God of New Beginnings

Our God is the God of fresh starts and new beginnings. We can trust him and live in freedom and hope.

January 1st: God of New Beginnings
January 8th: New Creation: Dying and Rising
January 15th: Trust Fall
January 22nd: Come, Follow Me
January 29th: Blessed Are...

Isaiah 43:16-19
2 Corinthians 5:14-20
Isaiah 41:8-10
Matthew 4:18-23
Matthew 5:1-12
A special THANK YOU to our many volunteers!
A Message from Pastor Mark

“I [Paul] planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God has been making it grow. So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow.”
(I Corinthians 3:6-7)

Dear Alleluia! Community:

When my family and I came to Alleluia! 24 years ago, it was under extraordinary circumstances. Alleluia! had tragically lost its second pastor and was still reeling from that loss. I came to fill the gap and help the congregation through their loss. I didn’t think I’d be here for long. But, you took us in. You accepted us on our own right and we literally grew together over the years.

It’s hard to imagine our lives without Alleluia! and I am hearing so graciously from you that it’s hard to imagine Alleluia! without us. We are all feeling the sense of loss that comes from the love and care we have for one another.

I trust that God is an integral part of this. I have asked God for some time for guidance regarding my call. Lately, he’s been responding loudly and clearly. It’s time for me to move on and someone else to answer the call to Alleluia! Now that I have made the decision to conclude my time here, God is beginning to reveal the possibilities. I am going to take some time to discern what’s next, but I know great things are in store for me and my family as well as for Alleluia!

Alleluia! is more than one person. It’s a community of people. Alleluia! is a place of connection, faith growth, service, and mission. I encourage you to continue forward, together, in the way God has for you.

I always desired to leave Alleluia! in a strong place, ready to move forward. We’ve had some challenging years and still have things to work through, but the momentum and the Spirit I’ve been sensing lately is encouraging. Worship attendance is rebounding, people are increasing their giving, the feeling of community is growing, people are stepping up, and there is an energy in the air. God is up to something!

I believe a time of intentional preparation and transition will help Alleluia! be ready to welcome and embrace the next pastor(s) and make them feel welcome too. That’s a big reason why I chose to step down now, so that a time of transition could happen. Beyond a time to prepare for the next pastor(s), this is a time to look toward the future and how God is calling you to be the Church in this place.

In my time here I have helped to water the seeds of faith. Others will further plant, water, and cultivate. We are just servants; it is God who causes faith, love, service, and community to grow.

Thank you for the privilege of having been your pastor throughout these many years.

Pastor Mark

Thank You, Alleluia!

for showing your appreciation and generosity through the Pastor’s Christmas Gift.

Lori and I are so grateful for your expressions of love and support. Thank you.

- Pastor Mark & Lori Juliot
**Little Blessings Collects Donations for Loaves and Fishes**

Little Blessings Preschool held a food drive for Loaves and Fishes Community Food Pantry during their Christmas Pageants at Alleluia! Little Blessings parents and other attendees donated 1,195 pounds of non-perishables! Well done!

**2022 Missions Giving Total**

Thank you, Alleluia!, for continuing to support our work through our mission partners. Together, we gave $132,515 to our mission partners. Additionally, we gave $9,600 of in-kind donations. Thank you, Alleluia!

**GriefShare 13-Week Course Begins in January**

Do you know someone who is hurting due to the loss of a spouse, child, parent or friend? GriefShare could be just what they need to help them move through their grief. You’ll find it to be a warm, caring environment, led by people who know what you are going through. Contact Jennifer Finnerty at JEFinnerty@aol.com for more information.

**GriefShare: 13-week Course begins January 31st, 6:30-8:30pm**

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**Feed the Need MobilePack**

Feed the Need MobilePack on Saturday & Sunday, Feb. 18/19 at North Central College, Naperville. Watch for a volunteer registration link to come!

**SAVE THE DATE!**

**Thank You!**

Many thanks to all who donated to Lutheran Social Services of Illinois for kids in foster care. Click on this [LINK](#) to learn more about the foster care program through LSSI.

Thanks for all gifts given through the Advent Giving Tree to our missions and the family assistance fund.
KidsConnect Church School

- We celebrated *The Road to Bethlehem, Jesus is Born* theme with games and a craft.
- There will be no KidsConnect on Sunday, January 1st. Please enjoy this time to worship as a family.
- KidsConnect will resume on Sunday, Jan. 8th with a new theme, *Thy Kingdom Come: Queen Esther*. View volunteer opportunities [HERE](#).

**The Family Christmas Festival was Wonderful!**

Thank you to all who came to celebrate the season with us! A very special thank you to:

- Alleluia! Council for the yummy hot cocoa bar.
- The small group that organized and ran the cookie decorating.
- Saint Nicholas and his helper. The kids loved visiting with you.
- Little Blessings for their nativity craft.
- All that helped to decorate and prepare for this event.
- Ms. Michele for leading us in Christmas carols.
- Dance Spirit dancers for kicking off our celebration.

It really does take us all to pull off such a wonderful event! (See photos on page 7.)

**HOPE Marketplace Christmas Edition was Amazing!**

Thank you for shopping at the 7 different tables. Your generosity raised $890 for HOPE International! Thank you to the children and their families for all their hard work as they participated and created products to sell! Please see photos from this event on the following page.)

**Christmas Caroling was so Much Fun!**

Nineteen children joined us for caroling at Arbor Terrace in Naperville. Thanks to our families for being flexible and shifting locations. This was our first year singing at Arbor Terrace and they loved it! Residents and staff were extremely grateful to see and hear the children sing. (Please see photos on the following page.)

**Children’s Choir, K-3, and Connect45 ended the year with a Happy Birthday Jesus party on December 21st. All Wednesday evening activities will resume on January 18th.**

**First Communion Retreat Registration is Now Open!**

**Retreat Date: Sunday, March 19th, 1-5pm**

First Communion instruction is designed for children 4th-6th grade. Sessions will be led by Alleluia! staff with parent volunteers as small group leaders. The children will also have the opportunity to make a personal communion banner.

Students can receive their First Communion at one of the following services:

- Sunday, April 2nd at 9:00am worship
- Sunday, April 2nd at 10:30am worship
- Thursday, April 6th at the 7:00pm Maundy Thursday service

Please register your student [HERE](#) via the online link.

Have a very Happy New Year! See you in 2023!
Celebrating the Season at Alleluia!

Thanks, Alleluia!, for supporting our businesses!
Alleluia! Music Begins 2023 with Much Gratitude to You!
Looking Back at 2022, We KNOW 2023 will be Truly STELLAR!

Here are some highlights from 2022:

♦ We held Butter Braid and Christmas Confectionery fundraisers! Both were YUMMY SUCCESSES and we thank you greatly for your support!

♦ Thanks to your amazing support of our fundraisers, we were able to make some great improvements in the production area and we have purchased more wireless equipment to aid several musicians!

♦ The Brass Choir, Instrumental Ensemble, and Flute Choir made a few appearances!

♦ Our Traditional and Contemporary Praise Team WELCOMED some new musicians!

♦ Our Children’s Choirs have grown throughout 2022! Alleluia!

♦ We’ve added Alleluia! Jam Nights to give ALL of YOU a chance to sing or play on a Thursday!

♦ The Hand Bell Choir has returned to play in church and we have loved it!

Coming in January 2023:

♦ “Sing NOT a Solo” will be added to our praise teams. You don’t have to use a solo mic, but just ENJOY SINGING with blended voices. Contact Michele at mnelson@alleluia.church if you’d enjoy singing with the praise team “off mic!”

♦ January 18 - Children’s Choirs, K-3, and the Hand Bell Group all resume.

♦ January 19 - Alleluia! Jam Night: Click on THIS LINK to let us know you’re coming. You are also welcome to sing hymns with us at 5:15 or contemporary music at 6:00. Please contact Michele with any questions at mnelson@alleluia.church

♦ Watch for details about a possible Winterfest 2023!

CREATED BY GOD
Christian-Based Human Sexuality Classes for 5th & 6th Graders

This Bible-based program on human sexuality is appropriate for young adolescents and will be offered over 3 sessions in January. A parent orientation is held prior to the program so that parents can view materials, meet the instructors, and ask questions.

Please Click HERE to see further information and registration.
Join the fun on 
Saturday, Feb. 4th, 6:00pm!

ALLELUIA! GAME NIGHT!

- Do you love watching TV game shows? Have you ever dreamed of being a contestant on The Price is Right?
- Do you love spending time with friends and having fun?
- Do you want to support all of the Missions and Ministries of Alleluia?!

**If you answered yes to any of these questions then Alleluia! Game Night is for you!**

Alleluia! Game Night is a fundraising event where you and other adults come together for entertaining game show type games while supporting Alleluia! You work as a team at your table and compete with the other tables. This is our biggest fundraiser of the year so we need everyone’s help and support to make it a success!

Fill a table with 8 friends, or be placed at a table and make new friends! Your table can work together prior to the event to come up with a theme (optional, not a requirement). Decorate your table! Dress according to your theme! Bring appetizers and desserts to share at your table. Match the food to your theme to make it even more fun! Themes can be formal (example: Gala theme/Wedding theme) or casual (example: Pajama Party theme/ Sports Fan theme). Have fun with it! There will be a prize for the table with the best theme.

Former Alleluia! staff member Wade Nyhus will return to co-host this year’s event! He’s coming all the way from Colorado, so don’t miss this chance to see him and catch up while he’s in town.

Doors open at 6:00 for teams to set up tables. Games start at 6:30. We’ll have a 50/50 raffle, a silent auction, and a live auction. Tickets are $35 each and include 2 drink tickets—or, purchase an entire table for only $245!

**Ticket prices increase to $40/$280 on January 9th so get your tickets now!**

[Click HERE](#) to purchase tickets.
The Alleluia! Staff Wishes All a Very Happy New Year!

The Alleluia! Church Council members may be contacted via council@alleluia.church

John Ploense (Term Exp 2/23) jploense@alleluia.church
Carolyn Talbott (Term Exp 2/23) ctalbott@alleluia.church
Casey Brown (Term Exp 2/24) cbrown@alleluia.church
Mary Kocourek (Term Exp 2/24) mkocourek@alleluia.church
Pastor Mark Juliott (Interim Lead Pastor) mjuliot@alleluia.church
Diane Stis (Term Exp 2/25) dstis@alleluia.church
Chris Sulzner (Term Exp 2/25) csulzner@alleluia.church

War Room Women

All women are invited to participate in a 2-Evening WAR ROOM Bible Study as a follow-up to Women’s Movie Night! This study will serve as a reminder of how powerful prayer really is! It helps us grow closer to one another and ultimately closer to God as we learn together how to wield prayer as a powerful weapon. Please Click HERE to indicate interest in attending.

Worship Schedule
We invite all to worship with us!

**In-Person:**
Sunday Worship- 9:00 & 10:30am

**Online Worship:**
YouTube (9:00)- “Alleluia! – Naperville”
Facebook (10:30)- www.facebook.com/alleluianaperville