

# Alexandria Covenant Church

October 29, 2023

Text **ACCNEWS** to **77222** to receive the bulletin Saturdays



## Worship Night

**Tonight | 6:00 pm | Patio**

Join us for a night of joyful worship and fellowship with our church family! Our student ministry has volunteered to host by greeting and serving desserts and coffee afterwards. All are welcome, childcare available.

## Women's Study: Ephesians (Bible Project Classroom) Starting October 30 (11-week study) | 9:00 am | GR200

Join like-minded women eager to dive into the book of Ephesians. Starting October 30th we will journey through Ephesians using the Bible Project's Classroom experience. Learn in-depth study methods and participate in related discussions. Starts October 30th, 9:00 am and runs 11 weeks. Questions? Amber Bugher, 320.815.2797.



[Click to sign up!](#)

## Bake Cookies for Inmates: Thanksgiving Jail Ministry

**Bring cookies to downstairs  
freezer by November 19**

Be a blessing and share the gospel with inmates this Thanksgiving by baking cookies! Bring to the freezer downstairs by November 19 for packing and distribution to the jail ministry. Please label and keep cookies nuts and peanut butter-free. Questions? Contact MaryAnn Barsness, 320.808.0228.

*"Great character,  
like massive roots,  
grow deep when water is sparse  
and winds are strong."*

- Charles Swindoll  
(The Quest for Character)

Check out this book and many others  
downstairs in our church library!

**LOVING JESUS. BECOMING LIKE JESUS. SHARING JESUS.**

# HELP US REACH 1000 BOXES



Pack a shoebox to drop off at church or build one online at:  
<https://sampur.se/3RtCNI0>

Collecting shoeboxes until November 15  
4005 Dakota St, Alexandria • 320.763.5659



## How to Pack Your Shoebox Gift

As you prayerfully prepare to pack your shoebox gift, please remember that your shoebox gift will be an expression of God's love to a child. In fact, it may be the only gift the child receives. So, plan to pack quality items that will last, **and don't forget to make it FUN!**

1

### SHOEBOX

Get a standard size shoebox to pack for a boy or girl. Need shoeboxes? Great preprinted boxes are available on our website.



4

### PRAY

Most importantly, **pray** for the child who will receive your gift. Include a personal note and photo to delight the heart of the child.



2

### "WOW" ITEM

Select a quality **"wow"** toy such as a doll, soccer ball with pump, or stuffed animal to bless a child.



5

### DONATE \$10 PER BOX

A donation of **\$10** per box is critical to cover shipping and other project costs. For easiest processing you can give online. If you use our **Follow Your Box** feature online, you can also discover the destination of your shoebox!



3

### OTHER GIFTS

Pack full with other fun toys, hygiene items, and school supplies.



6

### DROP OFF

Take your shoebox gift to a local drop-off location during **National Collection Week, the third week in November**. Visit our website to find one near you.



[SAMARITANSPURSE.ORG/OCC](http://SAMARITANSPURSE.ORG/OCC)

## Weekly Attendance & Giving

Sunday, October 22, 2023

**Total  
In-person**  
654

**Total  
Online**  
310

**Weekly Giving  
(General Fund)**  
\$27,224.05

**Weekly  
Need**  
\$38,000.00

**YTD  
Giving**  
\$623,996.24

**YTD  
Need**  
\$646,000.00

## Growing God's Kingdom

Goal: 1,750,000.00



**Campaign  
Giving YTD**  
\$528,252.75

**Total Pledged  
Outstanding**  
\$440,546.70

(including from cash balance)

## Children & Youth Programs

**Sundays 9:30 am**  
Pre-K-5th Grade.....Lower Level  
Middle School..... Great Room  
High School Boys ..... H101  
High School Girls .....Boathouse

**Wednesdays 6:30 pm**  
Pre-K-5th Grade.....Lower Level  
Middle School..... Great Room  
High School ..... Patio

## Groups & Studies

**Sunday, Oct. 29**  
**Adult Sunday School**  
9:30 am | S100

**Young Adult Bible Study**  
11:00 am | S100

**Monday, Oct. 30**  
**Women's Ephesians Study**  
9:00 am | GR200

**Men's Inductive Bible Study**  
Noon | GR200

**Tuesday, Oct. 31**  
**Men's Bible Study Fellowship**  
7:00 pm | Great Room

**Wednesday, Nov. 1**  
**Koffee & Kare**  
9:00 am | Family Room

**MOMS**  
9:15 am | Patio

**Thursday, Nov. 2**  
**Seniors Bible Study**  
1:30 pm | Patio

**Friday, Nov. 3**  
**Men's Friday Bible Study**  
6:15 am | GR200

**Veterans Bible Study**  
6:30 am | GR204

**Saturday, Nov. 4**  
**Men of Mighty Prayer**  
8:00 am | GR200



• TAKING THE NEXT STEPS IN OUR FAITH JOURNEY •

Welcome to the fourth edition of *Next Steps Quarterly*! As a church we long for people to read and engage Scripture on their own. We hope that this and the Resource Wall will allow you to explore different ways to engage with the Bible.

In each publication you will have recommendations for books, devotions, podcasts, apps, Bible studies and websites we believe reflect biblically accurate information. Simply scan the QR code on each section to learn more. This edition we will focus on tools to enhance the upcoming Christmas season with a focus on Advent, preparing our hearts for the birth of Jesus.



### All-Church Advent Devotion

A value this church holds is equipping you to engage the scriptures with quality material we can do together. Join one another as we do a church-wide Advent devotional. Here is a sneak peek at the content we will engage together. This material will be available in the weeks leading up to Advent so check your bulletin to know when they become available.

### RightNow Media Eyewitness Series

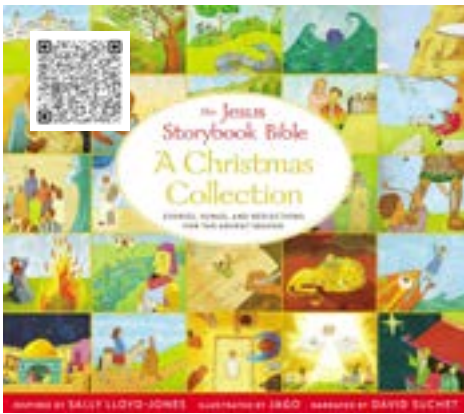
An important part of engaging scripture is to try and understand the text from the original audience before applying it to today. This unique ten-lesson study looks at the Christmas story from the vantage point of the original audience and helps you develop this skill of first understanding the scriptures from the original audience before applying it to today while also engaging the story of Jesus' Birth.



### She/He Reads Truth Podcast

This podcast will walk you through Advent with an in-depth topic around the birth of Christ. You can follow along with the workbook or just engage the content on the podcast. The episodes will begin the week of Thanksgiving and run through Christmas and include interviews with many different Bible teachers for a broader perspective.





## The Jesus Storybook Bible Christmas Collection

In this interactive book families will engage the scriptures with their children throughout Advent linking the old and new testament to the birth of Jesus. This is an important part of teaching children the scriptures—connecting the entirety of scripture in one complete story, pointing to Jesus.



## Advent Conversation Cards

These cards can be used year after year to engage your family in conversation around the season of Advent.

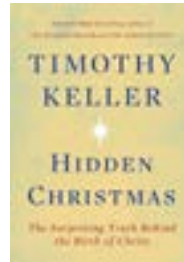
They include scripture verses and pointed questions to enhance the true meaning of Christmas. Hang them up as garland, on your tree, or place them at the dinner table all advent long.



## The Greatest Gift: Unwrapping the Full Love Story of Christmas by Ann Voskamp



This book is in devotion format and will put the focus of Christmas back on Jesus. You can do it alone or use it as a great family resource for recentering your hearts on Jesus this holiday season.



## Hidden Christmas: The Surprising Truth Behind the Birth of Christ by Timothy Keller



Another aspect of Bible literacy is understanding the cultural background of the scriptures and how it helps your understanding of the text. This resource will help you better understand the background and cultural implications of the nativity.

## Women, Save the Date!

Friday, December 1 from 6:45 pm-9:00 pm we will be hosting a night to kick off the Advent season with a simulcast of Christmas music and teaching on the historical and cultural implication of understanding Christmas from Kristi McLellend. Kick the season off with Jesus on the mind and heart.



# Growing God's Kingdom COMMITMENT

PLEASE RETURN THIS  
CARD TO ALEXANDRIA  
COVENANT CHURCH

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

**It is my/our intent to commit \$\_\_\_\_\_ in total to the  
Growing God's Kingdom campaign over the next 3 years as follows:**

\$\_\_\_\_\_ Initial gift between now and December 31, 2023

\$\_\_\_\_\_ 2024 Calendar Year

\$\_\_\_\_\_ 2025 Calendar Year

\$\_\_\_\_\_ January 1, 2026 - April 30, 2026

**With this commitment I/we fully understand:**

- that this commitment is made before God and is not to be entered into lightly.
- that this commitment covers the next 3 years and can be given weekly, monthly, quarterly or yearly.
- that this is not a bill and I/we will not be invoiced.
- that our commitment will remain confidential.
- that this gift does not replace my/our regular giving to Alexandria Covenant Church.

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## *Growing God's Kingdom* COMMITMENT

KEEP THIS REMINDER CARD

**It is my/our intent to commit \$\_\_\_\_\_ in total to the  
Growing God's Kingdom campaign over the next 3 years as follows:**

\$\_\_\_\_\_ Initial gift between now and December 31, 2023

\$\_\_\_\_\_ 2024 Calendar Year

\$\_\_\_\_\_ 2025 Calendar Year

\$\_\_\_\_\_ January 1, 2026 - April 30, 2026

4005 Dakota Street • Alexandria, MN 56308



<b>WHEN</b>	Starting June 25, 2023
<b>WHY</b>	To free up financial resources to maximize our ministry impact
<b>HOW</b>	Eliminate debt of \$1.152 million and raise money for large capital needs
<b>GOAL</b>	\$1.75 million, after applying \$300,000 from cash reserves
<b>TIMELINE</b>	3 years: Year 1 goal \$900,000; Years 2 & 3 \$425,000/year
<b>WHY NOW</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Balloon payment due May 10, 2026</li> <li>• Monthly payments of \$6,100 @ 2.34% interest</li> <li>• Giving has been good</li> <li>• We raised more in our previous capital campaign in 2016</li> <li>• The sooner we pay off our debt, the quicker we can do more to Grow God's Kingdom</li> </ul>
<b>FUTURE FOCUS</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rural Ministry Development</li> <li>• Strengthen Mission Partnerships</li> <li>• Expand Technology Ministry</li> </ul>
<b>DESIRED OUTCOME</b>	Growing closer together and deeper in Christ as we go further on mission to the glory of God.

## How to Give Online to the Capital Campaign



Learn more about Growing God's Kingdom

1. **Scan the QR code and click "Give" or go to our giving page on our app and website.**
2. **Enter desired amount to give.**
3. **Select "Growing God's Kingdom Capital Campaign" from the fund dropdown.**
4. **There are options for your giving to be set as a recurring gift or as a one-time contribution.**

Learn more about our mission and ways to give at: [alexandriacovenant.org/growing-gods-kingdom](http://alexandriacovenant.org/growing-gods-kingdom)

Questions? Office, 320.763.5659



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## Connect with Us

We have many areas for you and your family to get plugged in! Between Sunday school classes, Wednesday night youth activities, small groups, care groups, and prayer nights, there is something for everyone no matter who you are.

Listen to past sermons, check out upcoming events, sign up for small groups and studies, and look at what all our ministries have to offer on our website at [alexandriacovenant.org](http://alexandriacovenant.org) or on our church app available for free on both the Google Play Store and App Store.

Get connected into the life of the church and join us in our walk with God. Life is better together.



## Give

Support the ongoing ministry of Alexandria Covenant Church by giving at the end of the service or through our website or app.

## Prayer Requests

Do you have a prayer request or something you would like prayer over? After the service our Prayer Team will come up and be there to pray with you over any requests.

We also have prayer request cards in the pew that you can fill out and drop in the offering plate to be prayed over on our Sunday Evening Prayer services. You can also submit requests online on our website or church app.




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## New to Alexandria Covenant Church?

**Welcome!** It's our sincere desire that you are welcome and at home here at Alexandria Covenant Church. Stop by the Welcome Center for a **Visitor Bag** to help you become familiar with our church family.

Let us know who you are! Fill out a Connect Card in the pew or online and drop it in the offering plate.



320.763.5659 | [alexandriacovenant.org](http://alexandriacovenant.org) | 4005 Dakota Street  
Office open Mon-Thu 8:00 am - 4:30 pm & Fri 8:00 am - Noon  
Find us on social media    @alexandriacovenantchurch