



August 2026 Alleluia! NEWS

The Epistle of James: Putting faith into action

A note on our August sermon series, from Pastor Joel:

The book of James is one of the earliest books written in the New Testament. James focused his attention on helping the early Christians to live out their faith in their daily lives. By posing questions for his readers to reflect on, James invites us into a deeper reflection on how our actions reflect the faith we have in Christ. For James, that meant looking at tough issues like socioeconomic disparities and how the way we talk to others can create conflict in our relationships. James also addresses what putting love into action looks like and how true wisdom comes from God. Throughout August, we'll unpack these major themes and explore ways we can put our faith into action.

See you in worship!

Save the date: Rally Day is Aug. 30!



We're so excited to kick off a new year of ministry and mission activities at our **annual, all-ages Rally Day celebration** on Sunday, Aug. 30! Bounce houses, face painting and bingo will be back, and we'll be firing up the grill for lunch. Plus, learn about some of the great activities Alleluia! has planned for this fall and how **you** can get involved! Able to help out at Rally Day? Click [HERE](#) to help set up or [HERE](#) to bring cookies!

What's inside...

- **Pastor's Message:** p. 2
- **Children's Ministry news:** p. 3
- **Youth Ministry news:** pp. 4-5
- **Little Blessings Preschool celebrates 30th anniversary in 2026-'27:** pp. 6-7
- **Hospitality volunteers needed:** p.6
- **Little Blessings news:** p. 7
- **Volunteer opportunities:** p. 8
- **Learn mahjong at Alleluia!:** p. 9
- **Hiring update:** p. 9
- **Singing through the summer with The Studios Performing Arts:** p. 10
- **Connect with us on social media:** p. 11
- **Backpack blessing Aug. 16 :** p. 11

Alleluia! Lutheran Church, 4055 S. Book Rd., Naperville, IL 60564

alleluialutheran.org / 630-904-3311

Our mission: To enable all to come, connect, and commit to Jesus.

Message from Pastor Joel

“You still in for run club at Bott Park tomorrow at 0515?”

“Sure,” I replied to Ryan’s text. What was I thinking? It took him two years of consistent—or maybe persistent—invitations, but I finally agreed to go. A few weeks ago I attended my first run club at 5:15 a.m. And then I went back three more times that week and have consistently been going 3-4 times a week since then.

I was scrolling back through my text messages from Ryan and discovered that the first time he invited me was in April 2024, before we even moved here. Then every 3-6 months I would receive a text message invitation. Nothing too intense, just a simple, “Hey we’re running tomorrow at 0515 if you want to join us.” Or “I just did 12 miles with 9 guys this morning. You should join us tomorrow.” Ryan knew I liked running as a hobby and thought I might enjoy running with others. But every time he invited me, I had an excuse. Until I didn’t.

I wonder if the same might be true when inviting others to church? What if it takes 2 or 3 or 7 years of consistently inviting a friend or a neighbor to come to church before they finally say, “Sure.” Sometimes the acceptance of these kinds of invitations needs to move at the pace of relationships. You build trust over time and show the other person how much you care for them before they are willing to take the risk and come to church.

My grandpa was a salesman for Pillsbury throughout his whole career. He would be on the road Monday-Friday visiting different grocery stores in Wisconsin, Illinois, Indiana, and Michigan. He even won a few “Salesman of the Year” awards. One of his favorite proverbs in life was, “You don’t make any sales if you don’t make any calls.” It was something that applied beyond just selling flour; it also applied to inviting friends to his church. Like Ryan, my grandpa knew all it takes is one simple, “Yes.”

Sometimes it takes a lot of calls before you hear that “Yes.” As we transition from summer to the regular school year, now is the time to ask. Now is the time to invite and “Enable all to Come, Connect, and Commit to Jesus.”



Children's Ministry

August KidsConnect!

We will end the summer with a "Trip to the Beach," where we will dive into 4 different Bible stories:

- **Week 1:** Cast Your Nets – Jesus Calls Us to Follow Him
- **Week 2:** Ride the Waves – Jesus Calms Our Fears
- **Week 3:** Walk by Faith – Keep Your Eyes on Jesus
- **Week 4:** Breakfast on the Beach – Jesus Provides and Cares for Us

Each week, kids will enjoy engaging Bible lessons, hands-on activities, games, crafts, and plenty of beach-themed fun as we discover how God's word helps us navigate life's adventures.

Ages 3-5th grade are invited to join! *Adult and youth volunteers are needed; please sign up [HERE](#) to help!*

Movie Night @ Alleluia!

All ages are invited to a back-to-school movie night at Alleluia! on Friday, Aug. 14!

Bring a friend or two and chill out as we watch "Frozen" (2013, PG) in The Underground and enjoy some cool treats. You can RSVP [HERE](#) to let us know you'll be there!



Register for Children's Ministry programming for 2026-'27!

A new school year is upon us, which means it's time to sign up for [KidsConnect](#) (Sundays during worship), [K3!](#) (Wednesday nights for grades K-3) and [Connect45](#) (Wednesday nights for grades 4-5)! Registering early helps us plan classrooms, volunteers, and activities so we can create the best experience possible for your children. (You can sign up to volunteer [HERE](#)!) Thank you for helping us prepare for an amazing year ahead!

Third-grade Bible presentation Sept. 13

We are excited to celebrate our third-graders as they receive their very own Bible during worship on Sunday, Sept. 13, at both the 9:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. services.

During the service, parents will present a Bible to their child as we celebrate this important milestone in their faith journey. Following worship, children are invited to join us for a special Bible celebration where they will create a personalized bookmark and enjoy fun games that will help them become familiar with finding books, verses, and stories in their new Bible. We look forward to celebrating this special day with your family! Please register your third-grader to participate [HERE](#).

-April Blair, Children's Ministry Director

Alleluia! Youth News

Sign up for all-ages fun at Great America on Aug. 6!

Whether you're a coaster fanatic or the double-decker carousel is more your speed, let's gather for a day of fun at Six Flags Great America in Gurnee before school begins. All ages are welcome, so bring the whole family!

We'll caravan from Alleluia! at 9:00 a.m. on Thursday, Aug. 6; the park is open until 10:00 p.m. (Minors must be accompanied by an adult 21+ after 5:00 p.m.) Sign up [HERE](#) today!



Register for Confirmation for 2026-'27

Do you have a rising sixth- through eighth-grader? Now is the time to register for Confirmation!

We'll explore our Lutheran tradition, dive further into Scripture, and grow in faith and as members of our church community. Sign up [HERE](#). Have questions? Contact Youth Ministry Director Kurtis Arndt at karndt@alleluia.church.

Let it Shine! mission-trip recap

Let it shine indeed! Our mission trip to eastern Iowa was an absolute success! To even imagine sharing all the stories, memories, and experiences in one letter would be impossible. For that reason I ask that if you see any of our students, chaperones, or even myself out and about after service or at an event - ask us about our trip.

Our trip was based out of Camp Shalom in Maquoketa, IA. At Camp Shalom we saw community form on a deeper level than any of us could ask for - from meals, to worship, to fun and games... this place is where church friends became church family. *(continued on next page)*



Alleluia! Youth News

(continued from previous page) From Camp Shalom, we were able to depart daily to serve local communities. In total, we served five different organizations:

- Camp Shalom Christian Camp
- River Bend Food Bank
- All Saints Lutheran Church Food Pantry & Clothing Closet
- Dubuque Trees Forever
- The N.E.S.T. Café

Be sure to follow all these wonderful places on social media, as not only are they doing great work, but also they gave us the opportunity to serve, learn, and accompany them in their ministries.

All of the success and stories that came from this trip are worth the listen! Thank you to all of you for coming to the July 12 Mission Trip Sunday service, your prayers throughout the trip, and the financial contributions that made this trip possible! If you haven't heard what our students said about the trip, check out the July 12 worship recording on [YouTube](#) or see our [Facebook post](#)!

I also want to quickly thank Brian Forner, Nathan Kocurek, Sara White, and Desma Rozovics for giving their time and energy to make this trip possible! They were all fantastic leaders who brought kindness and energy to every moment throughout the week!

Lastly, I want to thank our students for choosing to spend a week of their summer to trust, learn, serve, laugh, love, and share their light with all those who they came in contact with on this trip!

*Let it Shine,
Kurtis Arndt*





Little Blessings Preschool celebrates 30th anniversary

Story published in [The Daily Herald](#), 7/28/26

South Naperville has seen vibrant growth and change in the past 30 years, from the development of new residential communities and expansive new parks to the opening of nationally recognized Neuqua Valley High School.

One constant presence during that time: Little Blessings Preschool, 4055 S. Book Road, operated by Alleluia! Lutheran Church and celebrating its 30th anniversary this fall.

Little Blessings' deep roots in the community—and the tenure of many of the school's teachers—have been a major draw for families, said preschool director Shannon Webb.

“Most of our teachers have been here for 10-plus years,” she said. “You come in here and it’s not just school; it’s not just a place where you drop off your child. There really is a family and a community being built.”

The school serves 2-year-olds through pre-kindergartners, with curricula built around monthly themes and following Illinois Early Learning and Development Standards.

In accordance with DCFS preschool standards, classes maintain a 10:1 student: teacher ratio. Programs range from two days per week to five days per week, with optional enrichment classes offered at the end of the school day. Before-school care is available from 7-9 a.m., and after-care is available from 2-5 p.m.

Among the afternoon enrichment offerings available for the coming school year are Preschool S.T.E.M., Kids in the Kitchen, Young Artists, and Let’s Get Moving. “We have some unique programs,” Webb said. “In Kids in the Kitchen, for example, kids will learn how to prep snacks and about making healthy choices.” A book club and Spanish lessons also will be offered this fall.

As a ministry of Alleluia! Lutheran Church, a member of the Chicago-based Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, Little Blessings also offers music instruction and Godly Play, where students learn simple faith-based lessons and are taught that they are beloved children of God, always.

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Pastor Joel greets Little Blessings students during the first week of school in 2025.

(continued from previous page) The school welcomes children of all faith traditions or no faith tradition, and students' families are invited to monthly Chapel sessions, where students sing songs they have learned in the month and Webb and Alleluia! lead pastor Joel Vander Wal share a skit based on the month's theme.

Little Blessings' faith component and the fact that teachers can tailor programs to their individual classes help set the preschool apart, suggested Beige Pickert, Little Blessings' assistant director. "To me it just feels joyous," she said. "I love that we can interact more with the kids and families here. I feel like people don't understand what the difference is until you experience it."

Preschool parent Greta Subedi echoed Pickert's comments. "They provide a secure and happy environment every day," said Subedi, whose son attends Little Blessings. "My son learns about kindness and compassion, which is like planting a quality seed in growing future generations."

Little Blessings will celebrate its 30th anniversary during the 9:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. worship services at Alleluia! on Sunday, Oct. 18, with a reception for families to follow.

Openings remain for select classes for the 2026-'27 school year, and registration for 2027-'28 will open in November. For more information, visit littleblessings.org or call 630-904-9898.



Volunteer opportunities!



A/V and soundboard volunteers needed

*We can't be Alleluia!
without "u"!*

Contact Nicole Melody at
nmelody@alleluia.church.



Help make Children's Ministry shine: Volunteer with KidsConnect!

KidsConnect is looking for volunteers to fill a variety of roles during the 2026-'27 school year. Whether you'd like to help lead KidsConnect during worship on Sundays, serve as a greeter/check-in assistant for families before worship, prep Sunday supplies during the week, or assist at one of our special events during the year, there is a role for you! You can make a difference in the faith formation of some of the youngest members of the Alleluia! community. Youths in grades 6 and up are welcome to volunteer, too! Sign up [HERE](#) or contact Children's Ministry Director April Blair at ablair@alleluia.church for more information.



Share your Alleluia! hospitality!

Be part of a team that helps create a welcoming and caring environment for all of our worship and special event participants! Volunteers will assist in logistics, setup and cleanup for gatherings where food and beverages are served. This flexible role offers the chance to be part of an important ministry that connects and cares for our members and guests. Interested in serving? Questions? Reach out to Deb Bostjancic at dbostjancic@alleluia.church or call 630-254-2002!



Learn mahjong at Alleluia!

Beginner lessons:
Aug. 20 & 27
6:30-8:30 p.m.



It's an old game with brand-new buzz! Curious about mahjong? Come see why this classic game is enjoying a surge in popularity among all ages. Beginner lessons will take place in the Exclamations! Room at Alleluia! on Aug. 20 & 27; \$40 registration fee covers lessons and reading materials. For more info, contact Deb Bostjancic at dbostjancic@alleluia.church

Hiring update!

Alleluia's church council recently approved reframing the maintenance and repair lead position into a full-time facilities and campus manager role. This shift will help us ensure that all maintenance needs for our 80,000-square-foot campus are met on a timely basis, and it will allow us to best serve our building's many users, including Little Blessings Preschool and the groups that rent our spaces throughout the week. Find the updated job posting [HERE](#).



Now hiring:
Alleluia!
Facilities &
Campus
Manager

Additionally, Little Blessings continues to hire for the following roles.

- Lead preschool teacher
- Assistant preschool teacher

Find info about the roles and how to apply at alleluialutheran.org/about-alleluia/employment



WE'RE
HIRING!

Little Blessings
Preschool

SINGING THROUGH SUMMER WITH



The Studios Performing Arts, an independent musical education and performance center that rehearses and performs within Alleluia! Lutheran Church, will host **Show Choir Camp** for incoming 3rd- through 8th-graders Aug. 3-7 at Alleluia!

No performance experience is required! Students will learn music and dance to songs from "Spiderman," "Glee," and "K-POP Demon Hunters." The camp runs Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., with a performance for friends and family at noon on Friday, Aug. 7. \$255 registration fee includes a T-shirt for Friday's performance. For registration, please visit thestudiosperformingarts.com/kids-camp



Additionally, auditions for The Studios' first Main Stage production, "**Wonderland**," will take place Aug. 3-4, with callbacks as needed Aug. 6. Performers ages 13 and older are invited to audition!

Rehearsals for the show will run Aug. 9 through Sept. 10 on Sunday afternoons and Tuesday and Thursday evenings.



Performances of "Wonderland" will run Sept. 18-20. **The Studios** welcomes performers of all experience levels, from those who have never been part of a musical theater production to seasoned community theater performers. For more information, please visit thestudiosperformingarts.com/the-studios-main-stage.



A Ton of Love for



Loaves & Fishes
Community Services

**Thank you for your
incredible support!**

Hear our final tally
Sunday, Aug. 2



**Bring your backpack
for a back-to-school
blessing
Aug. 16 @ 10:00!**

CONNECT WITH US!



Facebook: @alleluianaperville



IG: @alleluialutherannaperville



YouTube: @alleluia-napervilleil736

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**4055 S. Book Rd.
Naperville, IL 60564**



Worship Schedule

**All are welcome to join us
for worship!**

Sunday Summer Worship
May 24th - Sept 6th at 10:00 a.m.

Stay Connected!

Website: www.alleluialutheran.org



Alleluia - Naperville, IL



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