

Community Connections August 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, furniture (referrals through Love INC to the Caring and Sharing Room), Rainbow Rider passes, gas cards, appliances (must take a class to qualify), Christmas toys, blankets, and prayer.

Connections For All Ages

Free Summer Meals – Monday through Friday, **June 4th – August 16th** (excluding June 19 & July 4th), Woodland Elementary Cafeteria (1410 South McKay Ave, Alexandria) will be providing free meals for children. Breakfast: 7:30 – 9 AM (18 & under free; adults \$3.75), Lunch: 11 AM – 12:30 PM (18 & under free; adults \$5.25).

Free Summer Meals – Monday through Friday, **June 10 – August 16** (excluding July 4 & 5), Zion Lutheran Church & School (300 Lake St.) will be providing free meals to children in the cafeteria. Breakfast: 8 – 9:30 AM (18 & under free; adults \$3.75), Lunch: 10:30 AM – 1 PM (18 & under free; adults \$5).

Crazy Days Downtown Alexandria – Get ready for the annual Crazy Day Sales in Alexandria on **August 1st- 3rd from 10 AM – 6 PM!** This amazing event transforms our downtown into a busy marketplace filled with incredible deals and fun! Local businesses offer fantastic discounts, promotions, and giveaways on a wide range of products from clothing and accessories to treasures and antiques.

Brandon Car Show – Join Gardonville (800 Central Ave N, Brandon) on **August 1st** from 5 PM – 8 PM for live music, food trucks, vintage tractors and dozens of the area's most gorgeous cars. Admission is free and open to the public!

An Evening with a Christian Songwriter and Former Atheist Chris Driesbach – Join St Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church (718 Victoria Dr, Alexandria) on **August 1st** from 7 PM – 8 PM as Chris tells stories of his journey to faith and sing about Jesus! This event is free to the public, CDs and downloads will be available.

Open Skate – Looking for a way to beat the summer heat? Need some ideas for a rainy day? Check out our Open Skate on **August 2nd** from 9 AM – 12 PM, **August 7th** from 9 AM – 4 PM, **August 8th** from 9 AM – 4 PM, at the Runestone Community Center (802 3rd Ave W, Alexandria). Just \$2 per skater! No skates? – you can rent skates at Cowing Robards downtown Alexandria (514 Broadway St, Alexandria). Sorry, NO sticks or pucks allowed.

Women's Beach Day – Meet Lake Community Church at Lake Latoka (2950 Latoka Rd, Alexandria) on **August 3rd** from 1 PM – 4 PM for an afternoon of fun in the sand, sun, and water. Bring the family and soak up these fleeting summer days!

Servicing Saturday – Alexandria Covenant Church (4005 Dakota St, Alexandria) is going out to serve our community **August 3rd** from 8:45 AM – 1:30 PM. Sign up here: <https://alexandriacovenant.cbchurch.com/goto/forms/475/responses/new> or call 320-763-5659 for additional information.

St. Paul's Annual Fish Fry – Everyone is welcome to come and join St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church (718 Victoria Dr, Alexandria) on **August 4th** from 5 PM – 7 PM for our annual fish fry. You are welcome to bring a dish to pass if you wish.

Pizza & Live Music Nights at Gathered Oaks – Gathered Oaks (4550 County Rd 34 NW, Alexandria) is excited to be hosting our outdoor Live Music and Pizza Nights! Family-friendly event (Regular and gluten-free pizza crusts are available for purchase). Bring your own chair or blankets for the lawn. Will be held rain or shine! If rain, the event will be located underneath the awning and the lower level of the barn. 4:30 PM- 8 PM (hand tossed, wood-fired pizza) 5 PM – 8 PM (live music). **August 5th and 12th.**

Grief Share – Alexandria Covenant Church (4005 Dakota St, Alexandria) will be hosting two grief sharing groups. Widows & Widowers to meet **August 5th** from 5 PM – 6:30 PM, Room GR200, Enter through Door #4. Loss of a significant loved one to meet **August 6th** from 5:30 PM – 7 PM, Room H101, Enter through Door #6. Sign up here: <https://alexandriacovenant.cbchurch.com/goto/forms/357/responses/new> or call Mary Glanzer, 320-760-0258

Friends of the Library Used Book Sale – Visit the Runestone Community Center (802 3rd Ave W, Alexandria) on **August 6th and 7th** from 7 AM – 6 PM and **August 8th** from 7 AM – 1 PM and purchase used books! All proceeds support the Friends of the Library and the Douglas County Library.

Alexandria's Annual Community Night Out – Please join the Alexandria Police Department for Community Night Out held on **August 6th** from 5 PM – 7 PM at City Park (118 City Park Rd, Alexandria). Community Night Out enhances the relationship between neighbors and law enforcement while bringing back a true sense of community. Furthermore, it provides a great opportunity to bring police and neighbors together under positive circumstances.

Summer Sounds by Brophy Series – The Alexandria MN Rotary Club is excited to announce their second annual Summer Sounds by Brophy series. The venue is located at the beautiful Lake Brophy County Park, about three miles west of Alexandria, along the Central Lakes Bike Path (2175 Brophy Landing NW, Alexandria). **August 6th** the Blond & The Bohunk will perform at 5 PM followed by

the Johnny Holm Band. Bring a lawn chair and enjoy the music! Learn about parking, along with a map of the venue at Lake Brophy County Park here: <https://summersoundsbybrophy.com/map-parking/>

Memorial Butterfly Release – Each year, Hospice of Douglas County hosts a Butterfly Release Memorial Service for those who want to celebrate the life of a loved one. This year, the Butterfly Release will be held **August 6th** at 5:30 PM. You may purchase a butterfly in honor or in memory of someone either on our website: www.hospicedouglascounty.org or the evening of the release. The new location of the event will be at Douglas County Courthouse (305 8th Ave, Alexandria), music provided by Erik Schutlz, ice cream provided by Cub Foods. Contact Suzanne with questions at 320-763-6018. In case of inclement weather, the release will be moved to August 7th. Tune into KXRA for updates.

The Purple Halls Concert – The Purple Halls are coming back to Alexandria Covenant Church (4005 Dakota St, Alexandria) on **August 6th** from 6:30 PM – 8 PM for a free concert! Freewill donations will be accepted. The last twelve years the group has been sharing their unique and authentic, uplifting and energetic acoustic driven music with churches, festivals, and venues across the horizons of America & Europe.

Worship at Brophy Park – New Life Christian Church is hosting an outdoor worship service and cookout event on **August 11th** at 10 AM at Lake Brophy County Park (4849 Co Rd 82 NW, Alexandria). Church will provide meat, please bring a side, and a lawn chair.

Hello Neighbor: Bean Bag Frenzy – Hello Neighbor is an Alexandria area initiative with a simple purpose – to help new and existing residents integrate into the community. Moving to a new place and feeling connected to a new town with new people is challenging. Hello Neighbor can help with that. May's event will provide social time to connect with others through board games and "get-to-know-you" activities on **August 13th** at 5:00 PM. Join us at Crooked Willow (11181 County Rd 82 SE, Osakis, MN) for this 18+ event. Learn more at helloneighbor.mn.org, by emailing hello@helloneighbor.mn.org, or by calling 320-763-3161. **Pre-registration is preferred – register here:** https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSf2g2K1HE3c1qJ_nU1hLcOww0SpZXwjsyM18aQN-AxIFBzLag/viewform

Outdoor Movie Nights – Bring your own lawn chair and blanket to enjoy a family friendly movie outside! Join us at 300 West Queen St, Osakis (empty lot across from the softball fields). **August 14th** (Lady and the Tramp) from 7 PM to 10 PM (movie start time will depend on the sunset). Free popcorn and yard games! Pop, water, and candy for sale (proceeds to Osakis Lutheran Church Youth). All are welcome!

Douglas County Fair – Join us for the Douglas County Fair (300 Fairgrounds Rd, Alexandria) **August 14th – 17th** for four fun-filled days of rides, special events, local talent, and more! Visit <https://www.dcmnfair.com/> for more information or call 866-656-FAIR.

Open Mic Night – Join us for a local Open Mic Night at Cherry Street Books (503 Broadway St) on **August 15th** from 6:30 PM – 8:30 PM! Whether you're a poet, writer, or simply an enthusiast of the written word...this is your chance to share your work or enjoy the creative expressions of others!

Stuff the Bus Registration – Stuff the Bus is a community wide effort to collect donations of new school supplies and backpacks to be distributed to registered Pre-K-12th grade students in Douglas & Pope Counties. **To receive a bag, register online Monday July 15th through Thursday August 15th.** If your school provides supplies this year, registered students will still be provided with a new backpack of choice. Distribution of backpacks will take place at the following times/locations: Glenwood Chamber & Welcome Center (7 1st St NW, Glenwood): **August 19th** 4 – 6 PM and United Way Office (503 Hawthorne St, Alexandria): **August 21st** 10 AM – 5 PM and August 22nd 8 AM – 4 PM. Register here: <https://uwdp.org/what-we-do/united-way-programs/stuff-the-bus-registration.html>

Men's Summit – Join Alexandria Covenant Church on **August 21st** from 6:30 PM – 8 PM for an evening of great food and fellowship at 7020 CR 8 NW, Alexandria 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. For questions contact Jeff Snyder at 320-219-1186 or Dave Mergens at 612-239-1209.

40th Anniversary Party 'Celebrating our Seniors!' – Come and join the Alexandria Senior Center for the 40th Anniversary Party on **August 25th** from 3 PM – 7 PM. There will be an open house & tours (upon request), food provided by Smokin' Brews & Ques, dance lessons, music provided by the Julie Lee band, massage, makeover, rides & more! Come and visit with friends and help us 'Celebrate our Seniors.' Contact 320-762-2087 for additional information.

Overdose Awareness Day – Join us at Big Ole' Park (2nd Ave and Broadway, Alexandria) on **August 29th** from 6 PM – 8 PM. 6-7:30 PM: Speak with professionals about substance use disorder and overdose prevention. 7:30-8 PM: Candlelight vigil to honor those lost to substance use disorder or overdose.

Summer Concert Series – Head over to the Douglas County courthouse lawn (305 8th Ave W, Alexandria) **every Thursday** night for the Summer Concert Series presented by the Red Willow Art Coalition. Free to the public! All concerts begin at 7 PM. Bring a lawn chair or blanket.

Alexandria Farmers Market - Full line of locally grown fruits, vegetables, meat, baked goods, as well as an Art Market including artisans', food, and live music (Art Market just on Saturdays). Located on Broadway & 2nd Ave in Big Ole Park, 1/2 block N of the Chamber Office. **May 11 thru Oct 31:** Sat. 9 AM – 12 PM, Tues. 9 AM – 12 PM, Thur. 3 PM – 6 PM

Kid Connections

Holding Hands – Caregivers and their children can enjoy some unstructured outdoor play as we meet at different playgrounds for community and fellowship throughout the summer through Lake Community Church (490 Voyager Dr, Alexandria) the **second Tuesday** of the month from 9 AM – 11 AM. August gatherings will be located at St. Agnes School (307 W 4th Ave, Osakis). Reach out to Saraah for more details at saraahloryn@gmail.com.

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.

Story Time in the Gardens – Join us in the Legacy Gardens (205 3rd Ave W, Alexandria) this summer **August 5th & 19th** for free story time, perfect for ages 2-5. Stories start at 10 AM. In case of rain, story time will take place in the museum.

Douglas County Library – has many storytime hours and activities going on at the library (503 Broadway St, Alexandria) daily. Please see their website for more information. <https://www.douglascountylibrary.org/events>.

Traveling Tree House – The Traveling Tree House is a mobile learning center that provides FREE summer learning opportunities for local children held **June 10th – August 15th**. At each visit kids experience 75 minutes of reading, crafts, and activities. A snack and gently used book, of their choice, is sent home with them to keep after each visit. The Tree House stops at 12 designated locations within Douglas County. The program lasts for 10 weeks and is designed for children Pre K. – Elementary but open to all ages. No pre-registration is required to attend. Cancellations due to weather are posted on the Traveling Tree House's Facebook page @TravelingTreeHouseUW. Visit <https://www.facebook.com/photo/?fbid=830978585729151&set=a.618737033619975> for full list of times and park locations.

Teen Connections

YFC Summer Events – Youth For Christ (124 7th Ave W. #15, Alexandria) has many things planned for teens this summer. Please see facebook.com/AlexandriaYFC/ for more info on basketball tournament, get togethers, camp, etc.

Twins Youth Baseball Clinic – The Minnesota Twins and Twins Community Fund, in partnership with Great River Energy, will offer a FREE baseball and softball clinic on Saturday, **August 3rd** from 10 AM – 12 PM at Alexandria High School Softball Complex (4300 Pioneer Rd SE, Alexandria). The Twins Community Fund Youth Clinics are designed to teach fundamentals, including hitting, throwing, and defense in a fun and encouraging atmosphere. Clinics are open to kids who play baseball, softball, or for those who do not have any playing experience. The clinics provide instruction for **boys and girls ages 6-12**. The Twins provide all the necessary equipment for the clinic. Participants are asked to bring their own gloves. Registration is required to participate in a clinic – participants can register here, playballmn.leagueapps.com/events/3887520-alexandria-mn---2023-minnesota-twins-youth-clinic.

Adult Connections

Young Families Sundays – Join Lake Community Church (490 Voyager Dr, Alexandria) **every 1st and 3rd 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).

Refine Your Rhythm Women's Group – was created to offer an opportunity come together every **2nd 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.crossinglifesbridges.com/events-2>.

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 **1st and 3rd Wednesdays of each month** at 9:30 AM at Reach Church (1310 N Nokomis NE, Alexandria). Children are invited to join you!



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.

Senior Linkage Line – a service of the Minnesota Board on Aging in partnership with Minnesota's area agencies on aging. Call 800-333-2433 for information on a variety of services such as Aging in Place, Caregiving, and Medicare. mn.gov/senior-linkage-line/

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.

Ageing In Place Program – sponsored by Habitat for Humanity of Douglas County to make improvements to your home for safety, accessibility, or energy efficiency for people 65+. To find out more, please call 320-762-4255.

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 Mondays** from 6 – 7:30 PM at the YMCA. For more information, please call Betty at 320-304-3444.

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

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.

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.

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**.

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).

Embrace Grace – Has your life been impacted by a surprise pregnancy? Join our Embrace Grace Group! Make friends in a judgement-free community of women who want to encourage and support you. We've got your baby needs covered! Get a FREE baby shower thrown for you! Or a Celebration of Life Shower for brave moms who choose adoption. Say goodbye to fear, and hello to joy! We help you find hope when life doesn't make sense. Meeting **every Wednesday** from 6:30 – 8:30 PM at Spirit Life Church (912 State Highway 29 N, 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.

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.

We'll Walk – Alomere Health is launching a monthly wellness walk. Every **second Thursday** of the month from 5:15 – 6:15 PM, an Alomere doctor will lead a group of walkers and discuss wellness along the way. With the cold weather, we'll meet at Viking Plaza Mall (3015 S Hwy 29, Alexandria).

Musical Magic! – Join ArtisTree Café (2020 Fillmore St, Alexandria) **every Thursday** from 7 PM – 9 PM for a night of enchanting melodies, rhythmic beats, mesmerizing dance choreography at the "Musical Magic" event. This event is a celebration of musical creativity, where talented musicians and bands are encouraged to showcase their unique talents.

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 meets from 5:30 PM – 7 PM at Church of the Pines (3992 Highway 27, Alexandria) to play board games. Location subject to change – check Facebook page for updates: "Tabletop Games with James @ Church in the Pines" at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/788842233426336>.

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.