



Alleluia! Lutheran Church, 4055 S. Book Rd., Naperville, IL 60564  
www.alleluialutheran.org Phone: 630-904-3311  
*Our Mission: To enable all to come, connect, and commit to Jesus.*

# January 2024 Alleluia! NEWS

## Note these Service Time Changes

- December 31, (New Years Eve) we will have ONE service at 10:00am.
- January 28, we will have ONE service at 10:00am. (Congregational Mtg will follow)

## See Inside for More Information!

Little Blessings Family & Friends Night - pg 5  
Created By God Sign Up (5th/6th grades) - pg 5  
Church Council Letter - pg 11  
Game Night 2024 Information - pg 12  
Women's Event Save the Date - pg 12  
New Member Orientation - pg 13  
PrimeTimers Spaghetti Dinner - pg 13  
GriefShare 13-Week Course - pg 13

## Winterfest 2024

Saturday, Feb. 3rd

Join us for an evening of food, music, and fun for ALL AGES!



We'll begin with a POTLUCK in the CLC from 5-6pm. The Winterfest Variety Show will take place from 6-7:30pm in The Underground and is hosted by the Alleluia! Music Ministry.

Do you have a talent you'd like to share at the variety show? Comedy, puppetry, dance, music, tricks, or...?

[CLICK HERE](#) to take part in the show or to let us know you'll be attending the potluck. All attendees are asked to bring a can of soup to donate to the Souper Bowl of Caring.



Questions to Michele Nelson at  
[mnelson@alleluia.church](mailto:mnelson@alleluia.church).

## Special Congregational Meeting Called for Sunday, January 28th

The purpose of this meeting is to consider and vote on revisions to Alleluia!'s constitution. The proposed revisions incorporate language that is required or recommended by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. They also add needed clarity to other sections. The Church Council has approved these changes. More information will be provided in the coming weeks.

There is one service that Sunday at 10:00am. The congregational meeting will be held following the 10:00am service.

See photos from Christmas Worship on the following page.







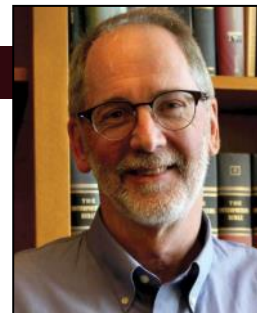
## *Christmas at Alleluia!*



A special  
**THANK YOU**  
to our many  
volunteers!







## Treasures Old and New

“Every disciple trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the owner of a house who brings out of his storeroom new treasures as well as old” (Matthew 13:52) Jesus’ words address an ongoing challenge in religion and other areas of our life. We need to hold on to the old treasures, the old traditions, for they help keep us grounded in the midst of change; yet we know that traditions must adapt to new circumstances and new challenges.

There are two current topics of tradition and change at Alleluia! that I wanted to let you know about.

First, the Church Council has been working for the past couple months on revising the congregation’s constitution. A constitution is something people tend to consult only if they have a question and need some guidance. It is at moments of uncertainty or crisis that a written constitution—a well-defined tradition—is invaluable. The constitution tells us how to navigate a crisis not only according to custom but according to the legal rules that the congregation has adopted.

Over the past two years, congregational leaders have realized that Alleluia!’s constitution is not as clear as it needs to be on some governance issues, and so it does not offer the needed guidance. The current constitution also does not incorporate the recommended—and often required—language developed by the legal team at the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

The Church Council is therefore working on clarifying some sections of the document and generally aligning our constitution with the requirements of the ELCA and the Northern Illinois Synod. According to our constitution, any changes to the constitution must be approved by a vote of the congregation. You will be hearing more details about all this in the weeks ahead.

The second topic bears on how we think about tradition in worship. I have recommended, and the Church Council has agreed, that we should replace the line in our statement of core values that says “We worship God, not tradition” with this statement: “Our life is centered in the worship of God as revealed in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.”

To say “We worship God, not tradition” suggests that traditional styles of worship are an impediment to true worship, or that defenders of traditional styles are standing in the way of true worship. That is not really fair to the variety of worship styles that exist in the ELCA and other churches. Furthermore, Alleluia!’s own worship is a mix of traditional and contemporary styles. It is more accurate and helpful to view all styles, whether labeled traditional or contemporary, as offering resources for the people of God. It is the responsibility of the pastors and worship leaders to draw on old and contemporary sources in order to best serve the worshipping life of the congregation.

“Every disciple trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the owner of a house who brings out of his storeroom new treasures as well as old.” Jesus calls us to be wise, discerning, faithful, and creative. As the church tries to balance tradition and change, it must seek above all to be faithful to the living God, who is always the same, and is making all things new.

Please contact me or members of the church council if you have questions.

Faithfully,

Pastor David

I was touched by your Christmas gift to me as pastor. Thank you for this generous gift and for the gift of our partnership in the gospel! - Pastor David



# Children's Ministry



*Sharing the love of God with children and families so they can come, connect, and commit to Jesus.*

**Thank you for shopping at the HOPE Marketplace!** Our young entrepreneurs were so excited to share their talents and handmade products. We had 19 young entrepreneurs running 13 businesses. Students had 6 weeks to create a business plan, save money, and make their products. We raised \$1,200 which will go to HOPE International to support their mission to end global poverty! Thanks again for a wonderful show of support! Please view pictures from the HOPE Marketplace on page 6.

**Our Alleluia! Kids had a great time caroling** at Sunrise Living Center! Thank you for joining us to spread holiday cheer! Please enjoy pictures on page 7.

**The Wednesday Night programs** celebrated Jesus' birth with a "Happy Birthday, Jesus!" party. Thank you volunteers for helping to make it special! Photos on page 7.

Our Wednesday Night Programs will take a break during the Christmas season from December 27th-January 17th. Sign your kids up to join us when we resume in the New Year! Click on links below for info or to sign up!

[K3 \(Kdgrtn-3rd grade\)](#)   [Connect 45 \(4th-5th graders\)](#)   [J.C. Choir \(4yrs-1st grade\)](#)   [Faith Choir \(2nd-5th graders\)](#)

**Breakfast in Bethlehem was so much fun!** Thanks to all who attended. A special thank you goes to the A!Men for providing a delicious breakfast, all the amazing volunteers who helped kids put on costumes (they were so cute!), our awesome puppeteers for a great show, and to Jennifer Finnerty and Stephanie Sulzner for helping with the decorations and setup for the event! Please enjoy pictures from the event on page 8.

**KidsConnect attendance is rising** which means we need YOU! More kids means more volunteer needs. We're looking for youth and adult volunteers who can help during KidsConnect on Sunday mornings! Lessons are prepared for you. Schedules are flexible. Contact April Blair to get involved OR sign up [HERE](#) for a volunteer spot in January!



**REMINDER: There will be NO KidsConnect** on Sunday, Dec. 31st (New Year's Eve).

**KidsConnect will Resume in the New Year on Sunday, Jan. 7th!**

The kids filled up the SHINE Bucket with ping pong balls (balls are earned by bringing their Bible passages, for good behavior, and for bringing a friend) which means they get to celebrate that day during both sessions of KidsConnect. They chose to come dressed in PJs, bring a small stuffed animal, watch a movie (they voted for Wall-E), AND have donut holes! We are calling it: "KidsConnect in Pajamas." Check in upstairs as usual. We will have our party in The Underground. Invite friends! Volunteer to hang with us!



**First Communion Retreat Registration is NOW OPEN! - Sunday, March 3rd, 1pm-5pm at Alleluia!** First Communion instruction is designed for children in 4th-6th grades. Sessions are led by Alleluia! staff with parent volunteers as small group leaders. The children will have the opportunity to make a personal communion banner. This event will begin in The Underground. Please enter at door #10.

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

Palm Sunday, March 24th, at either 9:00am or 10:30am service,

OR Thursday evening, March 28th, 7:00pm, at the Maundy Thursday service.

[CLICK HERE](#) to register. Contact April Blair at [ablair@alleluia.church](mailto:ablair@alleluia.church) with questions.



## Children's Ministry -continued

Hey, Parents! Are you looking for some service projects to do with your kids over Winter Break? Here are some ways even the smallest of kids can get involved:

- ♦ Make cards for our Smiles for Seniors Card Ministry (the mailbox is on the bench just outside Door #10)
- ♦ Ages 5+ can serve at Feed My Starving Children. [CLICK this LINK](#) to search available days.
- ♦ Grab an unfinished prayer blanket from Ms. April and finish tying the knots at home!
- ♦ Call a grandparent/aunt/uncle you have not talked to in a while and ask them questions about their childhood.
- ♦ Help Ms. April check markers (sounds silly but it is ALWAYS needed). See Ms. April for a bag of markers.
- ♦ Make a prayer bracelet and give it to a friend or family member who needs cheering up (make the bracelet however you like!)



Even though it's winter, we've begun thinking warm thoughts and planning for VBS 2024! Would you like to join our Vacation Bible School Planning Crew? This summer the theme is all about throwing a **GREAT. BIG. PARTY.** for Jesus! Help us brainstorm, plan, decorate, and make this summer's VBS amazing for our Alleluia! kids and friends! Contact April Blair at [ablair@alleluia.church](mailto:ablair@alleluia.church) to be added to our Planning Crew.



### Little Blessings



### Family & Friends Night

**Thursday, Jan. 18th, 5pm-7pm**

Come experience the fun at Little Blessings!

- ♦ Children's activities
- ♦ Sample various enrichment classes (STEM, Writing Readiness, Young Artists, etc.)
- ♦ Enrollment information for 2024-25

**Do you know someone looking for a preschool?**

If you are currently enrolled at Little Blessings, bring a friend and introduce them to all Little Blessings has to offer and you will be entered in a drawing for a tuition discount!



### CREATED BY GOD

This Bible-based program on human sexuality is appropriate for young adolescents and will be offered over 3 sessions in January. **Created By God** offers appropriate information to 5th & 6th grade students and helps them navigate the changes that have or will be happening to their bodies as God has planned. [Click HERE](#) for further information and student registration.

### Private Music Lessons at Alleluia!



Clarinet - Saxophone  
Beginning Brass - Trumpet  
Piano - Percussion/Drums

Questions to Michele Nelson at  
[mnelson@alleluia.church](mailto:mnelson@alleluia.church)





Thanks, Alleluia!, for supporting our businesses!

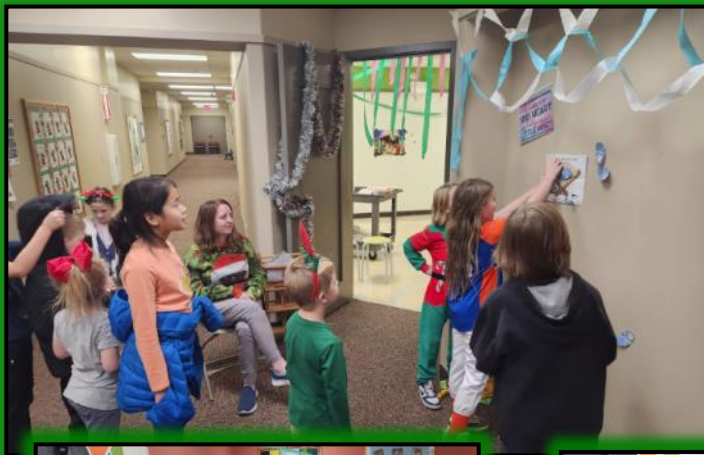




# Celebrating the Season at Alleluia!



Alleluia! children caroled at Sunrise Assisted Living of Naperville North. Our kids have caroled there for over 2 decades!



Kids in the Wednesday Evening Programs played games at their Birthday Party for Jesus!







The KidsConnect children sang at the end of worship and led the way to the CLC for Breakfast in Bethlehem. Delicious pancakes were served by the A!Men.

Entertainment included a puppet show, a visit with St. Nicholas, and plenty of fun activities.





# Alleluia! Youth News!

**Confirmation Update:** The Prehistoric Pangean Bible Bunnies (6th Grade), Raging Mozambique Shrek Ballers (7th Grade), and the Oregon Fuschia Monkeys (8th Grade)

**CONFIRMATION**

have been competing weekly in confirmation for points in what has been called the 'Clash of Classes.' Points are awarded for attendance, participation in church events, volunteering, and sermon notes. A huge congratulations to our Class of 2030, the Bible Bunnies, who won this first-ever season of Clash of Classes! Points will be set back to zero in January!

This month, students will be learning in Confirmation the Hebrew Bible (1/10), Law (1/17), Psalms (1/24), and the New Testament (1/31). We will not meet on 1/3.

If your 6th - 8th Grader is not registered for Confirmation please reach out to Youth Director Kurtis Arndt to learn more about this exciting time of faith formation.

**AYHigh Recap:** In December, we spent time exploring how we are 'Created to Be' Christmas People. High School Students deep dived into the biblical texts with the intention to see how God created familiar names of the Christmas story to be disciples and to be brave.



Students practiced what is called exegesis by taking the word 'discipleship' and breaking that term into 15 questions to find in the Christmas Story. In doing this, we learned and saw that these stories are wonderful examples of discipleship.

To see High School students also enjoying the time of Frosted Fellowship in the Underground Youth Center on Sunday Mornings between services is a treat! Come. Hang out. Chat life. Eat a donut!

**AYHigh - Created to Be Authentic:** In January, we will continue the exploration of the theme 'Created to Be.' This month's topic will be "Authentic." We are created to bring our whole real selves to be loved as we are by our Creator.

The ongoing theme for this year's lessons will be themes that will be covered at the ELCA Youth Gathering in New Orleans!

Haven't been on a Tuesday Night? Come! The topics we cover at AYhigh are applicable to all high school students regardless if they plan to attend the 2024 Summer Trip or not!

**New Year to Get Involved:** As 2024 is upon us, now is a great time to get involved as a student or volunteer in Alleluia! Youth Ministry. If you are an adult who would like to volunteer in Confirmation (6th-8th) or AyHigh (9th-12th) please contact Youth Director Kurtis Arndt. You do **NOT** need to be an expert to help! In fact, leaders often learn in this space as well! If your student has yet to get to know these programs, please encourage them to come! Parental influence and guidance is a huge part of the Youth Ministry program.

High School Students are invited to come to AYHigh on Tuesday Nights (7-9pm), Frosted Fellowship on Sundays mornings (10-10:30am), and to volunteer for Confirmation on Wednesday nights (6-8pm). Three opportunities a week for them to gather! In all these spaces we grow in fellowship, Lutheran theology, and laugh along the way!

Confirmation Students meet on Wednesday Evenings (6:30-8:00pm). Confirmation is a time of faith formation as students prepare for their Affirmation of Baptism by covering topics of the New Testament, Old Testament, Lutheran Living, and Lutheran History and Catechism. Students also compete for points in the Clash of Classes throughout the week primarily on Sunday Mornings and Wednesday Nights. We ask that Confirmation students register to stay in the loop on all things Confirmation.

**Youth Gathering Informational Meeting - Still Time To Learn and Sign Up!:** On January 7th, families are invited to join High School Students in the Underground Youth Center after the 9am and 10:30am services to learn all about the summer trip to New Orleans for the ELCA Youth Gathering (Week of July 14th, 2024). This summer trip is a service trip, a cultural immersion trip, and an educational trip that is a TON of fun. We will be non-stop from 8am - 11pm every day for the entire trip! Having 35,000 High School Youth gather for service work, fellowship, and vocational exploration is something that only happens once every three years (next one is not until 2027)!

All current 8th - 12th grade families are invited. It is not a commitment to the trip, just an opportunity to come and learn all about this event! To be able to gather with potentially 8,000+ Lutheran Churches in the New Orleans Saints stadium is a life changing opportunity!



— continued on next page



# Alleluia! Youth News! — continued

**Underground Renovations:** In order to best serve our High School Ministries, we have rearranged some furniture and games to create a High School Youth room for fellowship, teaching, and a place of retreat in the room next to the media room. Other aspects of this transformation have begun with the repainting of the walls, tools for teaching, and the start of brainstorming how we want to decorate that space to represent the excitement happening in the Youth Program.

In the long term, we have big dreams for this space to be continually transformed with decorations, memories, and new places for storage and sitting. If you would like to make a contribution directly toward the transformation of this space, please check out the A.S.K. board or reach out to Kurtis Arndt.

Through conversations with Church Staff, Council Members, the Youth Advisory Board, and Students, we want to make sure that history is kept and remembered, the current is embraced and celebrated, and the future is bright and set up for success for continued ministry. Stay tuned and check out The Underground to see all that has been happening!



## January Music News

**A! Music begins 2024 with MUCH GRATITUDE for YOU!**  
**Here are some highlights from Alleluia! Music 2023:**

- \* Many, many thanks for two very successful fundraisers—Butter Braid and the Christmas Confectionary!
- \* Improvements have been made toward preparing to stream our services and we have 4 new speakers thanks to your fantastic support of the Music Ministry!
- \* The Brass Choir, Instrumental Ensemble, and Flute Choir made some appearances!
- \* Our Traditional and Contemporary Praise Teams welcomed some new musicians!
- \* Our A! Rocks band formed and performed twice!
- \* Our Children's Choirs have grown throughout 2023! They have been helping to lead worship along with singing once a month! Alleluia!
- \* We added Alleluia! Jam Nights on the 3rd Thursday of each month to give ALL a fun chance to sing or play!
- \* The Hand Bell Choir has been playing monthly!
- \* We have added Private Lesson teachers (thanks to some students at Oswego East) with 2 stellar drum instructors and 1 amazing trumpet instructor!
- \* Music 'N Me continues to bring the love and fun of music to many children!
- \* We have added a Praise Choir that sings twice a month. Members enjoy singing as a blended group of voices rather than using individual microphones. You can even dance too!

### JANUARY 2024:

- \* 1/4: Thursday evening rehearsals resume!
- \* 1/17: Children's Choir and the Hand Bell Choir resume!
- \* 1/18: Alleluia! Jam Night - [Click HERE](#) to register! You are welcome to sing hymns with us at 5:15 or with the Contemporary Praise Team at 6:00! Please contact Michele with any questions!
- \* 2/3: WINTERFEST begins at 5pm with a potluck in the CLC. At 6pm we will move to The Underground for a variety of fun! Alleluia! Music Ministry will lead the music fun! A! Rocks will perform! We are looking for other non-musical acts. Please contact Michele with ANY questions! This event is for ALL AGES with lots of fun audience participation! [Click HERE](#) to let us know you're coming or to sign up to share a talent!





## Church Council News

Your Alleluia! Church Council would like to thank you, Alleluia!, for a wonderful 2023! Your passion, servant heart, and commitment to this church has been overwhelming! We challenged you in March to remember "We are Alleluia!" and you met and exceeded all of our expectations.

As a council we were able to establish and complete most of our goals for the year: Governance, Member Engagement, Financial Stewardship, Outreach, and Little Blessings Integration.

A few highlights were to:

- Complete and present at the congregational meeting a revised constitution that more closely follows our Synod model.
- Establish a working relationship with HR Ministry Solutions to review our HR programs and establish basic HR principles.
- Establish a Stewardship Committee to successfully implement a Fall Stewardship campaign.
- Develop a Strategic Plan to grow our church membership and bring more people to Come, Connect and Commit to Jesus.
- Work with the staff of fabulous teachers and leaders at Little Blessings to establish a working relationship that promotes collaboration and appreciation as it comes to educating the young children in our community.

There were many nights and hours when our council met and worked to make all this happen. I personally want to thank Pastor David for his insight and leadership in working with the council.

Many thanks to all members of your 2023 Church Council: Laura Bowler, Darcy Jasien, Jenn Vrba, Sara White, Kelly Cunningham, Ryan Glassman, and Mike Raczak.

We look forward to another year of worshiping and building community together in 2024.

Joy and Peace to you and your families!

Gary Zoet,

2023 Church Council President



**Thanks to All** who supported the Alleluia! Music Ministry by purchasing goodies at the Christmas Confectionary. A huge thanks to all bakers and helpers who made the Christmas Confectionary a success! We raised nearly \$800!



## Creative Christians—February 2/3 Event

Join us at Alleluia! for hours of crafting time! We meet monthly on various Fridays and occasionally on the same Saturday.

There is a maximum of 12 attendees on each date—first come, first served! [Click HERE](#) for more information or to sign up.



# Save the Date for Saturday, April 27<sup>th</sup>, 5:00pm! **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.

Doors open at 5:00 for teams to set up tables and bid on silent auction items.

Games start at 6:00. We'll have a 50/50 raffle, a silent auction, and a wine pull. Tickets are \$35 each and include 2 drink tickets—or, purchase an entire table for only \$245! Tickets go on sale February 1st!

If you would like to volunteer to help by asking local businesses for donations or would like to make a donation to the event, please contact Laura Bowler at [lbowler@alleluia!lutheran.org](mailto:lbowler@alleluia!lutheran.org).



**SAVE THE DATE, Saturday, Feb. 10th**, for a Women's Ministry Event. Speaker, Becky Baudouin will spend the morning with our ladies discussing things that can steal our joy, burdens that weigh us down, and how we can avoid letting that happen.

We'll begin with a light breakfast at 8:30am and then cover topics that will help us learn and grow in our faith. All women are welcome!

*Alleluia!  
Women*

# PRIMETIMERS



## Spaghetti Dinner

### PrimeTimers' Spaghetti Dinner Friday, Jan. 26th, 6:00pm

Are you ready for PrimeTime?  
If you are 59 ½ or more years young,  
we invite you to our  
PrimeTimers' Fellowship Dinner  
in the Alleluia! CLC. Food, fun, and  
fellowship are guaranteed!

[Click HERE](#) to sign up!

Questions to Deb Bostjancic at  
[dbostjancic@alleluia.church](mailto:dbostjancic@alleluia.church)

## New Member Orientation

Wednesday, January 24th, 6:30-7:30pm.

Childcare will be provided. Questions to Deb Bostjancic at  
[dbostjancic@alleluia.church](mailto:dbostjancic@alleluia.church) or 630-904-3311, x306. [CLICK HERE](#) to sign up.



## Lost & Found

A lost & found box is located on the  
upper level near the elevator/stairwell.  
News items are constantly being left  
behind and added! After 60 days items  
are donated. Check for your items!

## Donate Used Eye Glasses

Near the upper level elevator/stairwell  
there is a box for recycling used eye  
glasses. The Lions Club offers used  
glasses for distribution to optical missions  
around the world.



### GriefShare 13-Week Course Begins January 16th, 6:30-8:30pm

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. It's a warm, caring environment, led by people who know what you're going through. The only cost for the program is \$20 to cover the cost of the workbook.

Contact Jennifer Finnerty at [JEFinnerty@aol.com](mailto:JEFinnerty@aol.com) for more information or to register for the course.



## Yoga at Alleluia!

Classes are held Tuesday & Thursday mornings, 9:30—10:30am, in the lower level dance room. The cost is \$15 for drop-ins or \$120 for a 10-class card. Classes are open to members and non-members. Wear comfortable clothing. Bring a yoga mat and water. Physical benefits include flexibility, balance, strength, alignment, breath control, and improved circulation. The word yoga means "to join or unite." Yoga can be done at any age and any fitness level. Instructor is Jeanne O'Connell. Check it out!



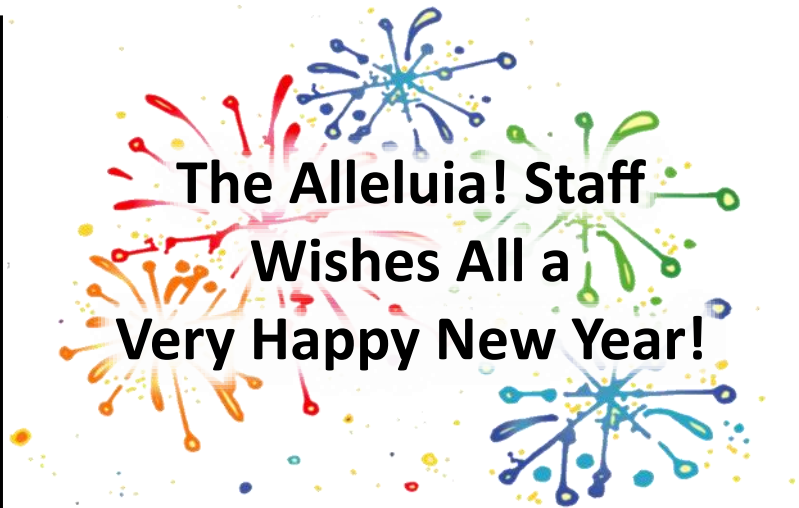
### Join Us this Year at Little Blessings Preschool

We still have preschool openings for 2023-24 enrollment! For information, please contact the preschool office at 630-904-9898.



Little Blessings is  
a ministry of  
Alleluia!

**The Alleluia! Staff  
Wishes All a  
Very Happy New Year!**



The Alleluia! Church Council members may be contacted via [council@alleluia.church](mailto:council@alleluia.church)

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Gary Zoet (Term Exp 2/24)  
[gzoet@alleluia.church](mailto:gzoet@alleluia.church)

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



## Worship Schedule

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

**Sunday Morning  
9:00am & 10:30am**

### Stay Connected!

Website: [www.allelualutheran.org](http://www.allelualutheran.org)



Alleluia - Naperville, IL



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