

Night of Prayer (Missions)

Tonight | 6:30 pm | Great Room

Join us as we pray for our missionaries and organizations that we support around the world. God's reach through Alexandria Covenant Church is much wider than you might know and we'd like to be very intentional about supporting those people who are living out God's purpose and mission on a international, national, and even local level! Nursery available (ages 0-5).

Church" what does that even mean?

Come to this one time leadership class to grow in your understanding of what theology is and how the Covenant Church puts theology into practice. Holly Crowser, 715.577.8401



[Click to sign up!](#)



Women's Worship Night

October 12 | 6:00 pm | Patio

Come for a night of worship and hear Lynn Johnson's testimony. Bring a friend. Snacks and beverages provided.

Seniors 65+ Trip to Hjemkomst Museum

October 15 | Sign up in the Hall

Join the seniors for a trip up to Moorhead to see the Viking ship and Scandinavian heritage exhibits at the Hjemkomst Museum. Costs \$11 for the museum, lunch is on your own.

The Theological Umbrella of the Covenant Church

Sunday, October 25 | Room S100

11:00 am - 12:15 pm

Do you wonder what the Evangelical Covenant Church believes and why? Often I will say "it needs to fit under the theological umbrella of the Covenant

Classes & Community

Thursdays starting October 15

Meal starts at 6:00 pm in the Hall

Classes start at 6:30 pm

A night complete with a meal, fellowship, and spiritual emphasis. Come for community around a table for dinner before heading to classes! 6 weeks. Nursery and childcare (ages 0-10) available. **Check out all the classes available inside the bulletin.**



[Click to sign up!](#)

Wednesday Night Meals

October 21 | 5:00-6:00 pm | Hall

Come for a meal together before Wednesday night activities! We will be serving pizza hotdish. Please RSVP!



[Click to sign up!](#)



[Click to volunteer](#)

Guarding Hearts of Grandchildren

Sundays starting November 1
9:30-10:30 am | Room H103

Grandparents matter! Grandparents have a unique role and Biblical calling to spiritually influence their grandchildren. Guarding Hearts of Grandchildren is a 3-session course that equips grandparents to help guide their grandchildren in understanding God's good design and plan for sex, marriage, children, and identity. Culture will tell your grandchildren what to believe; they must hear biblical truth from people they can trust, that includes their grandparents! Rooted in Proverbs 4:23 (Guard your heart) and Proverbs 13:22 (Leave an inheritance to your children's children), the course encourages grandparents to share Biblical truths about sexual integrity and God's protective design. This course is to encourage and support you in the Biblical calling of being an intentional Christian grandparent. Connie Ferris at 320.219.1454



[Click to sign up!](#)

Fall Fest

November 1 | 5:00-7:30 pm

Get ready for an evening of food, flannels, and fellowship at Fall Fest! From 5:00 to 6:15, enjoy a hearty meal with pulled pork, chips, cole slaw, fruit, bars and cookies, and apple cider punch downstairs in the fellowship hall. There will be games and activities for all ages to enjoy. Then, from 6:30 to 7:30, come upstairs join us for a special blended worship time featuring hymns, contemporary worship songs,

and kids' worship favorites. Be sure to dress in your favorite flannel! Invite your friends and family for a cozy and fun fall celebration.



Barnabas Book Club

November 10 | Noon | GR204

The Barnabas Book Club focuses on spiritual formation and meets every other month at noon on Tuesdays. The book up for discussion on November 10th is The Good and Beautiful Community by James Bryan Smith. Purchase it on your own or pick up a copy at the Welcome Desk for a suggested donation. Questions? Kelsey Langager, 320.808.9581



[Click to sign up!](#)

October is Pastor Appreciation Month!

October is Pastor Appreciation Month, and we invite our congregation to join us in thanking our pastors for their faithful leadership, care, and service to our church family.

Classes & Community Fall 2026 Class Options

Spiritual Gifts Led by Janel Zappe

Room H103

We will be walking through the Spiritual Gifts study by Dan Darling looking at what each spiritual gift is and how to use them. Our gifts are meant to serve others and not to keep to ourselves. During the class we will also be doing an inventory to help you understand how God has gifted you and how to serve our church family and others well.

Overcomer Led by Paula Pallas

Fireside Room

Many people feel they are less than who God says they are. We get our identity from our careers, our political positions, our roles in the family, and a number of other lesser things. This Bible study guides readers through examining how we determine and find our true identity in Christ with clips from the Kendrick brothers' film, Overcomer.

Starting Point Led by Holly Crowser

Room GR204

You had a first day of school, a first date, a first kiss, a first job. But here's something you may not have considered—faith has a starting point. Starting Point is a conversational environment where you can explore faith and experience community. It's a safe place for you to ask questions and to learn about the Bible and Christianity.

Take Every Thought Captive

Led by Erica Overshiner and Stefanie Thornburg | Room S100

Are your thoughts drawing you closer to God or pulling you away? Are they building you up or tearing you down? Like molten glass, our lives are

constantly being shaped and molded by our thoughts. This isn't a study on the power of positive thinking but about learning how God made your brain. Learn how setting your thoughts on Christ can create new patterns of thought that will change your life.

33 Series: A Man and His Fatherhood

Led by Kevin Alexx | Room S101B

This world needs more good dads. We need men who are willing to embrace the long road of building and cultivating a family. We need men who are willing to admit they haven't figured it out and are prepared to do the work of learning how to lead and love their kids well. A Man and His Fatherhood provides insights and biblical truth that can carry you through the confusion and dark moments of fatherhood and also energize you for its high points and powerful moments.

Guarding Hearts: Teaching Children about Sex (God's Way)

Led by Connie Ferris | Room H100

Class dates: November 5, 12, 19

This 3-session class is for parents who want to teach their young children (ages 1-10) about sex in a way that includes God. Using the Birds and Bees video series, parents will learn practical tools and gain confidence to have these foundational conversations. Instructor Connie Ferris will offer a biblical perspective, helping parents share what God says about sex. These early conversations will lay a solid foundation of biblical sexuality, preparing you for the harder ones to come. Emphasized will be the importance of first impressions and guarding your child's heart. Limited to 20.



MEET OUR PASTORS



TRINITY OPP

Lead Pastor

Trinity grew up living in several communities throughout the upper Midwest. He responded to his call to ministry in 2002 and served as a youth and then associate pastor at a church in Bismarck, ND for nearly 10 years prior to joining the staff at Alexandria Covenant Church. He graduated with his seminary degree from Bethel Seminary in St. Paul, MN in 2007. Trinity and his family moved to Alexandria in 2011 where he served as the Executive Pastor until December

of 2020 when he made the transition into the Lead Pastor role. The Opp family quickly grew to love our church family and the Alexandria area.

Trinity and his wife, Gwen, have five children together. As a family they enjoy the outdoors, playing games together, eating good food and spending time with friends and family.



LOVING JESUS. BECOMING LIKE JESUS. SHARING JESUS.



BRIAN FARKA

Executive Pastor

Brian was born in the Twin Cities and accepted Christ as a child. He grew up in Spokane, WA where he and his family were heavily involved in church and camp ministries. Starting college as a Pre-Med major, he felt God's call to Youth Ministry and transferred to Moody Bible Institute in Chicago. Moody is where he met Joyce (Bible Theology major) and together they have served several Evangelical Free churches in Illinois and Wisconsin. Brian is ordained in the EFCA. In 2012 they



accepted a call to Alexandria Covenant as the Pastor of Student Ministry. After 50+ years serving in Youth Ministry he retired from Youth Ministry in 2024 and transitioned into the Executive Pastor of our church. Brian and Joyce have three grown kids and one "bonus" daughter, 12 grandkids (and a few others that have adopted them as grandparents). Brian recently gave up slalom skiing, after 56 years, but still loves time on the water with his kids and grandkids. He also loves tools and working in his woodshop.



MITCH HAABY

Associate Pastor

Mitch was born and raised way up in Roseau, MN. He finished his undergraduate studies in Calgary, AB in 2006 with a BA in Counseling Psychology. It took a few years of God trying to show Mitch his plan for ministry, but in 2007 he was invited to apply



to the youth pastor position at his home church (Roseau Cov). After seven years there, Mitch discerned the time was right for seminary and attended North Park Theological Seminary in Chicago. He graduated with his MDiv. in May of 2017. Mitch married Jena in the summer of 2016 and spent the first year of their marriage in Chicago. At the end of seminary, Mitch accepted an Associate Pastor position at Cedarbrook Church in Menomonie, WI and

they lived there for six years. The two and a half years before joining our pastoral staff, Mitch and his family were living up in Lancaster, MN, where he was the Pastor of the local Covenant Church. Mitch loves hunting and fishing (just ask), Jena loves coffee, live music, and being mom to a house full of girls, and the girls all love laughing loudly, their cat Pearl, and seeing family and friends whenever they can!



GREG SCHANIL

Pastor of Student Ministry

Greg began a personal relationship with Jesus as a young boy and spent a lot of his time in the church as a pastor's kid. He was called into ministry while in high school which led him to attend North Park University in Chicago, IL. Greg and Myranda have served in student ministry for 8 years. Greg has a passion for helping students begin to see themselves as God sees them, as His children. He loves to remind students that God intentionally created them



with unique gifts and abilities. Greg loves spending time with his wife and three sons. As a family, the Schanils love playing games together, spending time outside and creating epic hot wheels tracks! Greg is currently enrolled at Bethel Seminary for his Master of Arts in Christian Thought to further his education and deepen the way he thinks and approaches God's Word.



CHANDA WINKELS

Pastor of Children and Family Ministry

Chanda sensed God's call to ministry as an elementary student. She attended Bethel University and worked as an RN before being a stay-at-home mom and homeschooling her two daughters. In 2011, Chanda began working in children's ministry at Alexandria Covenant Church. In 2018, she completed a seminary degree in Child and Family Ministry at Bethel Seminary and became the Pastor of Children and Family Ministry. Chanda was ordained in



2022. Chanda's life mission is to use her God given abilities and influence to point people to relationship with Jesus.

In her free time, Chanda enjoys playing with her three grand kids, hiking, and reading theology and ministry-related books (really).

Alexandria Covenant Church Staff



Trinity Opp
Lead Pastor



Brian Farka
Executive Pastor



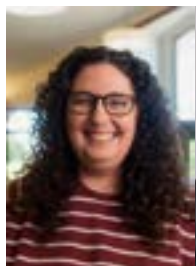
Mitch Haaby
Associate Pastor



Greg Schanil
Pastor of
Student Ministry



Chanda Winkels
Pastor of Children
& Family Ministry



Sarah Erickson
Director of Middle
School Ministry



Kristi Ferguson
Director of
Preschool Ministry



Janel Zappe
Director of
Engagement



Holly Crowser
Director of Adult
Formation



John Johnson
Director of Care
Ministry



Naomi Sands
Director of
Worship Ministry



David LeVahn
Director of
Technical Ministry



Linda LeVahn
Director of Design
& Communications



Ashley Eckhoff
Administrative
Assistant



Michelle Heem
Finance & HR Ad-
ministrator



David Englund
Facility Manager



Mike Fugleberg
Facility Setup
Coordinator



Angela Allex
Facility Cleaning
Coordinator



Craig Hornberger
Sound Technician



Weekly Attendance & Giving

Sunday, October 4, 2026

**Total
In-person**
816

**Total
Online**
284

**Weekly Giving
(General Fund)**
\$58,681.02

**Weekly
Need**
\$48,857.00

**YTD
Giving**
\$570,748.62

**YTD
Need**
\$684,013.00

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

Financial Assistance

Are you in financial need? There are resources available to regular attendees of Alexandria Covenant Church through the Benevolence Fund. Call Trinity Opp, 320.763.5659, with requests.

Give to the Benevolence Fund through our app, website, or designated check.

Online Bulletin

Text ACCNEWS to 844.415.0031 to receive the digital version of the bulletin on Saturday nights.

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 each week. You can also submit requests online on our website or church app.



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    @alexandriacovenantchurch