



**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:**

5th Sunday—ONE Service **3**  
 Christian Ed/Youth information **3**  
 Membership of Alpine **3**  
 Katie's Cup Book Club **4**

Monday, March 24, 2025

Volume 52, Issue 6

*From the Pastor's desk:*

**"Rotten Fruit"**

When you're hungry for a piece of fruit, do you intentionally seek out something rotten? Of course not. But it's not always so easy to tell whether fruit is rotten. While some fruit (like peaches) gives an immediate visible clue of having turned rotten, fruit with firmer skin or even a hard shell (like apples and pineapples) can look perfectly fine while beginning to rot on the inside. It's not enough to avoid buying or biting into rotten fruit; sometimes we only find out it's rotten once we've bitten into it.

Our theme this Lent in worship and home devotions is "Fruit of the Spirit." Each Wednesday evening and the Sundays between them focuses on a different "fruit" of the Holy Spirit, as listed by the Apostle Paul in Galatians 5:22-23. There's nothing "rotten" about love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. We don't have to ingest them or share them with others only to discover that they taste bad or cause indigestion. Because they're grown within and among us by the Spirit of God, they are by definition delicious and nourishing.

Paul doesn't just drop these verses to stand alone in his letter; they are listed in contrast to what he calls "works of the flesh." If I were Paul's editor, I might suggest to him that he call these "rotten fruit." They're listed in Galatians 5:19-21; this list is not meant to be exhaustive. You might need a dictionary for things like "licentiousness," but enmities, jealousy, quarrels, and factions are self-evident. Take your time reading through this non-exhaustive but broad list, and note which of these "rotten fruit" have been easy for you to avoid and which have required a closer experience to discover their harmfulness to yourself and/or others.

Each of us has a spiritual biography that includes positive and negative experiences, things that grow and reinforce our trust in Jesus. For some of us, the positive reinforcement has been dominant: Being raised in or coming into a faith community where the Fruit of the Spirit is abundant and accessible has been sufficiently sustaining. Some of us also have been drawn to seek a more life-giving way than a steady diet of "rotten fruit." We discovered through hard experience what doesn't work and that opened us up to find what does.

Our Sundays and Wednesdays together will continue to focus on what God is building into us. But I would be remiss if I did not also acknowledge, as Paul did, that God doesn't force-feed us. I pray that as we grow to delight in the Fruit of the Spirit, we also grow in discernment and rejection of "rotten fruit."

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Don Wink

## BY THE NUMBERS

3/5/25 Ash Wed 28 + 19	46	3/12 Lent	24
3/9/25 38 + 32	70	3/16/25 30 + 24	54
3/9 No recording – tech problems		3/16 Online views	25

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

Gen Fund 3/9/25	\$5,513.00	Gen Fund 3/16/25	\$12,622.00
Forward in Faith	\$1,145.00	Forward in Faith	\$715.00
Surplus/Deficit	-\$229.29	Surplus/Deficit	+\$5,337.71

Unexpected Blessings.....\$1,002.00      Festival.....\$390.00

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



### Pray for Alpine members:

Wendy Barton, Roger Bastian, Tim & DiAnne Beynon, Diane Billert, Beverly Clayton, Kathy Cordonnier, Rolly Greenland, Jan Hill, Pam Hodges, Nancy Lorenzen, 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, Danny Moorhouse, Michael 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 **Donna Seefeldt**. **Glen McDonald** would like to express his deepest gratitude for the many well wishes, prayers, and cards he has received. The **family of John Linde** extends their thanks for the many expressions of condolence and love that Alpine members have shown to them.

### 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 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month, between worship services.
- **Rejoicing Spirits: Every 1<sup>st</sup> (in person) & 3<sup>rd</sup> (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. 30<sup>th</sup>** — Joni Graham; Gerald & Mari Hanson; Megan Brechtel; Bryce & Cindy Bulthaus.

**April 6<sup>th</sup>** — Elliot, Rebecca, Charlie, & Elizabeth Kallstrom; Debbie & Ryan Matthews; Kent & Barb Milton; Charlie & Gail Davidson; and Greg & Barb Lee.

**Sunday, March 30, 2025**

**5<sup>th</sup> Sunday—ONE service 10 AM**

Ushers: Marge Rakoczy, Mike Schultz  
Ambassadors: Amanda Dabson, Mari Hanson  
Lector: Lisa Slothower  
Lay Assistant: Davis DeNale  
Praise Singers: Chuck & Lynn Valentine

**Sunday, April 6, 2025**

Ushers: (8) Randy Teske, Andrea Tack (10) John Gustafson, Mari Hanson  
Ambassadors: (8) Sharon Walker, Volunteer (10) Rivera Family  
Lector: (8) Randy Teske (10) Bob McVinnie  
Lay Assistant: (8) Lori Fanello (10) Nancy Matthews  
Praise Singer: Bob McVinnie



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.

**Soup Suppers and Lenten Worship** will begin on **Wednesday, March 12<sup>th</sup>**. Each week we will join together for a meal followed by our Lenten Worship with Holden Evening Prayer. A **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.

**Sunday, March 30<sup>th</sup> is a 5th Sunday, We will come together for ONE worship service at 10 AM.**



The Altar Guild are taking orders for our **2025 Easter Glory Garden**, with our traditional lilies and tulips. Order envelopes are available on the kiosk in the narthex. The cost is \$13 per plant. Orders will be taken through Sunday, March 30<sup>th</sup>. (Laurel McVinnie)

The **Mental Health Committee** invites you to attend **Mental Health First Aid**, Saturday, March 29<sup>th</sup> from 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM. "Nearly 1 in 5 in the US lives with a mental illness." *National Institute of Mental Health* Join us as we learn how to identify, understand and respond to signs of mental health challenges among adults in our community around us. There is no charge for the day, free lunch will be served. Mike will be available between worship services or you may call him, 815-633-4789.

**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 31<sup>st</sup>. Members can direct Choice Dollars online at [thrivent.com/thriventchoice](http://thrivent.com/thriventchoice) or by calling 800-847-4836.

**Membership:** During our Annual Meeting, it was asked how many people are members at Alpine. Every year we submit a form to the ELCA with both membership and active membership numbers. In 2024 we reported a total membership of 377 members, 186 active members, with an average weekly worship attendance of 85 people. If you would like to become a member of Alpine, please contact the office, 815-399-5013.

**Darrell & Donna Brenner** have a new address and phone number. They have moved closer to their daughter in Geneseo, IL. Please contact Lynn, in the office, for their new information.

**Christian Ed/Youth Committee** members have asked to share information from their recent meeting. The **Adult Forum** will be taking a recess until the Fall. Our **Children's Church** will also recess starting May 25<sup>th</sup> through the summer. Summer Grab & Go bags will be available during this time. They have also moved their meeting time and day to the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the month, beginning just before 9 AM.

**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.

**Would you like to give automatically from your bank account?** We can schedule your withdrawal weekly, monthly or twice a month. Please see Lynn in the office for more details. (Lynn Valentine)

**Do you already give electronically?** We have envelopes for celebration Sundays, Lent, Advent, etc. for you. You may pick them up from the counter in the coat room. Thank you for supporting Alpine Lutheran. (Laurel McVinnie)



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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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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



See what Alpine has to  
offer you on the Web!  
[alpinelutheran.com](http://alpinelutheran.com)

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

**Call Committee**

With you and like you, your call committee still gathers. We still hope and wait, and pray and dream for who is being led to us as our next called leader. Our committee meets regularly and are thinking about what questions we want and need to ask and to plan for our mock interview and the real one--- whenever that might be. Pastor Jen Beamsley (Synod office) reported in our monthly Zoom meeting, that since Christmas, she is seeing more potential candidates submitting papers, stating they were open to a new call. She shared this as hopeful news. And yet she also spoke reassuringly that she depends on the Holy Spirit to guide and direct her process. She will not forward any to us without good information gathering and a Holy nudging. We are in the good space of having Pr. Don Wink as a faithful leader and pastor among us. So, we celebrate our present with continued hope and promise for the future.



**Katie's Cup Choice Book Club:** Join us Thursday, April 10th at 10 AM, as we discuss the book "*Remarkably Bright Creatures*" by Shelby Van Pelt. "Truly original and touching...A story of family, community, and optimism in spite of darkness." All are welcome to attend this free discussion.