

Community Connections January 2025



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Churches partnering to transform lives with life skills classes, clothing, shoes, personal care items, Bibles, furniture (referrals through Love INC to the Caring and Sharing Room), Rainbow Rider passes, gas cards, grocery cards, bikes, appliances (must take a class to qualify), Christmas toys, blankets, and prayer.

Connections For All Ages

Community Chess – Everyone is Welcome. 12 sessions with total instruction or just play. There are plenty of chess boards and chairs available for you. Every Wednesday from 3:30 – 5:30 PM located at AAHS Commons Area (4300 Pioneer Rd SE, Alexandria).

Tabletop & Roleplay – Are you ready for Adventure? Come join the quest Sunday afternoons at ArtisTree (2020 Fillmore St, Alexandria) from 3 PM – 7 PM as we practice the art of interactive storytelling! No experience needed. Under 18's allowed with guardian and DM permission. Regardless of age, you must be able to participate in the game in a way that is safe and enjoyable to all. This game is committed to accessibility. Please let us know if you need help attending this event. No fee to play, but we encourage you to acquire some food and caffeinated drinks for the journey at the Cafe register window to support our amazing host facility and enable us to keep this game free to all!

Alexandria Farmers Market – Come out and enjoy shopping the local farmer's market at Copper Trail Brewing (205 Broadway, Alexandria) from 11 AM – 3 PM the first Sunday of every month. There will be 12 vendors there selling vegetables, breads, meats, canned goods, sweets, and more!

Frozen Fairy Tale – Digital Escape Room – Join the Douglas County Library (720 Fillmore St, Alexandria) during regular library hours through February 15th to navigate through various fairy tales, solving riddles related to beloved characters and stories, to break the ice curse! Escape Room begins in the Teen Area and continues throughout the library. All ages welcome to play and win a small prize. Grades 6-12 may register for Grand Prize! Limit 1 prize per patron. Open during regular Library hours. No registration needed.

Free Tax Prep – WCMCA free tax preparation and e-filing, by certified volunteer preparers, for low-income individuals and families through April 15. For more information, please see wcmca.org/program/free-tax-preparation/.

Energy Assistance Program – West Central Community Actions is accepting applications for 24/25 season. Energy Assistance is a program that is designed to assist income eligible households with the cost of energy/heating their homes. Everyone deserves affordable, continuous, and safe home energy services. Call to request an application via postal mail at 1-800-494-4805 option 1, request an application via email at eap@wcmca.org, or go to <https://energy-assistance.web.commerce.state.mn.us/>.

Weatherization Program – This program helps income eligible households cut their heating costs and improve the comfort level of their homes by making energy-savings home improvements. Improvements to be made are determined from the energy auditor's blower door testing equipment at your home. Items may include furnace improvements; minimize infiltration; insulation of attic, walls, and floor; and venting of water heaters and heating systems. For more information, please call 218-685-4486.

Kid Connections



Pop-Up Traveling Tree House – The Traveling Tree House is a mobile learning center that provides FREE learning opportunities for local children. At each visit kids experience reading, crafts, and activities. Designed for children Pre K thru Elementary but open to all ages. Events will be held Saturday, January 11 from 9 – 10:15 AM at the Carlos Event Center (210 Victoria Ave, Carlos), 10:45 AM – 12 PM at Grand Arbor (403 Pioneer Rd SE, Alexandria), and 1 – 2:15 PM at the Douglas County Library (720 Fillmore St, Alexandria).

Story Hour at Cherry Street Books – Join Cherry Street Books (503 Broadway St, Alexandria) on **Saturdays** for a fun filled mornings from 10 - 11 AM. Geared for kids ages 3-5 we will sing songs, read stories, and make crafts.

Douglas County Library – has many storytime hours and activities going on at the library (720 Fillmore St, Alexandria) daily. Please see their website for more information. <https://www.douglascountylibrary.org/events>.

Adult Connections

The Mama Co. – Moms of kids 0-18 join Vie Church (2671 S McKay Ave, Alexandria) January 14th at 7 PM for a fun and free event! Our opening activity for the night will be a fun and free women's clothing swap! The perfect way to declutter and exchange clothing that

you no longer wear for items from your friends' wardrobe. You can drop off clothes beginning Sunday, January 12th in the Vie Church main entrance or bring the night of the event.

Mocktail Monday @ The Lounge – Join Ollie Birch Boutique + Lounge (518 Broadway St, Alexandria) **every Monday** from 4 PM – 7 PM for a free in-store tasting event. Whether you're looking for a flavorful drink without alcohol or simply want to enjoy a fun evening out, our expertly crafted mocktails are sure to delight your taste buds. *Must be 21 to participate in the tasting.

Young Families Sundays – Join Lake Community Church (490 Voyager Dr, Alexandria) **every first and third Sunday** of the month from 3:30 – 5 PM or 5 – 6:30 PM for a Bible study to bring together young families to share experiences and learn about God together. New families welcome to join any time! Contact Tyler Hauck for more details: hauck_tyler@yahoo.com.

Young Adults Ministry – Meets **every Thursday** at 6:30 PM at Reach Church (1310 N Nokomis NE, Alexandria).

In It Together Mom's Group – Join Spirit Life Church (912 MN-29, Alexandria) 10 AM – 11:30 AM on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month. Children are welcome.

Men's Breakfast – This year's Alexandria Covenant Men's Breakfast will feature Mark Deterding, one of Alexandria's gifted business and leadership coaches. Mark will discuss servant leadership, drawing from Jesus Christ's example in a way that is applicable to every man's circle of influence. Come be inspired in your leadership and connect with other men over a great breakfast on January 4th from 9 – 11 AM located at Alexandria Covenant (4005 Dakota St, Alexandria). Sign up here alexandriacovenant.ccbchurch.com/goto/forms/355/responses/new.

MOMS – Meet other moms at Alexandria Covenant Church (4005 Dakota St, Alexandria) 9 – 11 AM on January 8th. Childcare available.

Financial Peace University – God isn't silent about money. And the church shouldn't be either! Debt, investing, stewardship, money stress...it's all right there in the Bible. Join St Mary's Church (421 Hawthorne St, Alexandria) for Financial Peace University where you will learn biblical principles around finances and making wise financial decisions. Childcare available. This is a nine-part series that will occur every Sunday beginning January 26th from 6 – 8 PM.

Senior Connections

Senior Coffee – The first Tuesday of every month join Calvary Lutheran Church (605 Douglas St, Alexandria) from 10 – 11 AM.

Ready Ride – Safe, friendly rides helping adults 65+ maintain independence. Call Ready Ride at 218-685-7433 for more information.

Alexandria Senior Center – Open weekdays 9:00 AM - 3:30 PM (414 Hawthorne St, Alexandria). For more information on all their many exciting events, call 320-762-2087 or visit their website at www.alexsrctr.org.

Dancing Sky Area Agency on Aging – Dancing Sky works with rural communities to help older adults stay in control of their choices. Go to www.dancingskyaaa.org for more information on programs for older adults and caregivers in your area. Follow Dancing Sky Area Agency on Aging for updates and information. Contact the Senior Linkage Line for assistance on options for seniors at 800-333-2433.

Support Groups



Sundays

Recovery Game Day – Every **third Sunday** at the Alano Club, 12 – 4 PM (1604 Jefferson St, Alexandria).

Friends & Family Game Day – Get ready for an evening filled with laughter, competition, and quality family time at ArtisTree Café (2020 Fillmore St, Alexandria) **every Sunday** from 2 – 6 PM for Friends & Family Game Night! Whether you're a seasoned board game enthusiast or just looking to unwind with your loved ones, this free event promises something for everyone.

Mondays

Amazing Journeys Support Group for Weight Loss – Meets **second and fourth Monday** from 6 – 7:30 PM at the YMCA. For more information, please call Betty at 320-304-3444.

Jesus Cares Bible Studies – The Jesus Cares Ministry reaches out to individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities through bible study and fellowship opportunities. They meet on the **second and fourth Monday** of the month at 7 – 8 PM at St. Paul's Lutheran Church (718 Victoria Dr, Alexandria). If you have questions or would like more information, call 320-762-1644.

Navigating Autism Together – Living Word Lutheran Church (1722 16th Ave E, Alexandria) meets the **third Monday** of each month from 7 PM – 9 PM to support care givers of autistic individuals.

Tuesdays

Lounge Legends Trivia – Join The Lounge (inside Ollie Birch – 518 Broadway St, Alexandria) **every Tuesday** at 7 PM for themed trivia.

Young Couples without Kids – This Life Group is an ongoing group that meets **every Tuesday** 7 – 8:30 PM with the purpose of growing deeper in community with others and studying the Bible regularly. Topics and studies will change periodically, but they are intended to establish a strong foundation in the faith. Located at the Peterson home (1804 Oak Knoll Dr. NE, Alexandria) contact Andrew Paskewitz at andrew.paskewitz@gmail.com for more information.

Pens and Pals – Held on the **first Tuesday** of every month at The Church of St. Mary's (420 Irving St, Alexandria). Pens and Pals is a ministry to love and serve persons in our faith community with disabilities through adult faith formation by creating a trusting partnership between all abilities of adult parishioners. God wants our lives to overflow with mercy, love, and compassion. Contact Barb Friedrichs by email at barb326@live.com or call 320-766-6106.

Caregivers Support Group – Meets the **second Tuesday** of each month from 1:30 – 3:30 PM at First Lutheran Church (1655 18th Ave. E, Alexandria). For more details, call Val at 320-762-2196.

Cancer Support Group – Meeting the **third Tuesday** of the month at Alomere lobby conference room, (111 17th Ave. E, Alexandria). Meetings are offered in person or on Zoom. For more information call Jo at 320-766-3741 or email her at jopete@gmail.com.

Alzheimer's Support Group – Supporting caregivers in the community who have loved ones with Alzheimer's or Dementia. Helping each other, sharing our burdens, finding tools to help with the journey. This group meets **every third Tuesday of the month** at ArtisTree Cafe (2020 Fillmore St, Alexandria).

Grieving Parents Group – Located at First Lutheran Church (1655 18th Ave E, Alexandria) on **every third Tuesday** of the month from 7 – 8:15 PM. Contact FLC for more info at (320)762-2196 or at admin@firstlutheranalexandria.com.

Alexandria Area Newcomers – Shalom Lutheran Church (681 Voyager Dr, Alexandria) The Alexandria Newcomers meets on the **fourth Tuesday** of every month from 6:30 – 8 PM. Meetings are open to residents of all ages who are new to the community or former residents who have moved away and returned. For more information contact us at alexandriaareanewcomers@gmail.com.

Wednesdays

All Recovery Meeting - All Recovery is a support group for people interested in talking about any path to Recovery. We are open to people curious about, currently in, or affected by/supportive of substance use and mental health Recovery. We read a daily meditation of a different kind each week, and check in or share anything that could be helpful to you or someone else's Recovery. This is a free, confidential group that meets on **Wednesdays from 6 – 7 PM**.

Worship Wednesday – Join ArtisTree Café (2020 Fillmore St, Alexandria) for an inspiring and joyful afternoon of music, worship, and creativity **every Wednesday** from 4 PM – 7 PM. This is a great place to meet up before youth group, practice new songs, and discuss ways to show God's love to your community.

Handicraft Support Group – Knitters, sewers, crafters of all varieties and abilities are encouraged to join the Handicraft Support Group. Bring your projects and join others for company, encouragement, and inspiration. Located at Douglas County Library (720 Fillmore St, Alexandria) from 1 – 3 PM **every first and third Wednesday**.

Mom's Group – This is a group for moms with children of all ages to engage in fellowship and community as we encourage one another on the **first and third Wednesdays of each month** at 9:30 AM at Reach Church (1310 N Nokomis NE, Alexandria). Children are invited to join you!

St. Mary's Walking Group – Are you looking to get some exercise and good conversation? Join Katrina Brault the **first and third Wednesdays** each month from 6 – 7 PM. Meet at Big Ole. All are welcome!

Someplace Safe Women's Empowerment Group – A support group for survivors of abuse. Please call Leigh, at Someplace Safe for more information at 320-762-1995.

Coffee Connection – Are you feeling isolated, alone, and disconnected? We need real relationships with one another, so we are starting on ongoing opportunity to connect with other people, make some new friends, and to care well for one another. Join from 9:30 – 11 AM for coffee, donuts, and genuine conversations at Lake Community Church (490 Voyager Dr, Alexandria).

Game Night – Join Unity Recovery (503 Hawthorne St, Alexandria) on the **4th Wednesday** of each month from 4 PM – 6 PM for card games, board games, dice games, cribbage, UNO, Yahtzee, Go Fish, and more!

Thursdays

Belong – Women's Connection Group **every Thursday** from 6:30 – 8:30 PM gather for community game night and connection. We will celebrate our differences, cross generations, and nurture friendships. Located at Leigha VanderTuin's home (9364 County Road 11 NW, Alexandria) contact Leigha VanderTuin at leighavandertuin@gmail.com for more information.

Puzzle Night – Making friends has never been easier or more fun! Join us for puzzles, tea, and camaraderie **every other Thursday** (beginning October 3rd) at 6 PM at ArtisTree Cafe (2020 Fillmore St, Alexandria). This is a free event, food and beverages available for purchase.

Ladies & Lattes Coffee Chat – Ladies of all ages welcome: Come join us for fellowship, sharing, and laughter the **second Thursday** every month at Common Ground Coffee House (516 Hawthorne St, Alexandria) from 1 – 2:30 PM. Contact Paulette DeFoe for more information dpdefoe@gmail.com.

Crochet/Knit Night – Join us at ArtisTree Cafe (2020 Fillmore St, Alexandria) **every Thursday** at 6 PM. Bring your own project or just come and learn! This is a time to relax, enjoy a nice tea or coffee, hang out with others, learn from each other, and make some progress on that project that you've been dreaming of finishing (or even starting!). An experienced Crocheter will be on hand to help you if needed, or you can bring your skills and help others.

Grieving with Grace – A monthly grief support group hosted by KT Humble Hearts for those who are grieving the loss of a loved one meets every **first Thursday** of the month from 5 PM – 6:30 PM at KT Humble Hearts (700 Cedar St Suite 44, Alexandria). For additional information call 320-219-7144 or email kthumbleheart@gmail.com.

Fridays

Meal and Fellowship – Every Friday dinner and fellowship at The Regeneration Center (1615 6th Ave E, Alexandria) at 6:30 PM. For questions call Dave at 320-815-3590.

Ground Zero – A place for singles, ages 18-30 and is designed for fellowship and to be a safe place for spiritual growth. Meeting **Fridays** from 6 – 8 PM at the Ahlers Home (1015 Kenwood St, Alexandria). Contact Nick Ahlers for details (507) 786-3256 or nickahlersrom116@gmail.com.

Osakis Life Group – Do you live in the Osakis area and are looking for community? If so, we have a group meeting at the Clapper's home on the **first and third Friday** of the month from 7 – 8:30 PM. Light refreshments and childcare provided. Currently studying the book of Philippians. Located at 405 W Queen St, Osakis, contact Bob Clapper at bobclapper@yahoo.com for more information.

Friday Night Karaoke and Koffee – Come sing your heart out in this joyful informal setting. This group tends to be quite silly, so be prepared for lots of laughter and no judgement! **Every Friday** from 7 PM – 9 PM at ArtisTree Café (2020 Fillmore St, Alexandria).

Friday Night Game Nights – Every Friday evening a group of tabletop gamers meets from 5:30 PM – 7 PM at Church of the Pines (3992 Highway 27, Alexandria). Location subject to change – check Facebook page for updates: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/788842233426336>.

Saturdays

Refine Your Rhythm Women's Group – was created to offer an opportunity to come together on the **second Saturday** of the month from 9 AM – 11 AM at Crossings Life's Bridges, LLC (5396 Peaceful Ln NE, Carlos) to unwind, experience connection, and shift your rhythm in an emotionally safe space. Learn from others. Increase your self-compassion. Give yourself grace. Join us when your schedule permits and the time is right for you. Must register for each session you attend at <http://www.crossinglivesbridges.com/events-2>.

Each day of the week

AA Meetings – Seven days a week at various times at the Alano Club located at (1604 Jefferson St, Alexandria). The schedule is posted outside the club door, or you can go to www.district4online.org or call the AA Hotline at 866-423-2969 for more information as well as the schedule for other area meetings.