



Special points of interest:

Sunday Worship
8:00 AM Traditional
10:00 AM Praise
10:00 AM Facebook Live

Academy Chapel
Every Tuesday, 2:15 PM
YouTube

Rejoicing Spirits
6:00 PM (2nd & 4th
Thursday via Zoom)

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From Pastor's Desk:

Monday, August 2 2021

Volume 48, Issue 14

Perils of Perfectionism Part 2

“Don’t copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. (Romans 12:2).”

Over the years we (the community at Alpine) have had some great discussions on how perfectionism influences our lives. One important truth has come to the surface over and over again. It is important to base our identities in how God sees us, not the way we or our culture view us. The discovery of who we are is an important step in the development of our faith. Knowing who we are helps us to resist the pressure to find our identities in the ideals and images that our culture puts upon us. There seems to be two important lies that all too often people accept. 1) is that we need to be perfect to be accepted by God and 2) that God will judge us by the standards that our world does. If the world around us concludes that we are failures, then surely God will as well. This verse in Romans helps us understand that God is working to help reshape our thinking. To help us understand that God sees us in an entirely different way. God does not think that our value is based on our accomplishments or our ability to meet the fleeting standards of beauty found on magazine covers. God wants us to see with a different set of eyes that are guided by a world view that God gives us.

What is also clear from this verse is that we can muck up the process of God transforming us by clinging to desires to copy the behavior and customs of this world. In our stubbornness to enjoy or experience life (as our culture around us does) we sacrifice the opportunity to be touched by God. We have been called to stand out. To be different. To give hope to this world by demonstrating that there is another way to live. A better way to treat people than the shallow ways that are prevalent in our world. This calls for us to let go or sacrifice the desire to live up to the standards of this world and adapt a different set of goals, practices, and ideals that God has given us. I realize that this is difficult. We have become accustomed to living in a certain way, and it is usually easier in the short term to just continue going with the flow. It takes courage to make changes. It takes a deep sense of honesty to examine ourselves and admit that we need God’s help. Challenging the way we or others think can be messy. People can get defensive and strike back. But this is precisely who Jesus is and what he was about. Jesus challenged the way people simply accepted the truths that were told to them. The choices they made and how they lived their lives. He did this because Jesus had intimate knowledge that there was a much better way to live. The challenge we have today is to follow Paul’s encouragement. Let go off our desires to cling to the customs of our culture and allow God to change the way we think. To change the way we view ourselves and others, thereby freeing us to live wide open lives. Lives that are able to love others deeply and profoundly.

BY THE NUMBERS

7/18/21	40+25	65	7/25/21	35+23	58
7/18 Online views		20	7/25 Online views		12

Required total receipts weekly.....\$7,902.73

Gen Fund 6/27/21	\$5,669.00	Gen Fund 7/25/21	\$5,906.50
Forward in Faith	\$1,305.00	Forward in Faith	\$1,917.50
Surplus/Deficit	-\$348.73	Surplus/Deficit	-\$38.73

53/54.....\$1,030.00

Surplus/Deficit YTD..... + \$4,042.38 (6/30/21)



Pray for Alpine members:

Pat Anderson, Linda Becker, Vince Bertolotto, Rick Bried, Cindy Bulthaus, Chris Christiansen, Ernest & Mary DeNale, Marybeth Gillette, Joan Greeny, Louise Hemenway, Rich & Jan Hill, Dave & Peggy Lillegaard, Norma Lucas, Pastor Rick Meier, Valerie Miller, Jan Pauly, Marge Pearson, JR Stropes, Melissa (Bukowski) Stucky & family, and Pat Turmo.

Pray for our friends and family of Alpine:

Sally Atkinson, Kim Braun, Linda Conness, Linda Fry, Jerome Gill, Daniel Hendrickson, Debra Johnson, Larry Kagel, Kathleen Lovins, Todd McDonald, Sharon Mund, Judy Osiwalla, Tina Randolph, Tom Rogers, Bob Schult, Jeremy Sturges, Don Tennant, Penny Wendling, all those on the front line and those affected with Covid-19.

All in the Family

Birthday thanks came in from **Deb Okeson** and **Jean Knutson**. **Pastor Rick and Helen Meier** want to thank all those Alpiners who sent cards and good wishes on the occasion of their "re-retirement." It was a pleasant surprise to see that several attended the service and program at Faith Lutheran on July 25. "We appreciate all of you!" We share our love and sympathy with **Karl & Deb Okeson** and family. Gil Okeson died on July 26th.

Worship Schedule :

Sunday Worship:

8:00 AM Traditional Worship (in-person)
 10:00 AM Praise Worship/ YouTube-Facebook Live (in-person and online)
 *Children's Church on hiatus, monthly Grab & Go packets will be available

Academy Chapel: 2:15 PM every Tuesday via Alpine Academy of Rockford YouTube channel

Rejoicing Spirits: Every 2nd & 4th Thursday, via Zoom, 6:00 PM (This service is for those with developmental disabilities, their families, caregivers, and others.)

Bible Studies, Women's Circles, Adult Forums & Men's Breakfasts: Tuesday Men's Bible Study, Sunrise, 6:45 AM

Wednesday Evening Prayer meeting: every Wednesday on Facebook, 7 PM (none during summer)

Pastor Dan's office hours: Mondays 9:00-12:00; Tuesdays 9:00 – 3:00; Wednesdays 9:00 – 3:00; and Thursdays 1:00 – 3:00. He is also available at other times by appointment.



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 on-going 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 Pastor Dan whenever the need arises for extra prayers you may have.

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

August 8th — Emily Christiansen; David & Maryanne Hoel; Michael & Diane Griffey; and Dave Lillegaard.

August 15th — Allen, Deb, Rebecca & Brianna Geeser; Shirley Finger; John Linde; and David Linde.



Sunday, August 15th—Work Camp Sunday
Wednesday, August 18th—Academy 1st Day of School
Sunday, August 22nd—AlpineFest



You are invited to join the **Rev. Jeffrey Clements**, Bishop of No. IL ELCA, for a seven-week zoom **Book Study** of “Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents” by Isabel Wilkerson. It will begin Thursday, September 16th, from 7-8 PM. For more information visit nisynod.org/events/caste-book-study. A zoom link will be sent out each Thursday around 7 AM. Registration is now open.



In July, our Youth, along with a couple adults, went on a mission trip with Group Work Camps in Indiana. **Youth Work Camp Sunday** will be **Sunday, August 15th**. Come hear those who attended share their experiences from that trip and how it has impacted their faith. We thank you for your continued encouragement of our youth and financial assistance of this special youth program.

Thanks to a memorial bequeath from the **Curt Moen Family**, a new **key fob system** will be installed at the church in the next coming month. You may also have noticed 2 Ring doorbells on our 2 main doors. Both the fob system and doorbells will allow better security to our building and help facilitate meetings and rentals of our building spaces. We will need everyone to turn in any door keys that you have so you may be issued a key fob. Once the system is installed, we will notify you of a due date to turn in your keys. (Lynn Valentine)

Last year, one of our two boilers that heat the building succumbed to its age and stopped working. An opportunity came about and we were able to acquire a newer used boiler system to replace our old one. We are currently **raising funds** to install that system, and facilitate other repairs, with a **matching gift of \$25,000** from an anonymous doner. If you are able to donate, please see Al Geeser, Scott Dabson, or any of our members of the Finance Committee.

Recently the **Stewardship/Finance Committee** sent out 6 month statements and 53/54 week envelopes. Please make it a point to put your **name and envelope #** on the blue envelope so that you can receive proper financial credit for your giving. We thank you for your support of Alpine Lutheran Church and its ministries. (Finance Committee)

From the SCRIP Desk:

The SCRIP desk is open and ready to help you with all your gift card needs. We are still in need of SCRIP volunteers. The volunteer position is for 1 Sunday a month for an hour between services. The best part about volunteering is your desk is right next to the coffee hour treats which makes it very assessable to have a quick snack. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Deb Geeser at 815-262-6247. (Deb Geeser)

KEEP CALM...SHOP SCRIP

Get Involved in Alpine! Do you know it takes many volunteers to run our worship services, run our special events, help with keeping our facility looking nice, and to do many of the other tasks to run Alpine? We are always looking for more of those volunteers. Do you like to talk to people or are you more of a “back scenes” kind of person? Please share your interests with **Laurel McVinnie**, our volunteer coordinator, and she can match you up with an area where we need volunteers.



Alpine Academy
of Rockford
Faith • Family • Future

Our 2021-22 School is will begin just about 3 weeks from the day I'm writing this article. We are looking forward to having our students back into the classrooms and welcoming new families into our Alpine Family.

Enrollment for this coming school year is already up over last year and still climbing. We'd love to welcome more new students and their families so please share with and encourage your friends and family who may be looking for a great school to contact us today. Alpine is a great place for students to learn and grow.

If you are interested we will have several volunteer opportunities at school this year. If you'd like to volunteer please see me at church or contact me at school at 815.227.8894. I'm looking forward to this upcoming school year and focusing on new ways to connect our Alpine Family, Church and School, together!

In Christ

Scott Dabson
Director
Alpine Academy



Alpine Lutheran Church
5001 Forest View Ave. Rockford, IL 61108
alpinelutheran@comcast.net
www.alpinelutheran.com

Non-profit org
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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

THOSE WHO SERVE:

Sun., August 8, 2021

Ushers: (8:00) Gene & Donna Seefeldt
(10:00) Jim Burnett, Marge Rakoczy

Lector: (8:00) Donna Seefeldt
(10:00) Allen Neumann

Lay Assistant: (8:00) Nancy Matthews
(10:00) Allen Neumann

Praise Singer: Jaime Doubek

Sun., August 15, 2021

Ushers: (8:00) Jim Anderson, Volunteer
(10:00) Dick Nelson, Mike Schultz

Lector: (8:00) Gwyn Brechtel
(10:00) Violet Peterson

Lay Assistant: (8:00) Volunteer
(10:00) Violet Peterson

Praise Singers: Chuck & Lynn Valentine

Alpine Lutheran Vitality Events

Save This Date:

August 22nd—AlpineFest
Food, music, fun & fellowship!

These events are designed to connect and build relationships with our community around us and to keep the vitality of Alpine Lutheran going into our future.