



Al Edenloff / Echo Press

Osakis Lutheran Church volunteers stand near a long row of food items donated for the "Pave the Path" event Saturday, Nov. 21. They included (left to right) Jessie Thornbloom, Diane Zimmel, Lil Ortendahl, Mike Curtis and Pastor Rich Fitzer.

## 150 feet of food donated in Osakis

Osakis Lutheran Church came up with a creative way of helping local food shelves.

The church encouraged people to line a 150-foot section of sidewalk near the church with non-perishable food items on

Saturday, Nov. 21, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. They called the effort "Pave the Path."

The community responded in a big way, dropping off enough items to not only fill 150 feet but an extra 30 feet beyond that.

"People really came through," said Pastor Rich Fitzer.

The items, along with cash donations, will be given to the food shelves in Douglas and Todd County.

## Families encouraged to apply for donation programs

Anticipating more families needing help with holiday gifts this year, two Alexandria donation programs are encouraging families to fill out an application to benefit from the programs.

Organized by the Runestone Detachment 1409, Marine Corps League in Alexandria, this is the eighth year of the annual Toys for Kids program and second year of the Toys for Tots program.

Families can check out the Toys for Tots, Douglas County website <http://alexandria-mn.toysfortots.org> or contact Love Inc at 320-759-3022 to inquire about Toys for Kids. Toys for Kids helps parents provide Christmas gifts (toys, sporting goods, games, no clothing) for their children up to 15 years old.



Submitted photo

Representatives from Elden's and the Runestone Detachment 1409, Marine Corps League in Alexandria show toys collected for the toy drive in 2019.

A toy collection runs through Wednesday, Dec. 16. Donation boxes are set up at Fleet Farm, Menards, Walmart, Walgreens, Elden's Foods and other businesses. The boxes are labeled "Toys for Tots" or "Toys for Kids."

On Friday, Dec. 18, toys and donations will be distributed at the office of Love INC at 44 Glenn Road NW in Alexandria, or at the Reach Church across the street.

To help the donation programs: While Christ-

mas shopping, buy one extra gift to give to a child 15 years of age or under. Place the new, unwrapped gift at one of the drop points throughout the area.

► Make a cash donation to the program. (Please make out the checks to "Runestone Detachment, Toys for Kids" program). Please mail to: Toys For Kids, Runestone Detachment, Marine Corps League, 1102 Third Ave. E., Alexandria, MN 56308.

Both Toys for Kids and the Toys for Tots organizations are 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization.

For more information, contact Grant Haugen at 320-815-1395, visit [www.alexmarines.org](http://www.alexmarines.org) or email [g.777haugen@gmail.com](mailto:g.777haugen@gmail.com).

### COMMUNITY NEWS

#### Alex senior center closes

The Alexandria Senior Center Board of Directors has canceled all senior center activities and services indefinitely, it announced Tuesday.

The decision came in the wake of Gov. Tim Walz's latest emergency order closing bars and restaurants and prohibiting social gatherings because of surging COVID-19 infections and deaths in Minnesota.

The board said rising COVID-19 cases in the Alexandria area also influenced its decision.

Meals on Wheels will continue. Questions about this program can go to 320-762-4280. The center delivers about 100 Meals on Wheels a day.

In January, the board said, it will reevaluate the situation. It will announce a reopening date through local and social media, radio and email.

For more information, call the senior center at 320-762-2087, visit [www.alexsrctr.org](http://www.alexsrctr.org) or email [info@alexsrctr.org](mailto:info@alexsrctr.org).

#### New, used footwear wanted

The Lions Club is accepting all shoes and boots, new and used, for its "Sole 4 Souls" community service project.

The footwear will be distributed throughout the world to fight poverty.

Donations can be placed in a container outside the main entrance of the Alexandria Senior Center, 414 Hawthorne St., through Jan. 15.

### BIRTHDAY



#### Happy 92nd Birthday Audrey Olson

Happy Birthday to a wonderful Mom, Mother-In-Law, Grams and Great-Grams!

### BIRTHS

#### Alomere Health

11/16 Girl born to Rebecca and Dylan Arceneau of Alexandria

11/17 Girl born to Miranda and Anthony Roggenbuck of Osakis

Girl born to Ashley and Travis Rasmusson of Osakis

11/18 Boy born to Lacie Barnes and Wyatt Rich of Osakis

11/20 Boy born to Brianna and Darrin Myhre of Alexandria

11/22 Boy born to Samantha and Rory Beckman of Brandon

Births from Jan. 1 to Nov. 24 561

### MOWERS

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After Alex Power Equipment found that out, they donated a riding lawn mower with a 60-inch deck for the Fullers to use.

Micah said they made it to most of the yards, but they would sometimes schedule multiple jobs per day or only mow some lawns once.

Founded in Alabama, word of mouth and social media have helped Raising Men Lawn Care Service expand to the national organization it is today, founder Rodney Smith Jr. said.

Those who participate in the 50-yard challenge also have the option of continuing to provide lawn service through other seasons by raking leaves and shoveling snow. Lucas said if the need is still there next summer, they would consider doing it again.

"I got to make a lot of people very happy, which also made me happy," Micah wrote. "I liked that you (Rodney) are trying to make a difference in the world with something that people do a lot."

## Upcoming blood drives in the area

As the U.S. experiences a new surge in COVID-19 cases, the Red Cross said it is becoming increasingly concerned about the nation's blood supply, including convalescent plasma. A convalescent plasma donation collects plasma from COVID-19 survivors because antibodies to the disease in their blood may help patients who are currently fighting the virus.

Increased hospitalization of patients with coronavirus this fall and winter has caused the Red Cross to distribute a record number of COVID-19 plasma products to

hospitals treating patients who are battling the virus.

Those who donate blood through Tuesday, Dec. 15, will get a chance to win an Outdoor Living Experience from Suburban Propane that includes a propane-powered pizza oven, fire pit, outdoor heater and stipend towards propane.

To donate, make an appointment through the Red Cross Blood Donor App, [RedCrossBlood.org](http://RedCrossBlood.org) or 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767).

Donors must wear a face covering or

mask while at the drive.

Upcoming local blood drives:

#### Alexandria

► Thursday, Dec. 3, 9 a.m.-3 p.m., PraiseLive, 3992 Highway 27

► Monday, Dec. 7, 12-6 p.m., Living Word Lutheran Church, 1722 16th Ave. E.

► Friday, Dec. 11, 11 a.m.-5 p.m., Viking Plaza, 3015 Hwy 29 South

#### Carlos

► Monday, Dec. 14, 12-5 p.m., Herby's Bar & Grill, 211 Main Ave.

Fishing for a new career? Snag one at [JobsHQ.com](http://JobsHQ.com).

Alexandria ECHO PRESS  
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