

Alexandria Covenant Church

July 14, 2024 | 8:00 am (Traditional) 9:30 & 11:00 am (Contemporary)

Annual Meeting

Tonight | 6:00 pm

Hear highlights from Pastor Trinity on the ministry of this past year and look ahead to future ministry opportunities. We will vote on new Leadership Team members, vote on the proposed budget for the new fiscal year, vote on proposed changes to our bylaws, and hear an update on the Capital Campaign.

Men's Summit

July 17 | 6:30 pm

7020 CR 8 NW, Alexandria

Join us for an evening of great food and fellowship as we gather outdoors around a campfire to discuss God's Word. Gentlemen, bring your own chair and Bible as we examine scripture, enjoy meaningful discussions, and relish some delicious grill food and snacks provided.

Summer Fest

July 18 | 5:30 pm - 7:00 pm

Lawn outside Door #6

Come out and enjoy hotdogs, ice cream, and yard games with us! There will be a concert on the lawn by the Red Letter Band. We'll have face painting, water tables, and a bouncy obstacle course for the little ones. Invite your family and friends and bring a lawn chair or blanket for additional seating. In case of rain we will move indoors.

Women's Walk

July 30 | 7:00 pm | Big Ole

Trail walk with ice cream to follow! Meet at Big Ole and walk the trail to City Park where we will have ice cream treats and fellowship before walking back to Big Ole.



[Click to sign up!](#)



Volunteer Highlight

Shelli Johnson | Worship Team

What do you love most about serving in this area?

When my life seems overwhelming, I am reminded through the lyrics of just the right song at just the right time that God is there in all the details of my life. I love that I get to share that with my church family! There is power in surrendering oneself in worship. I love to see hands and voices raised in praise! It is truly the best part of my week when I get to serve doing something that I LOVE!!

LOVING JESUS. BECOMING LIKE JESUS. SHARING JESUS.

TODAY IS THE LAST DAY TO SIGN UP FOR A PROJECT!

SERVING **SATURDAY**

B L E S S OUR COMMUNITY

August 3, 2024

SCHEDULE OF THE DAY

8:45 am

Short service/blessing

9:15 am

Grab and go breakfast

10:00 am - 1:00 pm

Go out to serve our community!

SIGN UP IN THE LOBBY

Alexandria Covenant Church is going out to serve our community!

Check out all of our volunteer opportunities planned and sign up at the table in the lobby!

Last day to sign up is July 14!
Here's a few ideas of opportunities that we have planned:

- painting
- gardening
- yard cleanup
- landscaping
- cleaning
- serve meals
- cook / meal prep
- car wash
- car detailing
- working on cars
- write thank yous
- prayer team
- sing hymns
- wash windows
- road cleanup
- and much more!



(photos from last year's event!)

QUESTIONS?

Sara Peterson, 320.491.7215

2023-2024 Ministry Report



Covenant Kids

Covenant Kids continues to welcome new families and kids to our ministry areas. We serve around 210 children on an average Sunday morning, discipling kids to connect with God and others. CCB reveals over 1,000 kids in our database. The ministry is blessed with 250 volunteers who serve. Covenant Kids welcomed Kristi Ferguson as the Director of Nursery and Preschool Ministry this past year! We are thankful for Kristi's commitment to our littlest church members.

Child discipleship is about pointing kids to faith in God and building relationships. We accomplish this through Nursery ministry, Kids Church, Preschool and Elementary Sunday School, and Awana programs.

Ministry highlights from this year:

- Provided a "Milestone" gift to Nursery and Preschool families that included resources to help them in discipling their littles
- Offered Milestone classes for 1st-5th grade kids and their families
- Delivered gift baskets for babies to parents of newborns in the church
- Created a "Quiet Room" in the

Pre-K Zone that has become a beloved space for many kids

- Shared the good news of Jesus with 350 children through Vacation Bible School
- Had a record 79 participants in our Bibles by the Bedside program this past spring!
- Added a "Drive-In Movie" option to our annual movie night for preschool-kindergarten kids
- Hosted an end of year Faith & Science family event
- Our kids and youth packed 1000 meals for United Way's Backpack Attack program
- Encouraged kids' hearts for giving through VBS and Awana Go! Mission projects
- Collected gifts for Operation Christmas Child and had an Awana packing party
- Watched our 5th grade "CK Crew" students serve and lead our younger students
- Added several new books and resources to our Lending Library
- Engaged and equipped parents through our "Pressure Points: Parenting in a Changing World" class



—Pastor Chanda & Kristi Ferguson



Student Ministry

We have the privilege of serving about 200 students with the help of our amazing team of 36 volunteers! We're also thrilled to see so many of our students plugging in to serve our church family throughout the year in various ways. In addition to youth group and Sunday school, we also have opportunities throughout the year for our students to step outside of their everyday routines and gather with others to worship, grow, and serve.

Some highlights from our year include: M.U.U.C.E | August 2023

We took 31 students to this annual Covenant event. It was a weekend full of fun and faith formation specifically designed with middle schoolers in mind! This year's theme reminded them that we serve a God who turns ordinary people and moments into extraordinary, and we can celebrate that 3 students gave their lives to Jesus!

Middle School Fall Retreat at Trout Lake Camp | October 2023

37 students headed up to Pine River, MN to take part in our annual fall retreat. Chapel sessions focused on recognizing our purpose and allowing God to work in and through us.

High School District Youth Conference January 2024

54 students (8th-12th grade) drove

to Green Bay, braved a blizzard, and pushed our bus uphill (multiple times) to spend time worshipping alongside thousands of their peers. This year's theme challenged students to step out in faith, and not let their doubts, fears, or mistakes hold them back from fully living into a relationship with Jesus. We were thrilled to have 6 students make the decision to accept Christ at Districts this year!

High School Missions Trip | June 2024

14 students and 6 leaders had the opportunity to go and serve Tipi Wakan in Cannon Ball, ND. It was a great week of using the gifts God has given us to bless the community while also learning about their culture and continuing to deepen the relationship with the people there.

This year has also held an extra dose of anticipation, gratefulness and transition for our student ministry as we celebrated Pastor Brian and Joyce's faithful ministry to our students and as we searched for, and finally welcomed, our new Pastor of Student Ministry, Greg Schanil, his wife Myranda, and their boys, Owen and Evan. We look forward to watching how God will continue to work in the lives of our students and volunteers in the days and years ahead as we begin this new chapter together.



—Pastor Greg & Sarah Erickson

Adult Ministry

Over the past year, our church has been enriched by a multitude of engaging formation activities. The Men's and Women's ministry teams organized events that fostered connection and involvement amongst our congregation. The Men's Ministry Team hosted a men's trip to the Boundary Waters, which was a resounding success. This unique adventure not only provided a break from the routine but also fostered a sense of camaraderie and fellowship among the participants.



Additionally, Bible Study Fellowship provided a consistent platform for deep biblical exploration, catering to both men and women. For married couples, small groups and the recent marriage conference featuring Dave & Ann Wilson from Family Life Today brought significant blessings and growth to many relationships. This event, with its insightful sessions and practical advice, underscored the importance of investing in our marriages and

was a testament to the impact of our ministry on the lives of our community members.



Furthermore, numerous small groups covering a wide array of topics, including Financial Peace University and an in-depth study of Romans, furthered spiritual growth and community engagement. As we reflect on the past year, we are grateful for the ways in which God has manifested His presence among us, enriching our collective journey in faith.

—Pastor Dave



Senior Adult Ministry

Over 11,000 Americans turn 65 every day - yes, every day! And with the age factor comes the myth: older adults are not receptive to changes. Yet in this time of change---retirement, health issues, unexpectedly raising grandchildren, etc., adults may begin to take a new look at spiritual matters. A search for purpose and/or a desire for meaningful relationships may be elements that draw one closer to the Lord Jesus. This may be the time for their salvation.

The Psalmist says, *"They will still bear fruit in old age,"* (Psalm 92:14)...he



is speaking of the Senior Saints, the older adults. We all want to make a difference, we want our lives to count- and we want to finish well. We can connect with others through Bible studies, discipling younger people, trips on the bus, eating together, reaching out to newcomers, inviting people into our homes, learning how to evangelize, praying for others, visiting those who are shut in, etc. If you have a pulse, you have a purpose! Remember, if you are not dead, you are not done!!
-Pastor Gregg



Technical Ministry

The Technical Ministry has continued to grow over the past year in many exciting ways! Our weekly average online attendance has grown to over 300 people, up from 260 last year. This highlights the importance of online ministry for those interested in the church or those unable to attend



in-person. To help with the online production, we have found volunteers from all ages, adding another 10 kids to the team under the age of 13! These kids know how to jump right in and it has been so exciting watching them grow in a ministry they love to volunteer in! We have continued to also provide support, consultation and guidance to rural churches both in and out of the Covenant denomination. As an example, last month I drove up to International Falls to the Covenant church and got to meet with their team to discuss ways to grow and improve their Sunday morning experience, both online and in-person. They were so appreciative, and it definitely highlights the importance of the in-person meeting with these churches to both get to know their whole team and volunteers, along with understanding their story and the direction they would like to go.
-David LeVahn





Worship Ministry

I completed my first year as Director of Worship Ministry back in February, and I'm so grateful for the grace and encouragement I've been shown as I stepped into this role! It's a privilege to gather together to worship our God! Our worship ministry team consists of 70+ volunteers, and we are committed to fostering authentic worship here at Alexandria Covenant Church! We are a multi-generational team, spanning ages of 14 to 65+. It brings me such joy to see our experienced leaders mentoring those new to the team!

Some highlights from this past year include Hymn Sings, Worship Nights, and hosting three concerts (Red Letter Band, Preacher's Daughters, and Sidewalk Prophets), as well as collaborating with worship leaders from First Covenant in Willmar to lead worship for the Rural Impact Leadership Conference. We also had seven members of the CK Crew (5th grade leaders) help us lead Sunday worship. How exciting to see the next generation of leaders engaging in worship!

I'm so grateful for the team I get to work with, and I'm grateful for all of you!



When we gather and worship through song, we are collectively declaring that the God of the Bible is the one true God, and that Jesus is the Savior of the world. We are committing to both God and to one another that we will follow Him. Some weeks you may find your own relationship with God strengthened through the time spent worshipping. Other weeks, it may be through your participation in singing praise that someone else receives the encouragement they need. Thank you for being a testimony and an encouragement to each other by engaging in worship each week!

—Naomi Sands



Hear more about the ministry of Alexandria Covenant Church at our Annual Meeting tonight at 6:00 pm!

A Note from the Senior Pastor

"I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ." - Philippians 1:3-6.

At Alexandria Covenant Church our mission is to be a people committed to loving Jesus, becoming like Jesus, and sharing Jesus with the world. This year as we have been intentional about living into that mission, we have focused on four values. These values include being Bible Based, Gospel Centered, Relationally Driven, and Dependent on the Holy Spirit, to the glory of God and for our neighbor's good.

Last July, we held our first annual Serving Sunday. Our goal was to be a blessing to our community through tangible acts of service to local businesses, non-profits, and individuals who had specific needs. We completed over 35 projects with the help of around 400 volunteers from our church family!

In an effort to be good stewards of all that God has blessed us with, we launched a Capital Campaign with the goal of eliminating the church mortgage of \$1.152 million, replacing a section of shingles on the roof, and replacing our parking lot. Praise God for His provision that has been experienced through His people! Thanks to your generosity we paid off our mortgage and will soon have enough cash to cover the roof project expenses! With two more years of the Capital Campaign remaining, we are well on our way to reaching our goal of \$1.75 million.

We were excited to have the opportunity to host the third annual Rural Impact Leadership Conference in March. This is a one-day conference intended to equip, encourage, and resource rural church pastors and leaders for work and ministry in their own unique contexts. We are grateful for our partnership with the Northwest Conference and Oak Hills Bible College in providing this intentional space for rural leaders to connect, grow, and be refreshed. We had around 200 people attend in person and 25 online participants.

We support 11 global, 13 local, and 7 regional mission partners in advancing the gospel throughout the world. These partnerships give us the opportunity to join God in His mission to see more disciples among more populations in a more caring and just world.

Our church is growing in and beyond the walls of our building! Our online ministry is regularly reaching 300+ people from 15 states around the

U.S. each week. Our in-person attendance has grown as well, prompting us to move our fellowship space down to the Gym. This move created opportunity for both a meaningful worship experience in the Patio and extended times of connection and conversation.

Two things that continue to be a highlight for me are our jail ministry and our believer baptism services. I am so encouraged in witnessing how God shows up each time we go to minister at the jail. There is such joy in watching people's lives being transformed through the Word of God and the power of the Holy Spirit. We were able to hold two believer baptism Sundays this year as well. I hope that being a part of witnessing the transformative work of God, through baptism, is as much a blessing to you all as it is to me! Another exciting thing to note is that we welcomed 31 people into church membership this year!

On a personal level, I've enjoyed my weekly study time, and am often challenged and encouraged in my own walk as I spend time in prayer and preparation, seeking God's wisdom to faithfully handle His word through teaching and preaching. Sermon series this past year included the Beatitudes, the Book of Ephesians and The Ten Commandments. We are currently in a series on the Book of James.

Last month, at the 138th Annual Meeting of the Evangelical Covenant Church (ECC) I was elected to serve on the Executive Board for a 6-year term. There are 26 board members who bring leadership to the ministry of the ECC. It's an honor to have been chosen to serve our denomination.

We have a tremendous staff whom I get to serve with. We have added some new staff members this year and said farewell to a few others including Pastor Brian Farka, our Pastor of Student Ministry, who retired from student ministry after serving 12 years on staff at ACC and 49 years in full-time youth ministry. Thank you, Pastor Brian and Joyce, for your faithful years of service to our students and their families!

A big thank you to my wife Gwen and our five children for their love and support. Thanks also to our staff and our church family for the opportunity to lead you in the ministry of the gospel of Jesus Christ. May the Lord continue to lead us to move faithfully forward with Him.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pastor Trinity Opp". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Trinity" being more prominent than the last name "Opp".

Pastor Trinity Opp
Senior Pastor

Church Life Year in Review

Our Congregation

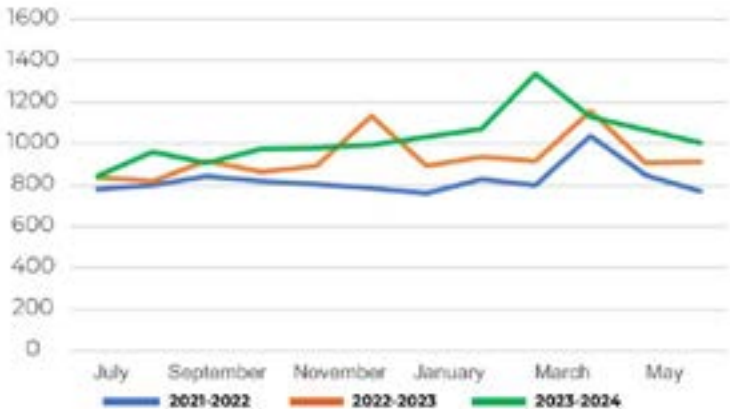
July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024

2,425 people

- White Roses (new life in Christ) - 21
- New Members - 31
- Births - 14
- Infant Baptisms/Dedications - 24
- Immersion Baptisms - 26
- Funerals - 12
- Weddings - 10

- Pre-Silent (Age 95+) - 2
- Silent (Age 77-94) - 126
- Baby Boomer (Age 58-76) - 371
- Generation X (Age 42-57) - 343
- Millennial (Age 28-41) - 422
- Generation Z (Age 11-27) - 611
- Generation Alpha (Age 0-10) - 550

Average Weekly Attendance
(In-person and Online)



Volunteers

613 people

- Hospitality - 293
- Covenant Kids - 124
- Student Ministry - 36
- Worship - 74
- Tech Team - 39
- Facility - 14
- Prayer - 19
- Senior - 6
- Visitation - 4
- Sacraments - 4

Weekly Attendance & Giving

Sunday, July 7, 2024

**Total
In-person**
831

**Total
Online**
280

**Weekly Giving
(General Fund)**
\$45,295.26

**Weekly
Need**
\$38,000.00

**YTD
Giving**
\$45,295.26

**YTD
Need**
\$38,000.00

Growing God’s Kingdom

Goal: \$1,750,000.00

Outstanding Need: \$584,746.28



Campaign	Total Pledged
Contributions YTD	Outstanding
\$1,176,772.04	\$288,481.68

How to Give Online to the Capital Campaign:

1. Scan the QR code and click “Give” or go to our giving page on our app and website.
2. Select “Growing God’s Kingdom Capital Campaign” from the fund dropdown and enter amount.



Groups & Studies

Sunday, July 14

Young Adult Bible Study

11:00 am | S100

Monday, July 15

Men’s Inductive Bible Study

Noon | GR200

Friday, July 19

Men’s Friday Bible Study (Book of Ezekial)

6:15 am | GR200

Saturday, July 20

Men of Mighty Prayer

8:00 am | GR200



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 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.

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 Desk 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 | 4005 Dakota Street
Office open Mon-Thu 8:00 am - 4:30 pm & Fri 8:00 am - Noon
Find us on social media [f](#) [i](#) [v](#) @alexandriacovenantchurch



Grieving a loss?

Find hope and healing after
the death of a loved one.

Join us at
GriefShare®

Weekly grief support group

Classes:

Widows & Widowers

Mondays, starting August 5
5:00-6:30 pm | Room GR200
Enter through Door #4

Loss of a Significant Loved One

Tuesdays, starting August 6
5:30-7:00 pm | Room H101
Enter through Door #6

Call to register or scan to sign up
Mary Glanzer, 320.760.0258



[Click to sign up!](#)