Registration for VBS continues for ages 3 yrs—5th grade. Volunteers needed! Sign up by May 21st to be guaranteed a VBS t-shirt! See info/sign-up on page 3.

Nursery Care During Worship
Our nursery is once again open during Sunday worship services. See page 5 for information.

Remember a Loved One with a Leaf on the Memorial Tree
See page 8 for more information on the Alleluia! Memorial Tree as well as other original artwork.

Coloring the Psalms
Wednesday, May 17th, 7:00pm
Coloring is a healthy way to reduce anxiety and relieve stress! Like meditation, coloring allows the brain to switch off other thoughts and allows you to better focus. Plus, it’s just plain fun!
For information or to register:
Scan the QR code or visit the Alleluia! website at: alleluialutheran.org/events/upcoming-events
Questions to Deb Bostjancic at dbostjancic@alleluia.church
"We are Alleluia!" and the Discipline of Gratitude

When a church in Chicago received $1.5 million from the sale of a piece of property a few years ago, the church’s leaders decided to do something unusual with the money. They took a portion of the proceeds and gave each member a check for $500 with this instruction: “Use this money for God’s work.” It was up to each person to decide what that meant.

Some members said it was tempting to use the money to pay bills. But most were excited about the chance to put the money creatively to use for God’s work in the world. In a way, their task was easy because the money was just handed to them. They never expected to get this $500. It came to them as a sheer gift that they could turn around and give to others.

But then, that’s true of all that we have! Our days, our talents, our health, the skills that allow us to earn a living, our very breath—all that is a gift from God.

Every day we get to make decisions about how to use these gifts. The questions for us are basically the same as they were for those handed a check for $500: How do we use the gifts we have been given? What use of our resources will give us the special joy of joining in God’s work in the world? How can we invest to make a Jesus-shaped difference in the world?

When we begin to think about how to express gratitude in a disciplined, thoughtful way, not just in an occasional way, we are entering into the spiritual realm of stewardship.

Theologian Henri Nouwen writes: “In the past I always thought of gratitude as a spontaneous response to the awareness of gifts received, but now I realize that gratitude can also be lived as a discipline. The discipline of gratitude is the explicit effort to acknowledge that all I am and have is given to me as a gift of love.”

In the coming weeks, you will be asked to reflect on the gifts of God in your life, and especially to think about how you have experienced the grace of God through the ministries of Alleluia! As we think about gratitude for this church, and about what it means to say “We are Alleluia!” you will have the chance to exercise the discipline of gratitude by making an explicit commitment of resources to God’s work in this place.

The discipline of gratitude helps us make all of life a form of thanksgiving. The discipline of gratitude helps us orient all of our life toward the goodness of God. It’s a deeply joyful way to live. It’s a way of life that praises God and truly says, “Alleluia!”
KidsConnect Church School News

The last KidsConnect lesson series for the 2022-23 program year is Fruit of the Spirit. Kids will learn that with some work, we can live together because God has given each of us the ability to be loving, joyous, peaceful, patient, kind, generous, faithful, gentle, and self-controlled. We’re looking for volunteers to use their God-given gifts to teach pre-planned lessons. Please Click HERE to sign up!

Reminder: There will be NO KidsConnect on May 28th due to Memorial Day. Enjoy this time of family worship!

KidsConnect Summer will begin on June 4th. Check-in procedures will remain the same: check-in, go to worship with families, then be dismissed after the Children’s Chat. All kids will head to the Rec Room for various activities. Pick-up will take place in the Rec Room. We’re looking for middle school and high school volunteers to help during the summer. Please Click HERE to volunteer.

The Wednesday Night programs have ended for the year. We celebrated with families, friends, and food! Connect45, K3, Children’s Choirs, and H2H will all return in the fall!

Registration Continues for VBS 2023, “READY, SET, MOVE!, Coming June 12th -16th!

We are getting ready to hit the road to discover that Jesus is with us “Here, There, and Everywhere!” It’s not too late to send your kids on a summer adventure that they won’t forget! Register by May 21st to be guaranteed a t-shirt. Contact April Blair at ablair@alleluia.church with questions.

Preschool ages 3-5 years will have a space just for them! Kindergarten-5th graders will be in mixed-age crews.

SIGN UP YOUR STUDENT HERE!

Session 1 Student: 9am-11:30am  Click HERE to register
Session 2 Student: 1pm-3:30pm  Click HERE to register

VOLUNTEERS HAVE AS MUCH FUN AS THE KIDS! We’re looking for Middle Schoolers, High Schoolers, & Adults who want to tag along on this adventure! Please sign up for VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES HERE!

High School through Adults can join “Ready, Set, Move!” as Crew Leaders!
Middle School students can join “Ready, Set, Move!” as Station Assistants!

Session 1 Volunteer: 9am-11:30am  Click HERE to register
Session 2 Volunteer: 1pm-3:30pm  Click HERE to register

We have an awesome decorating team who would appreciate some additional help to finish up! Contact April Blair at ablair@alleluia.church if you can help with decorations or other behind-the-scenes VBS details!

VBS Donation List - It takes all of us to make VBS happen each year. Thanks for taking a peek at our materials list HERE and donating anything you can to help us prepare for this exciting week!

Please view photos from Children’s events on page 7.
SPECIAL THANKS to families and friends for supporting the musicians as they gave of their time during March and April and through numerous hours of rehearsing! We truly are a BLESSED FAMILY of musicians and would so enjoy gaining some NEW "family members" as well as those who joined us during Lent. We rehearse hymns on Thursdays at 5:15pm and contemporary music at 6:00pm! Please remember "Alleluia! Jam" takes place the 3rd Thursday of each month! Please contact Michele Nelson with questions at mnelson@alleluia.church or to let us know you’re coming. WE CAN’T WAIT TO SEE YOU!

This month our musicians will receive "a little THANK YOU" for their service and dedication to A! Music and Jesus!

Our Children’s Choir will take a break until September! They’ve played handbells (age appropriate), other rhythm instruments, Boomwhackers, waved streamers, blew bubbles, carried banners, and learned several songs! It was great fun becoming a "music family" this year! I pray everyone has a great summer...and COMES TO SING AT VBS!

We ended our year by performing at StoryPoint Assisted Living Facility in Romeoville and had special celebrations with K3 and Connect45.

The Adult Handbell Choir will also be on break for the summer. If ANYONE is interested in joining us, contact Michele Nelson or any of the "ringers!" It’s another great “family” to be part of! Please PRAY about helping as you feel comfortable— in a group of singers, on the sound board, drumming, or playing an instrument. PLEASE contact Michele at mnelson@alleluia.church for even MORE ideas! WE NEED YOU!

You’d Rather Listen than Sing or Play?— We are seeking volunteers to adjust our sound board during the service of your choice! Please contact Michele at mnelson@alleluia.church with questions or to express interest.

There’s something for ALL ages— Contact Michele at mnelson@alleluia.church for info on ANY of these:

> Private Lessons for children and adults.
> Children’s Choir (ages 4 years—5th grade) on Wednesdays, 5:00-5:45pm, in the lower level Music Room. This year’s choir ended on April 26th, but we’ll be back in September! Please join us!
> Handbells (no music reading required), Wednesdays 7-8pm in Room #267 (ages 8th grade—99 years).
> Praise Band (vocalists & instrumentalists), Thursdays 6pm in the sanctuary (ages high school—adults).
> Traditional Hymns (vocalists and sometimes instrumentalists) in the sanctuary Thursdays at 5:15.
> Instrumental groups/solos.
> “S.O.S.” Singers (Sing On Sunday).
> Alleluia! “Jams” – 3rd THURSDAY EVENING of each month. High school age—Adults are welcome to meet in the sanctuary for music, a short devotion, fellowship, and snacks (of course).
> Music ‘N Me is offered on Tuesdays and Fridays at Alleluia! Ages birth—5th grade are all welcome! Please check our website for the latest schedule of classes! A summer session is planned for July and August.
> Instrumental Ensembles OR soloists meet on “your schedule.” PLEASE let Michele Nelson know if you are interested! WHAT INSTRUMENTS DO YOU PLAY?

Drummer Encore – in The Underground AFTER the 9am service: a brief time to learn about playing the drum set.
Staff Appreciation Luncheon - Church Council Asks Your Help

Each spring the Alleluia! Church Council hosts a Staff Appreciation Luncheon for the Little Blessings and Church Staffs. This year’s luncheon will be held on Wednesday, May 17th at 11:30am in the Community Life Center. Staff members enjoy and look forward to this event and we are pleased to have this opportunity to express our gratitude to them. The staffs at our church and preschool are extremely talented, dedicated, and hard-working individuals. They regularly go above and beyond the requirements of their job. This luncheon is a small way for us to thank them.

There are two ways you can assist:
- Sign up to contribute a salad or dessert
- Volunteer a couple of hours on the day of the luncheon to help set-up, serve, or clean up

Your help is appreciated by the church council and by our staff who will enjoy the luncheon.
Thank you so much! Please respond to Laura Bowler by emailing lbowler@alleluia.church

Alleluia! Seeks Instructors to Help Us Grow Our Private Music Program!

Drums - Piano
Guitar - Strings
Brass - Woodwinds
Voice

Interested? For details contact Michele Nelson at mnelson@alleluia.church

Nursery Care Now Available During Worship
Alleluia! is happy to welcome Sherry Yaeger to provide nursery childcare for ages 0 to 3 years of age during both worship services. You may recognize Sherry as she works part time in the kitchen for Little Blessings. Sherry brings a wealth of experience with her. She most recently worked as a Nursery Attendant at Grace United Methodist Church for 4 years and prior to that at Celebrations (Our Saviour’s). A Naperville resident, Sherry is very familiar with Alleluia! and we are happy to welcome her!

If you like to garden or care for plants, join the Alleluia! Gardening Angels as we care for the flowers and plants on our church property. Sometimes we dig in the dirt and other times it might be as simple as coming to water the plants. Contact Elaine Bynum at elaine.bynum@gmail.com with questions or to volunteer your time.

Thanks, Alleluia!
Thanks for your ongoing support of our church and ministries by your gift of items from the ASK banner that hangs in the Gathering Area! Every donation, large or small, is helpful and greatly appreciated!

New Addition!
The gift of donating your TIME!
EASTER AT ALLELUIA!
Kids from the K3 program have been learning about Stewardship. They visited with some Alleluia! staff to learn how these staff members have observed stewardship in action at Alleluia!

They visited with Children’s Ministry Director, Ms. April and students in the Wednesday evening Connect45 program.

They stopped in the main office for a chat with Ms. Sheila, Administrative Ministries Manager.

Ms. Deb, Worship Volunteer Coordinator, was happy to tell the K3 students about volunteering at Alleluia!
A Bit of History on Our Alleluia! Artwork

In preparation for the opening of our new sanctuary in August of 2008, Alleluia! worked with Professor Michael Strand and art students from the Center for Liturgical Art at Concordia University in Seward, NE to create original artwork for our church. These artists created multiple pieces of artwork for the sanctuary as well as the large exclamation point (!) that greets people in the west parking lot.

Tree of Life
The large and colorful Tree of Life sculpture is located on the wall behind the communion table. Professor Strand developed a unique process for glazing and firing clay that takes as many as five separate firings to create the beautiful and unusual colors and patterns found on the tree.

Memorial Tree
Behind the Tree of Life, on the wall facing the window on 103rd St., you will find the Memorial Tree. The branches of the tree are adorned with gold leaves, engraved with names as a remembrance of loved ones. We ask a donation of $150 for each engraved leaf. If you have any questions or would like to order a memorial leaf, please contact Deb Bostjancic at dbostjancic@alleluia.church to make arrangements.

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

Laura Bowler (Term Exp 2/26) lbowler@alleluia.church
Ryan Glassman (Term Exp 2/25) rglassman@alleluia.church
Michael Raczak (Term Exp 2/25) mraczak@alleluia.church
Sara White (Term Exp 2/25) swhite@alleluia.church
Kelly Cunningham (Term Exp 2/24) kcunningham@alleluia.church
Darcy Jasien (Term Exp 2/26) djasien@alleluia.church
Jenn Vrba (Term Exp 2/24) jvrba@alleluia.church
Gary Zoet (Term Exp 2/24) gzoet@alleluia.church

Worship Schedule

We invite you to worship with us!

Sunday Morning In-Person Worship
at
9:00am & 10:30am
All are welcome!