bob Fanello (10) Allen Neumann
Lay Assistant: (8) Bob & Lori Fanello (10) Allen & Matt Neumann
Praise Singers: Chuck & Lynn Valentine

Adult Forum

Our Christian Ed & Youth Committee has scheduled our next Adult Forums. On **Sunday, January 19th**, join us as we hear from our **Rejoicing Spirits** worship group. We are hoping to reschedule our forum for **Sunday, February 16th**, due to the annual meeting, with our partners at **Lifescape**. Adult Forums will be held in the conference room.

Fellowship is a very important part of every congregation. We all enjoy conversing after church especially with coffee and a treat. We need people to provide those treats. You do not need to be a master baker. Purchased treats are just as good. We also need juice to be served along with the coffee. Then all you need to do is man the table. It is very simple. (Help with clean-up is also appreciated.) A sign-up sheet is available by the coffee.

Alpine Ladies Luncheon - Friday, January 17th, 1 PM, all Alpine ladies are invited to meet on the 3rd Friday of each month at Stockholm Inn for lunch and fellowship. We order off the menu and everyone is responsible for the cost of their meal. This is an informal group meeting for lunch and conversation - no structured program. Feel free to bring a friend! Any questions, contact Nancy Matthews 920-427-9563 or Anita Ramage 815-329-4723. Please contact Nancy to be added to the group text for reminders and reservations! We hope you will join us! Mark your calendar for our February luncheon on Friday, February 21st.

2024 Giving Statements will be available to pick up from the counter in the coat room by January 19th. If you find any discrepancies please contact Lynn in the office. The statements will remain on the counter through the Annual Meeting and then any remaining will be mailed out. If you would prefer, they can be emailed out. Please contact Lynn for an email copy.



The 2025 Altar Flower and Eternal Candle charts are up and ready for your dedications. Remember your loved ones passed or celebrate a special event by sponsoring the flowers each week, \$20, or eternal candle each month, \$10. Each sponsorship helps to defray the cost of our flowers every year and we thank everyone for contributing to this ministry. (Altar Guild)

Official Notice:

The congregation of Alpine Lutheran Church is hereby convened for its annual meeting to take place on Sunday, February 16, 2025 at 11:30 AM. The meeting will include reports and election of members to the church council.

Committee Chairpersons: We need all **annual reports** to be sent to the office by February 2nd. It would be very helpful if all reports could be in electronic form and in Word format. This makes it easier for me to do any manipulation for printing. If you are unable to submit your report this way, I will understand. Thank you. (Lynn Valentine)

Our **Travel Worship** display will be refreshed during the month of January. If you would like to keep any of the worship folders that you have shared, they will be on the counter in the coatroom. We encourage you to post any new worship folders from your travels.

Thrivent Choice Dollars are funds that eligible members of Thrivent are offered to direct to enrolled nonprofit organizations, including Alpine. Choice Dollars designated during 2025 can be directed until March 31st. Members can direct Choice Dollars online at thrivent.com/thriventchoice or by calling 800-847-4836.

It is important that you receive our **emails or notices on Facebook** to know the most up to date information for Alpine Lutheran. 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.



Join us for Children's Church! We are meeting during the 10 AM service at the beginning of the worship service allowing more time for learning.
Seasonal grab bags will be available for pick-up.



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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.

Call Committee Update

In the season of Advent, we wait and prepare for Christmas and the wonder of Jesus' birth. As your call committee, we do the same--wait and prepare. We meet monthly for a check in and to touch base with one another. Committee Chair Pam Lojewski attends a regular Zoom meeting, by Pastor Jen Beamsley, gathering people from congregations throughout the synod in the call process. These meetings are for support, encouragement, ideas and hope.

After Christmas, we will be reaching out to the synod office to schedule a "mock" candidate interview, so we can practice our skills and present our best selves when given a candidate. We are reminded that we cannot hurry this process and we continue to pray for the pastor who is being prepared for us and that we are being prepared for him or her. Great things are to come.

Alpine Lutheran Call Committee