

Community Connections November 2024

Published by **Love In the Name of Christ** (Love INC of Douglas County Lakes Area) Phone: 320-759-3022 www.loveincdouglas.org
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



Gear Up for Good Shop Event - Let's level the playing field and help more kids play sports this year! All members of the community are welcome to come shop gently used sports equipment on Saturday, **November 2nd** at the Alexandria Area YMCA from 9 AM – 12 pm. Items will be low cost, and proceeds will go towards the annual Strong Kids Campaign to ensure that no family ever gets turned away from a YMCA membership experience.

Arts, Crafts & Holiday Decor Sale – Employees of Sanford Health and a few of their friends have decided to come together and share some of their handmade products for those on your Christmas list. Join them at the Knights of Columbus Hall at the corner of 6th & Nokomis, Alexandria on **November 2nd** from 8 AM – 4 PM.

Alexandria Holiday Arts & Crafters Tour 2024 – Five great locations packed with handmade goodness. The jury has selected 25 handmade sellers for 2024. From knits to wood, to soaps & self-care, to jams & syrups... From fine art to pottery and ornaments, plus home decor to jewelry and children's wear. You'll find gifts for ALL ages and price points. **November 7th** from 4 PM – 7 PM; **November 8th and 9th** from 9 AM – 5 PM. For maps and details follow facebook.com/crafterstour.

First Lutheran Church Christmas Boutique & Bake Sale – First Lutheran will transform their Gathering Space into a Christmas wonderland and be part of the 2-24 Crafter's Tour. There will be Christmas crafts, a bake sale, quilts, lefsa, musical entertainment, a full coffee bar, and much more! Be sure to bring a friend and swing by **November 8th** from 9 AM – 3 PM and **November 9th** from 9 AM – 1 PM at First Lutheran Church (1655 18th Ave E S McKay, Alexandria).

Holiday/Boutique Sale – Join Ida Township Town Hall (4700 County Road 6 NW, Garfield) on **November 8th** from 9 AM – 6 PM and **November 9th** from 8 AM – 3 PM for unique holiday gifts, antiques, holiday decor, canvas lighted prints, collectibles, women's clothing, and so much more!

Save a Buck Shopping Event – They hunt, you shop! Head Downtown Alexandria for the Save a Buck shopping event **November 8th and 9th**. Stores will be offering awesome deals and giveaways. You don't want to miss this!

Bethesda Lutheran 52nd Fall Bazaar – Come and join Bethesda Lutheran Church (1204 N Nokomis St, Alexandria) on **November 9th** from 8 AM – 1 PM for coffee and rolls in the morning followed by a pulled pork lunch. Lefsa, baked goods, and craft items for sale.

Deer Hunter's Widow Craft & Vendor Festival – Crooked Willow Event Center (11181 County Road 82 SE, Osakis,) will have a variety of vendors and crafters available on **November 9th** from 9 AM – 3 PM, so bring your friends and support some amazing local small business owners. Shop for items for yourself and find some great gifts for the upcoming holiday season! Food and drink will be available for purchase during the event. If you have questions regarding the event or would like to sign up as a vendor/crafter, please email MeghanBerg14@yahoo.com.

St. Mary's Community Thanksgiving Dinner – Join St. Mary's School Gym (420 Irving St, Alexandria) on Thanksgiving Day, **November 28th** from 11:30 AM – 1 PM for a Thanksgiving meal. This meal is for those who would be alone, or those who would simply like to share a meal with others in the community. For meal deliveries to the homebound (1-2 meals per household), call Bonnie at 320-763-9429. Deadline to order is November 25th.

9th Annual Parade of Trees and Christmas in the Fort – Come to the Legacy of the Lakes (205 Broadway St, Alexandria) on **November 29th** from 2 PM – 6 PM to see the holiday trees decorated by local clubs, businesses, and organizations and you can vote for your favorite. Enjoy a cup of hot cocoa and dress it up with your favorite toppings at our Hot Cocoa Bar and roast a marshmallow for a delicious s'more. Follow the lighted path to Fort Alexandria at the Runestone Museum (206 Broadway St, Alexandria) to visit Santa and have more holiday fun! The Downtown Lighting Ceremony at 5:15 PM. This event is free and open to the public, so gather your loved ones and come for a visit! More info at christmasinalex.com and runestonemuseum.org.

Lights on Broadway Holiday Light Parade – Join us in the fun on **November 29th** at 5:30 for the annual Light Up Broadway holiday light parade. Parade route will run from 4th Avenue to 8th Avenue. Anyone can enter, no charge to enter – just send email of intent with contact name, email address, and phone number to christmasinalex@gmail.com. For more information visit christmasinalex.com.

Garden of Lights – Join the Legacy of the Lakes Gardens (205 3rd Ave W, Alexandria) for a free community walk-through light display made possible by donations from local businesses and organization such as you! The display is open **November 29th – December 29th** Thursdays – Saturdays from 5 – 8 PM & Sundays 5 – 7 PM.

Alexandria Winter Farmers Market - Full line of locally grown fruits, vegetables, meat, baked goods, etc. will be held at Copper Trail Brewing Co. (205 Broadway St., Alexandria) Sunday, Nov. 3 from 11 AM - 3 PM.

Energy Assistance Program – West Central Community Actions is accepting applications for 2024/2025 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 follow this link: <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

Stay & Play - Enjoy a warm and inviting space where you and your child can play and socialize with others in the community. For ages 1-4. **October 3rd – December 19th** from 10 AM – 11:15 AM in the Douglas County Library's Big Meeting Room (720 Fillmore St, Alexandria). No Stay and Play on 11/28/2024. Please note: this is unstructured free play time for both caregiver and child; not a structured storytime.

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>.

Alexandria Small Mall – The Small Mall allows children, who may not have as much, to realize the Joy of family Christmas giving. Children are encouraged to bring one dollar to the Small Mall to purchase gifts for their families. The first gift is a quarter, the second gift is a dime, and the remaining gifts a nickel. Children will shop with a volunteer who will also wrap the gifts for the children to take home. The Small Mall will take place Monday, **Dec. 2th** and Tuesday, **Dec. 3th** from 4 PM – 7 PM in the old Sears store in the Midway Mall (2819 State Hwy 29, Alexandria).

Toys for Kids – Toys for Tots/Toys for Kids is the premier community service project of the Marine Corps League, Runestone Detachment 1409 partnering with Love INC. Through the support of local businesses and communities, we are able to bless many families during Christmas season throughout Douglas County and other nearby areas. Applications can be found at <https://www.loveincdouglas.org/>. Application deadline is **December 13th** and pick up date is **December 20th** from 10 AM – 2 PM at Reach Church (1310 N Nokomis NE, Alexandria). Questions, call Love INC at 320-759-3022.

Adult Connections

Married Young Adults Connect Night – Join Alexandria Covenant Church (4005 Dakota St, Alexandria) on **November 7th** from 6:30 PM – 8 PM for pizza, root beer floats, and fellowship with other young married couples. If you are married, between the ages of 18-35, and looking for a community of others in your life stage looking to grow your faith as a couple. Childcare available. Sign up here: alexandriacovenant.ccbchurch.com/goto/forms/503/responses/new

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. Sign up for the 3:30 session here: https://lcc.ministryplatform.com/portal/event_signup.aspx?id=9337.

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



Senior Connections

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

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

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.

Grief Connect Group – Located at Calvary Lutheran Church (605 Douglas St, Alexandria) – The **third Tuesday** of every month from 6:30 – 7:30 PM.

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.