

Alexandria Covenant Church

July 13, 2025 | 8:00 am - Traditional, 9:30 & 11:00 am - Contemporary

Annual Meeting

Tonight | 6:00 pm

Come join us as we celebrate and hear ministry highlights of this past year and look ahead to future ministry opportunities. We'll vote on new Leadership Team members, vote on the proposed budget for the new fiscal year, and receive an update on the Capital Campaign. Afterwards, stick around for an ice cream social! Nursery (0-5) and Kid Care (6-10) will be provided.



Summer Fest

July 17 | 5:30-7:00 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.

Jonah on a Boat: Men's Study

Starting July 20 | 6:00-7:30 pm
9280 County Road 34 NW

Bring your Bible and join a small mens group for 5 Sundays on an actual boat to take a "deep dive" into the book of Jonah. Five "crew" needed. Captain is Keith Olson, 320.226.7915.



[Click to sign up!](#)

Women's Walk & Bonfire

July 22 | 7:00 pm

1003 Ruby St NW, Alexandria

We will walk the trail and hang out around the fire! Bring a friend!

Celebrate Pastor Gregg Donnelly & Merri Henderson's Marriage

July 26 | 2:00 - 4:00 pm | Patio

You are all invited to celebrate Pastor Gregg Donnelly and Merri Henderson's marriage at their wedding reception on Saturday, July 26, from 2:00-4:00 pm in the Patio. Your presence is requested but please no presents. Questions? Gregg Donnelly, 763.516.1914

Text **ACCNEWS** to **(844) 415-0031** to receive the bulletin Saturday nights

LOVING JESUS. BECOMING LIKE JESUS. SHARING JESUS.



Purple Hulls Concert

July 29 | 6:30 pm

The Purple Hulls are coming back to Alexandria Covenant Church for a concert! Come enjoy an evening of bluegrass, country, and gospel music! Freewill donations will be accepted.

Baptism Sunday

August 3 | All three services

Make your commitment to Christ public at Baptism Sunday. If you have given your life to Jesus, tell the world through baptism!



[Click to sign up!](#)



Men's Boundary Waters Canoe Trip

August 6-10 | \$350

The Boundary Waters Canoe Area features pristine wilderness and water to explore, camp, and fish. This trip is for any man looking for a wilderness adventure. No camping gear? No problem. Rent anything needed from our outfitter or borrow it from a friend. Food and transportation (including the canoe rental) are included in the price. What's not included: your food on the road there and back, camping gear (you can rent/borrow this), and fishing gear. Space is limited, so sign up soon! Questions? Aaron Johnson, 218.205.4953



[Click to sign up!](#)



The Barnabas Book Club Society

September 9 | Noon | GR204

Sign up by July 27 to get the book!

Join us for September 9th's book club meet, where we'll discuss Emotionally Healthy Spirituality by Pete Scazzero. Sign up by July 27 to get the book. Jan Biering, 320.250.0004



[Click to sign up!](#)

SIGN UP TO SERVE AT THE COUNTER IN THE LOBBY!

SERVING **SATURDAY**

B L E S S OUR COMMUNITY

August 2, 2025

SCHEDULE OF THE DAY

8:00 am

Short service/blessing

8:30 am

Grab and go breakfast

9:00 am - 12:00 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 counter in the lobby!

Last day to sign up is July 13!
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

2024-2025 Ministry Report

Here at Alexandria Covenant Church we strive to be a family of Christ followers who are committed to loving Jesus, becoming like Jesus, and sharing Jesus with the world. As your pastor, I am blessed to be able to lead a group of people who are so devoted to the mission of Christ and the work of the church. My commitment to you, is to lead in such a way that the people of God will be equipped for the work of God in this world. And as the apostle Paul said in Ephesians 4:13, "This will continue until we all come to such unity in our faith and knowledge of God's Son that we will be mature in the Lord, measuring up to the full and complete standard of Christ." Looking back, we have many reasons to be thankful for God's goodness and faithfulness. And as we look ahead to another year of ministry, we will continue to live out our values of being a Bible-based, gospel-centered, relationally driven church who is committed to reaching more people in more places with the gospel to the glory of God and for our neighbors good.



Pastor Trinity Opp
Lead Pastor

Church Life Year in Review

July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025

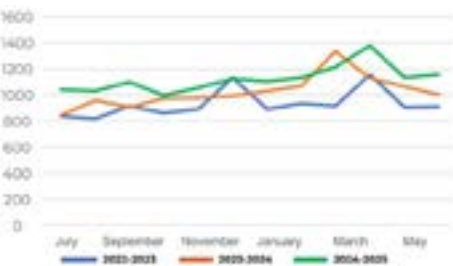
White Roses (new life in Christ) - 8
New Members - 46
Births - 19
Infant Baptisms - 13
Infant Dedications - 8
Immersion Baptisms - 75
Funerals - 10
Weddings - 6

Our Congregation

3,654 people

Silent (Age 80-97) - 105
Baby Boomer (Age 61-79) - 373
Gen X (Age 45-60) - 337
Millennial (Age 29-44) - 533
Gen Z (Age 13-28) - 1,033
Gen Alpha (Age 1-12) - 1,219
Gen Beta (Age 0-1) - 54

Average Weekly Attendance (in-person & online)



Covenant Kids

This past year, Covenant Kids volunteers and staff took advantage of numerous discipleship opportunities, pointing kids to faith in God. Intergenerational relationships were built and strengthened. Nursery ministry, Kids Church, Preschool/Elementary Sunday School, and mid-week Awana programming were all utilized to build a firm faith foundation for children.



Pastor Chanda and Director Kristi attended the Children's Pastors Conference in January. In April, Emma Schonberg was welcomed as the Coordinator of Nursery and Kid Care Ministry! Pastor Chanda was a guest speaker at the Rural Impact Leadership Conference in March. Kristi completed a nine-month International Network of Children's Ministry certification in Child and Family Ministry in May.

—Pastor Chanda, Kristi Ferguson
and Emma Schonberg

Ministry Highlights:

- Kids of all ages are learning, growing, and sharing their faith with their families at home.
- Superhero Movie Night featured "live" superheroes from our congregation who shared how God has equipped them to serve others (emergency response, healthcare, military). Kids were reminded that Jesus is the greatest superhero!
- Family Movie Event at Cinema 9: Families watched *The King of Kings* and received an Easter Activity Pack to encourage discipleship at home.
- 18 elementary kids were baptized.
- Milestone "grab and go" resources were distributed to 30 nursery and 47 preschool families to equip parents for spiritual conversations at home.
- Milestone classes were offered to 1st–5th graders and their families on topics such as the Bible, the Gospel, Sacraments, Big Questions, and spiritual disciplines.
- Baby gift baskets were delivered to newborns.
- Trauma-informed care and behavioral guidelines were taught and implemented.
- Vacation Bible School Jungle Journey ministered to 355 children.
- Bibles by the Bedside had 76 participants and 46 four-month finishers who received T-shirts.
- Covenant Kids staff and volunteers attended the Awana Regional Training Conference at ACC in August.
- Preschool kids sang at Christmas and Easter worship services.
- CK Crew (5th-grade leader team) served elementary students and led worship at Fall Fest and the May 18 Volunteer Recognition Sunday.



Covenant Kids supported:

- VBS Bread to the Nations widows
- Awana GO! Mission for African kids
- 4 Compassion International giving projects
- Operation Christmas Child Awana Packing Party



Student Ministry

High School

We've had the privilege of serving about 100 high school students with the help of our incredible team of 17 volunteers! This year was full of growth—both spiritually and relationally—as we gathered for youth group, Sunday school, retreats, and service opportunities.

Our theme was More to the Story. We explored how there's always more to learn about God and that each of us is invited to be part of His unfolding story. This year, I introduced moments of reflection after our lessons. I loved seeing students learn to connect with God on their own.



In January, 57 students and leaders attended the Districts Conference in Green Bay, where we explored the Good News of Jesus—how the Gospel shapes our atonement, identity, belonging, and purpose.

In June, 17 students and 4 leaders traveled to Des Moines, IA, for our Summer Project, putting on a Vacation Bible School at Shalom Covenant Church. It was an incredible week of ministry and relationship-building with our Congolese brothers and sisters.

This marks my first full year here, and it's been a joy getting to know the amazing students and leaders. I'm excited to see how God continues to work in and through this ministry.

—Pastor Greg



Middle School

This year, our Middle School ministry walked alongside over 75 students and their families as we explored more of who God is and who He's calling us to be. On Sunday mornings, confirmation students journeyed through the Old Testament, discovering how every part of Scripture points to Jesus and the gospel. It's been amazing to see them ask deep questions and grasp the bigger picture of God's redemptive story.

Our youth group theme was More to the Story, reminding us that with God, there's always more—more hope, more purpose, more grace.

We had incredible experiences beyond our weekly programs:

- MUUUUCE (a high-energy weekend for middle schoolers) focused on the theme No Matter What, reminding students of God's unconditional love.
- Trout Lake Retreat in the fall helped us dig deep into who Jesus is as King of Kings.
- 8th Grade opportunities included Districts Conference and the summer mission trip to Shalom Covenant Church.

One of my favorite parts of this ministry is seeing relationships form—between students and leaders and with one another. I love watching our middle schoolers serve in Kids Ministry, hospitality, and the Production Team. Their creativity and servant hearts bless our church family! It's been a year full of growth, laughter, questions, and so many snacks—and I wouldn't trade it for anything. Thank you for supporting and investing in these students. God is doing something amazing in them!

—Sarah Erickson



Adult Ministry

The heart of Adult Formation Ministry is this: Loving Jesus, Becoming like Jesus, and Sharing Jesus. I continually ask how our groups and activities support the mission of our church—and I believe that when we gather in community around God's Word, transformation happens.

Adult Formation includes small groups, Adult Sunday school, Koffee & Kare, Sew to Share, men's and women's ministries, prayer, marriage and care ministries, college and young adult ministries, special events, mission trips, Next Steps Quarterly, and our Resource Wall.



Ministry Highlights:

- Over 50 small group opportunities, all aimed at knowing the God of the Bible and living transformed lives.
- Adult Sunday School saw 100+ attendees covering topics like apologetics, church history, and learning biblical Hebrew.
- Summer Table Groups launched: 33 host tables with 325+ participants.
- Koffee & Kare, Sew to Share, and the Men's Prayer Group offered community-focused ways to serve and support.
- Men's and Women's Ministries hosted events like sports outings and brunches, creating space to connect and grow.
- New growth is emerging in areas



- like prayer, marriage, and young adult ministry.
- Community care partnerships like GriefShare and Celebrate Recovery support both church members and the wider community.
- Special events included Bond on the Pond and Prepare Him Room, drawing in both members and guests.
- Mission Trip to Alaska: 21 people served Alaska Christian College with joy and energy.
- Our Resource Wall near the Patio entrance continues to expand, offering biblical materials to help people grow in faith. Over 24 book resources were given away! These and other resources are also available in the library—don't miss checking it out.
- Scripture journals for sermon series and seasonal devotionals for Advent and Lent were made available to keep our hearts centered on Jesus.

This ministry doesn't happen without our amazing facilitators and leaders. We've seen an increase in new facilitators, and I'm so excited for what's ahead. Want to take your next step? Consider joining or leading a group!

—Holly Crowser



Senior Adult Ministry

As seniors, we may not have the energy of our youth, but our desire to make a difference remains strong. We need one another—and we're better together!

Things we do to stay engaged:

- Learn a new skill
- Help new people feel at home
- Attend Bible classes taught by great teachers in our church
- Visit shut-ins
- Pray regularly and evangelize
- Invite others to your home
- Spend meaningful time with your grandkids—your spiritual influence matters!



Join our Senior Bible Study, Thursdays at 1:30 pm. We also go on many adventures out together. If you'd like help getting connected, please don't hesitate to reach out!

P.S. For those curious about our engagement status: Merri Henderson and I will be united in marriage on Friday, July 25, surrounded by our families. You're invited to our open house on Saturday, July 26, from 2:00–4:30 pm in the Patio! I'll be selling my condo and moving to Merri's home southwest of Alexandria.

—Pastor Gregg

Technical Ministry

The Technical Ministry has grown in exciting ways this year! Our weekly average online attendance continues to rise, and we've welcomed volunteers of all ages—especially youth—who are eager to jump in and serve.

A major development was launching live translation during our 11:00 am services, helping attendees experience





worship in their native languages. This opens up new opportunities to connect with international communities locally.

We've also provided support and consultation to rural churches—both within and outside the Covenant denomination. One highlight was helping a Lutheran church in Hoffman upgrade their entire video setup, dramatically improving their live stream quality.

—David LeVahn

Worship Ministry

We've been busy in worship ministry this year! Our team of 70+ volunteers continues to be dedicated to our mission of fostering authentic worship at Alexandria Covenant. In addition to our regular Sunday morning worship, we hosted hymn sings, worship nights, 2 concerts, and led worship for the Rural Impact Leadership Conference. I am so grateful for the teams we have!

A highlight from this past year is how many opportunities we've had to encourage the involvement of kids and youth in our worship. I love to see the multi-generational teams! We've added more youth to our Sunday morning worship team. We've seen some of our youth join the choir. Our CK Crew was back again to lead worship in May. And the kids' choir for our Christmas Cantata was a huge win! They were

amazing singers, but I was equally blessed to see 30+ elementary kids sitting at tables in the gym with our adult choir members that morning, being encouraged and affirmed for their efforts.

These are great opportunities for our experienced leaders to mentor the next generation of leaders, and it is so fun to see this happening!

I've said it before, but it bears repeating. Your participation in worship matters! We have an opportunity when we gather and worship through song. We get to declare truth about the God we love through the lyrics we sing. We get to offer our praise to Him. And we can encourage each other as we do it. Continue to sing out!

—Naomi Sands

**First Impressions,
Hospitality & Assimilation**

What a year it has been! In May of 2024, I stepped into the role of Director of Engagement. This past year has been filled with learning, connecting, serving, growing, and receiving so much encouragement and grace. It's been a joy to join this role and work alongside an incredible staff team and church family.

We currently have over 300 volunteers



serving in our First Impressions and Hospitality ministries, which include the Welcome Desk, Greeters, Ushers, Hospitality, and ACCERT. On an average Sunday, it takes about 55 volunteers to cover all of our needs. It's been such a privilege to meet so many people who joyfully and faithfully serve in these roles.



In September, we moved the coffee area from the Gym to the Hall to foster better connection and fellowship between services. It's been a fantastic spot for people of all ages to gather and catch up. I started keeping track of coffee orders after the move—70 cases! That equals about 33,600 cups of coffee in just 10 months.



Event planning has also been a highlight! It's been fun to find creative ways to bring our church family together.

- Summer Fest was a big success—we served over 650 hot dogs!
- We added Fall Fest for the first time, and around 250 people came for food, games, and worship.
- Wednesday Night Meals became a monthly night of connection, especially in the second half of the school year—we were serving 250–275 people each time!



In addition to these larger events, I've had the privilege of assisting with Men's





and Women's Ministry events, Exploring Membership, RILC, the John DeLancey Conference, and even a special event honoring Police Officers and First Responders, among others.

Connect Cards have been a valuable tool for getting to know those who are new to our church or looking to get involved. This year, we received 77 Connect Cards! It's been such a blessing to walk alongside people as they discover where God is calling them to serve and belong.

The new Connect at Covenant Wall has been a fun and helpful addition—it highlights upcoming events and features photos from past gatherings. It's one more way for people to see what's happening and where they can plug in. The screen addition has allowed us to share even more—and it's been a joy to

partner with Linda LeVahn on this!

We've also expanded our social media presence on Instagram and Facebook, which often serves as someone's first impression before ever stepping through our doors. It's been such fun to capture photos and video snippets at events that showcase the life and activity of our church throughout the week. If you ever have pictures from events—send them my way! We love sharing what our church family is up to!

This is just a glimpse into what God has done this past year. I can't wait to see how He continues to bless and grow our church in the year ahead. If you feel God nudging your heart to serve, know that He will equip you. Let's connect and find a place that's a good fit for you!

—Janel Zappe



Executive Pastor Report

This year brought big changes for me—retiring from Student Ministry, taking a break, and returning as Interim Executive Pastor, now officially serving in a permanent $\frac{3}{4}$ time role.

My work this year has included:

- Updating policies, the employee handbook, job descriptions, and continuity plans
- Supporting our Global, Regional, and Local Missions Teams
- Helping plan the Rural Impact Leadership Conference
- Officiating two weddings and leading premarital counseling
- Visiting the Seelhammers (our missionaries in South Africa) with Pastor Trinity
- Leading the mission team to Alaska Christian College
- Overseeing facilities and logistics
- Supporting staff and caring for our building and people
- Heading up the Associate Pastor Search Committee
- Assisting with Marriage Mentor development
- Learning our church database (CCB) as the new administrator
- Serving on the Leadership Team and Transportation Committee

I'm enjoying this role and look forward to serving alongside Pastor Trinity as we continue to grow and lead people toward Jesus.

—Pastor Brian



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

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.



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Office open Mon-Thu 8:00 am - 4:30 pm & Fri 8:00 am - Noon
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