



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, February 24, 2025

Volume 52, Issue 4

From the Pastor's desk:

We Are Whose We Are

"Tell me about yourself." How do you answer this question? Do you answer biographically? "I was born in Oak Park, raised in the Chicago suburbs, went to college in Texas..." Do you answer relationally? "I'm married and have three adult kids, I'm serving as interim pastor to a church in Rockford..." Cultures like ours tend to see our identities as primarily personal and individual, and introduce ourselves that way. But most of the world sees identity as primarily relational, and introductions reflect that.

The Bible was written in times and places that saw identity as relational first, individual second. But even within larger groups, like "Israel" or "the church," there were subgroups that competed for members' hearts and minds. Much of the New Testament describes the challenges of blending multiple cultures into a single local church, and multiple local churches into one Body of Christ. Jesus' first followers were all Jewish, but it didn't take long after the pouring out of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost for Greco-Romans (gentiles) to become part of his movement. What aspects of each group's identity would be brought forward and what would become part of the background? Early church leaders gathered and made decisions, but those decisions took time to absorb, and tensions remained.

The apostle Paul landed squarely on the primacy of Jesus in the shared identity of his followers. "There is no longer Jew or Greek; there is no longer slave or free; there is no longer male and female, for all of you are one in Christ Jesus." (Galatians 3:28) "If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away." (2 Corinthians 5:17)

What does "all one in Christ Jesus" and "new creation" look like in 2025, when we are amplifying personal expression, intensifying our devotion to subgroups, ratcheting up the rhetoric, while at the same time reducing the centrality of the church in our shared lives?

The answer is largely up to us. Living Paul's way (and Jesus' way) means that our faith shapes our personal and group identities more than the other way around. And it means that our interactions, especially those within the church, reflect the person and nature of Jesus. The early church grew in large part because they cared for one another exceptionally well. This is our calling in every time and place.

Grace and Peace,
 Pastor Don Wink

BY THE NUMBERS

2/9/25	29 + 58	87	2/16/25 One Service	64
1/26 Online views		22	2/16 Online views	22

Required total receipts weekly.....\$8,279.29

Gen Fund 2/9/25	\$10,516.00	Gen Fund 1/19/25	\$4,806.00
Forward in Faith	\$2,100.00	Forward in Faith	\$975.00
Surplus/Deficit	+\$5,076.71	Surplus/Deficit	-\$2,471.29

Unexpected Blessings.....\$457.00 53/54 Week.....\$200.00 Festival.....\$110.00

*Some initial deposits of the year include full year pledge amounts



Pray for Alpine members:

Wendy Barton, Roger Bastian, Tim & DiAnne Beynon, Diane Billert, Donna Brenner, Beverly Clayton, Kathy Cordonnier, Rolly Greenland, Jan Hill, Pam Hodges, John Linde, Nancy Lorenzen, Heidi Lykken, John McCue, Glen McDonald, Valerie Miller, Rhonda Pottinger, 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, Danny Moorhouse, 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 Ukraine & Israel-Gaza.

All in the Family

Birthday thanks came in from **Joni Graham**. We share our love and sympathies with **Carol Johnson & Deb & Karl Okeson** for the death of Les Johnson on February 6th.

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:** On hiatus until further notice.



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.**

Mar. 2nd — Angela, Madeline & Lauren Zuzevich; Richard & Joyce Viet; Ralph & Becky Toro; and Nancy Matthews.

Mar. 9th — Jan Bergstrom; Pam Hemenway; Richard Ewert; Rich & Linda Rimkus; and Harriet Brown-Stark.

Sunday, March 2, 2025

Ushers: (8) Karl Okeson, Andrea Tack (10) John Gustafson, Mari Hanson
Ambassadors: (8) Carol Johnson, Volunteer (10) Rivera Family
Lector: (8) Gwyn Brechtel (10) Scott Dabson
Lay Assistant: (8) Deb Okeson (10) Jody Dabson
Praise Singer: Bob McVinnie

Sunday, March 9, 2025

Ushers: (8) Bob Fanello, Jack Phillips (10) DiAnne Beynon, Jim Burnett
Ambassadors: (8) Karl & Deb Okeson (10) Amanda Dabson, Mari Hanson
Lector: (8) Carla Phillips (10) Dick Nelson
Lay Assistant: (8) Tonya Bagwell (10) Dick Nelson
Praise Singer: Jaime Doubek



"For dust you are and to dust you shall return" (Genesis 3:19)
Wednesday, March 5th is Ash Wednesday. We will have worship services with the imposition of ashes at both 11 AM and 7 PM. This marks the beginning of the Lenten season and our journey towards the cross.



This year's Lenten theme is **Fruits of the Spirit**. Each Wednesday and Sunday worship service, Pastor Don will discuss one of the fruits. In keeping with the theme, our devotionals are the May/June studies by ReFrame Ministries entitled **"Today refresh, refocus, renew Fruit of the Spirit"**. There are 31 days of devotions (Yes, Lent is 40 days but this fit so well with our theme). We will have printed copies available in Memorial Lounge by Ash Wednesday.

With Lent beginning on Ash Wednesday, our **Soup Suppers** will begin on **Wednesday, March 12th**. Join us each week as we join in fellowship for a meal and worship. In preparation, the **Soup Supper sign-up poster** is in the narthex. Please consider helping with bringing a soup, bread or dessert. This evening of is always an Alpine favorite.

Issue with Emails: Recently the office has been contacted by several members who have **not been receiving our emails** from our provider Mail Chimp. After some investigation, I found that Mail Chimp has "cleaned" most, if not all, Comcast emails from our mailing list. If you are no longer receiving emails, please visit our website, alpinelutheran.com, and click on the Welcome tab, then the Summit tab from the drop down menu. At the bottom of the page you will find "Subscribe to our email". Fill in the form, confirm your email, and you should start receiving them again. (Lynn Valentine)

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.

You are invited to the **Congregational Resourcing Event** on **March 22**, at Sauk Valley Community College in Dixon. Come gather together with people from across our synod as we share ideas and inspiration and grow disciples in our congregations and in our communities. The event is open to all congregation members. Take advantage of this learning event. Please call the office or see Pastor Don if you are interested in attending. The church will pay for the registration fee. This year's **guest speaker** is **Becca Payne**, ELCA Program Director for the Congregations Lead Initiative. This initiative is providing ways for congregations to renew their ministry and relationships; to be more relevant in today's faith communities.

Thank you to Scott Dabson, Jody Dabson, Gwyn Brechtel & crew for the **delicious lunch** that was served prior to our annual meeting. We thank them for taking the time to prepare the food to nourish us during the meeting. We also thank the many members who generously contributed to our **"Soup"er Bowl of Caring** collection both after worship and at the lunch. We collected **\$350.00** to support the hunger efforts of the ELCA.

A new **Those Who Serve** schedule has been emailed out. If you did not receive it or would like a hard copy, please see Lynn in the office. Again, if you see a volunteer spot that is not filled, please feel free to step in. We appreciate all of our volunteers at Alpine and encourage others to join. To become one of our valued volunteers, please contact Lynn and inform her how you would like to help.

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.



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
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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.



Lutheran
Disaster Response

Lutheran Disaster Response needs your help! The wildfires of Los Angeles County in California, has impacted over 100,000 people. Sparked by dry conditions, strong winds and a limited water supply, these fires have destroyed homes and businesses and have led to injuries and loss of life. This disaster is just one of many — including hurricanes, war and famine — to which Lutheran Disaster Response is still responding. Your gifts to Lutheran Disaster Response equip us to respond quickly and generously, wherever and whenever disaster may strike. As Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton said in her statement about the wildfires, "The prophet Isaiah writes that even when fires rage, the final word is faith, not fear. God redeems us and calls us by name to be agents of healing and hope, even amid staggering loss. In faith, we respond through prayer, accompaniment and action." To give to this and any other effort by Lutheran Disaster Response, please visit <https://give.elca.org/page/77859/donate/>

Call Committee

The call committee continues to meet monthly, to keep in contact and prepare as much as we can for what is to come! Recently, we edited the MSP to reflect the changes and opportunities, due to the Academy's closing. We are waiting for Pastor Jen Beamsley to offer us a willing pastor to try out our interviewing skills. Pam Lojewski attends a monthly Zoom meeting with other congregations in the call process to exchange ideas, hope and prayer. Be on the lookout for a bulletin board/poster which will give us a timeline of our progress since Pastor Dan left. It is good to see what all has been happening behind the scenes. Keep us--the committee and the church, and the leader being prepared for us--in your prayers. (Call Committee)