

ALC Care

Mission

To serve the families of ALC, and their families, in times of need by providing compassionate care, resources, and support, while demonstrating the love of Jesus and empowering them toward lasting hope and stability

1. Awareness & Identification

Effective care begins with awareness. A church cannot respond to needs it does not know about. ALC Care creates intentional pathways to recognize when someone in the body needs prayer, encouragement, support, or assistance.

How We Do It:

- Develop a team that is intentional about recognizing needs within the church family
- Create opportunities for members to communicate when they or their family members need support
- Encourage ministry leaders and church members to communicate when someone may be walking through a difficult season
- Pay attention when someone has been disconnected or absent for an extended period of time
- Identify moments where care, prayer, or encouragement may be needed

Care ministry begins with noticing people.

The goal: Create a culture where people do not feel overlooked and needs do not go unnoticed.

Awareness & Identification System

Challenge: “People in the church are hurting, but nobody knows.”

One of the biggest challenges in ministry is not a lack of compassion, it is a lack of awareness. Many times people are experiencing sickness, loss, discouragement, or difficult seasons, but the church does not know there is a need.

Without a system of communication, people can unintentionally feel forgotten or overlooked.

Solution: Create intentional pathways to recognize and communicate needs.

Care must move from being reactive to intentional.

Practical Steps:

- Develop a team that actively listens for needs within the church family
- Encourage church partners and leaders to communicate when someone needs support
- Create a clear process for people to request prayer, visits, or assistance; i.e. Church App.
- Train ministry leaders to recognize when someone may be going through a difficult season
- Make caring for people the responsibility of the entire church family, not just leadership

A church that notices people is a church positioned to care for people.

2. Compassionate Response

Recognizing a need is only the first step. ALC Care believes that love must move from awareness into action.

How We Do It:

- Visit those who are hospitalized and provide prayer and encouragement
- Visit those who are sick or unable to attend church
- Provide support during difficult seasons such as illness, hardship, or personal struggles
- Create opportunities for people to talk, receive encouragement, and be reminded they are not alone
- Respond with compassion while demonstrating the love of Jesus

We believe care is not only something we say, it is something we show.

The goal: Be the hands and feet of Jesus by meeting people where they are.

Compassionate Response System

Challenge: “We know someone needs help, but we do not have a clear response plan.”

Many churches have a desire to help, but without a system, needs are handled inconsistently. Some people receive support quickly while others may accidentally be missed.

Solution: Build a response system that turns compassion into action.

Love becomes most powerful when it moves from intention to action.

Practical Steps:

- Establish a team responsible for responding to care needs
- Determine what response is needed: phone call, prayer, visit, or additional support
- Provide hospital visits for those who are sick or recovering
- Visit homes and encourage those who cannot attend church due to illness or circumstances
- Follow up after the initial contact to provide continued encouragement

The goal is not only to respond to a situation, but to make sure people feel loved and supported through the process.

3. Crisis & Family Support System

Some seasons of life require additional care and support. During moments of loss, grief, or major life challenges, ALC Care provides a ministry presence for families.

How We Do It:

- Support families after the loss of a church partner or loved one
- Assist families during funeral needs and difficult transitions
- Provide prayer, encouragement, and emotional support
- Create and manage meal plans if needed
- Connect families with available resources when needed

People often remember who stood beside them during their most difficult seasons.

The goal: Make sure no family walks through hardship alone.

Crisis & Family Support System

Challenge: “Families often need the most support during moments when they feel the most overwhelmed.”

Seasons of loss, grief, illness, and crisis can leave people feeling isolated. During these moments, families need more than words, they need the presence and support of their church family.

Solution: Create a system that surrounds families during difficult seasons.

The church should be a place where people know they do not have to walk through hardship alone.

Practical Steps:

- Support families during the loss of a loved one
 - Assist with funeral needs and help identify practical ways to serve
 - Provide prayer and encouragement during difficult transitions
 - Continue checking on families after the immediate crisis has passed
 - Connect families with resources and support when appropriate
- Care does not end when the event ends. Continued support communicates value and love.

4. Connection & Follow-Up System

Healthy ministry does not only respond when someone asks for help. Healthy ministry intentionally follows up and stays connected.

How We Do It:

- Recognize when someone has not attended church for several weeks
- Reach out through calls, text messages, or visits when appropriate
- Let people know they are missed and valued
- Provide opportunities for conversations and encouragement
- Help reconnect people back into community

The purpose is never to pressure people, it is to remind them they are family.

The goal: Create a culture where people are pursued, valued, and connected.

Connection & Follow-Up System

Challenge: “People slowly disconnect from church and nobody realizes they are missing.”

One of the easiest ways people become disconnected is gradually. A few missed weeks can turn into months, and people can begin to feel forgotten.

Solution: Create intentional follow-up systems that pursue connection.

Follow-up communicates that people are more than attendance numbers, they are family.

Practical Steps:

- Pay attention when someone has been absent for an extended period of time
 - Create a process for reaching out through calls, messages, or visits
 - Approach people with love and encouragement, not pressure or guilt
 - Listen for needs that may have contributed to their absence
 - Help reconnect people back into relationships and community
- Sometimes a simple reminder that someone cares is the first step toward restoration.

5. Care Team Development System

A successful care ministry cannot depend on one person. It requires developing a team of compassionate people who carry the heart of Jesus.

How We Do It:

- Identify people who naturally care for and encourage others
- Build a team that understands confidentiality, compassion, and consistency

- Train team members to respond with wisdom and love
- Assign responsibilities so needs are followed through
- Create a culture where caring for people becomes part of the church DNA

Care is not just a department of the church, it is the heart of the church.

The goal: Develop people who consistently demonstrate the love of Jesus to others.

Care Team Development System

Challenge: “The pastor or a few leaders carry the responsibility of caring for everyone.”

As churches grow, it becomes impossible for one person to personally meet every need. Without a team, leaders become overwhelmed and people can unintentionally be missed.

Solution: Develop a team that carries the heart and culture of care.

Healthy care ministry requires multiplication.

Practical Steps:

- Identify people who naturally demonstrate compassion and encouragement
- Train team members in confidentiality, wisdom, and consistency
- Give team members clear roles and responsibilities
- Create communication between pastors, leaders, and the care team
- Empower others to serve while maintaining the heart and vision of the church

Care ministry grows stronger when caring for people becomes a culture, not just a responsibility.

The goal is not to create a program of care, it is to create a church that cares.