



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.

March 2024

Alleluia! News

Holy Week & Easter Schedule at Alleluia!



Palm Sunday – March 24

- Worship at 9:00 & 10:30am
- Jesus enters Jerusalem to shouts of “Hosanna!”
- First Communion Celebration



Maundy Thursday Worship – March 28

- Worship at 7:00pm
- Jesus begins the sacrament of Holy Communion
- First Communion Celebration



Good Friday – March 29

- Family Event (preK–grade school) 10-11:00am
- Tenebrae worship at 7:30pm: The “Seven Last Words of Jesus.”
- Jesus gives his life on the cross



Easter Sunday – March 31

- Worship at 9:00 & 10:30am
- He is Risen! He is Risen, indeed! Alleluia!
- Celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ!

Wednesday Evening Lenten Study Continues

Wednesday evenings in Lent offer the opportunity to learn and reflect on five stories at the heart of the Bible, using video materials from Luther Seminary. No prior knowledge of the Bible is needed! Please see page 11 for more information and to sign up.





The Body of Christ, Lutheran Style

The apostle Paul compared the church to a body made up of different parts. “The eye cannot say to the hand, ‘I don’t need you!’ And the head cannot say to the feet, ‘I don’t need you!’” And “if the whole body were an eye, where would the sense of hearing be? If the whole body were an ear, where would the sense of smell be?” (see 1 Corinthians 12). Just as the body needs hands, feet, eyes, and ears, the church needs people with different gifts working together to be the body of Christ.

At the congregational meeting in February, Church Council chair Gary Zoet spoke about the accomplishments of the past year, which were made possible by the diverse gifts God has given the people of Alleluia! and by the Spirit that brings us together to use our different roles for a common purpose. Paul writes, “Now there are a variety of gifts but the same Spirit, the same Lord.” That is the glory of the body of Christ.

We should remember that the body of Christ goes beyond the people that gather at 103d Street and Book Road. It exists across space and time. One way we live out a broader vision of the church is by being part of the Northern Illinois Synod and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

As a church structure, the ELCA falls in the middle of the spectrum of ways that churches can be structured. At one end of the spectrum are Baptist or Congregational traditions, in which each congregation is entirely independent, sovereign, and autonomous. At the other end of the spectrum is the Roman Catholic Church, in which congregations are formally linked to dioceses, bishops, and officials at the Vatican, and a great amount of top-down authority over congregations is exercised by the pope and the bishops.

The ELCA takes a middle route: each congregation has a good deal of autonomy, yet each congregation is linked for mutual support with a regional synod and with the national body that is the ELCA. The mutual support takes shape in such areas as mission, disaster relief, youth ministry, and ordained ministry.

For example, when it comes to choosing a minister, congregations in the ELCA are free to choose their own pastor—unlike in the Catholic Church, say, where the bishop assigns a pastor to the congregation. But an ELCA congregation isn’t entirely autonomous in the call process. The synod plays a role by guiding and approving candidates for ordination and by helping congregations find pastors (and interim pastors) and helping pastors find positions. At the church-wide level, it’s the ELCA, made up of synods from across the U.S., that sets theological guidelines for ministry and helps Lutheran seminaries share resources.

The diversity of gifts and roles in the body of Christ can at times make life more complicated and challenging than we would like it to be. But appreciating the diversity of gifts and roles in the church can also help us see more of what God is doing in the world and help us comprehend “the breadth, and length, and height, and depth of Christ’s love,” so that we “may be filled with the fullness of God” (Ephesians 3:19).

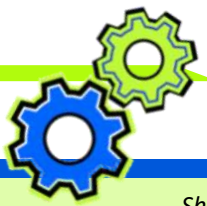
Faithfully,

Pastor David

**CONGREGATIONAL
UPDATE**

Results of Congregational Meeting

At the congregational meeting on Feb. 25, three members were elected to serve on the Church Council. Gary Zoet was re-elected to a one-year term, Jenn Vrba was re-elected to a two-year term, and Chris Sulzner was elected to a two-year term. Voters ratified the revised Alleluia! Constitution and approved the 2024 budget.



Children's Ministry



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

In the month of March KidsConnect church school kids will be learning all about Holy Week!

Please note that there will be two family worship times in the month of March:

Sunday, March 24th (Palm Sunday), and Sunday, March 31st (Easter Sunday).

[CLICK HERE](#) to register a student for the current year of KidsConnect

[CLICK HERE](#) to register as a KidsConnect volunteer



KidsConnect Church School kids celebrated filling up our S.H.I.N.E. Bucket with ping pong balls again! Balls are earned when kids bring their Bible passages, for good behavior, and for bringing a friend. We played games in the underground and made cards for our Smile for Seniors card ministry!

The First Communion Retreat is 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. A parent must attend with their student. This event begins in The Underground. Please enter at lower level 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 with questions.



VBS Registration is OPEN! START the PARTY the week of June 10th-14th! Celebrate the Good News with us at Vacation Bible School!

Age: 3yrs (must be 3 by June 10th) - 5th grade are invited

TIME: Choose which session your kids will join us:

Session #1 Students: 9am-12pm - [CLICK HERE](#) to register

Session #2 Students: 1pm-4pm - [CLICK HERE](#) to register

Kids will visit the various party rooms: Games, Music, Crafts, Missions, Small Group Time, and a light ON-THE-GO snack will be provided each day.

Discounts! Full week ADULT volunteers pay \$40/child.

Join your kids for the **BEST.WEEK.EVER.** by volunteering!

Many volunteers are needed for the party! There are so many ways to get involved:

- Be a station leader for one of the following areas: Games, Crafts, Missions, Music, Preschool Room Crew
- Lead a group of kids through the party rooms
- Help decorate the various party rooms
- Help prepare supplies
- Youth volunteers are needed in all areas
- High school students are needed as Crew Assistants
- Middle school students are needed as Station Assistants

Session #1 Volunteers: 9am-12pm - [CLICK HERE](#) to register

Session #2 Volunteers: 1pm-4pm - [CLICK HERE](#) to register

PLEASE NOTE: T-shirts are not guaranteed for registrations after May 19th.

Help us prepare for VBS this summer and check out our donation list by [clicking HERE](#). **THANK YOU** in advance for your continued support and generosity! Contact April Blair at ablair@alleluia.church with any questions.



Children's Ministry -continued

Good Friday Family Event - MARCH 29th, 10:00-11:00am

Experience the meaning of Good Friday with totally "kid-friendly" worship. We will begin in the sanctuary, (enter at door #1 or #4), then we'll move to the Community Life Center for fun and refreshments. This event is geared toward families of preschool—5th graders, but ALL are welcome! Please [CLICK HERE](#) to register!



Children's Easter Egg Hunts on Easter Morning

Meet near the lower level playground at the following times:

8:45am on Sunday, March 31st (before 9:00am worship)

11:30am on Sunday, March 31st (after 10:30am worship)

Please bring your baskets to collect eggs!

In case of rain or wet weather we will meet in the lower level Rec Room.

Children attend worship with their families on Easter morning.



Join us at K3 on Wednesday Evenings! - A Time for All Kids Aged Kindergarten - 3rd Grade

All Kgtm - 3rd Graders are invited to meet with Ms. Michele in the Music Room every Wednesday evening, 5:45-6:30pm, during the school year.

We explore different Bible verses weekly and our Bible stories are enhanced through technology, cooking, dance, music, creative expression, and video. It's something fun and different each week!



K3 Kids enjoyed learning the song, "I Am a Disciple" and spelling it out as they sang!



Feed the Need Mobile-Pack

This packing event takes place Saturday & Sunday, March 2-3! Children ages 5 and older are welcome to participate with an adult. What a great way for young children to become mission-minded while they help to feed other children around the world. Please see page 8 of this newsletter for more information.

Private Music Lessons at Alleluia!



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

Questions to Michele Nelson at
mnelson@alleluia.church

Alleluia! Youth News!

What's for Lunch after Church?

Each week, while supplies last, "Created to Be" students and leaders will be selling Lou Malnati's \$15 Frozen Deep Dish Pizza certificates and \$20 Frozen Deep Dish Pizzas! The 9" Frozen Deep Dish Pizzas come in cheese, pepperoni, sausage, and spinach. The certificates make great gifts and are good at ANY Lou Malnati's location in Illinois, Indiana, Wisconsin, or Arizona through 10/1/24. If you would like to purchase an abundance of certificates for gifts, business, or personal use, please reach out to Youth Director Kurtis Arndt so more can be ordered.

These pizzas are REALLY good! Plus - each purchase gives us a **significant** kickback for our trip to the New Orleans ELCA Youth Gathering! We will have a limited supply of both certificates and pizzas - so get them while you can!



Confirmation Update

- In February, students covered topics including Paul and the Early Church, the Rise of Rome, Ash Wednesday, and the Second Half of the Apostles Creed!
 - In March, we will cover topics including The Cross (3/6), Acts (3/13), Vocation (3/20). We will not have confirmation on 3/27. Students in confirmation will spend time having intergenerational conversations with members of the congregation on Wednesday from 6:30pm - 7:00pm before heading down to The Underground Youth Center for a Large Group Lesson and Small Groups from 7:00pm - 8:00pm.
- 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.

CONFIRMATION

High School Youth Group Update

- In February, we spent time exploring how we are 'Created to Be: Free.' High School Students explored how God allows the gospel to completely transform the way we live our lives. We covered this through studies of theology, hands-on learning, and conversation!
- In March, our lesson series is 'Created to Be: Disruptive' - to work for justice for all of our siblings. Topics we are going to cover will include Jesus' Third Way, the life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr, and learning what our denomination has done and is working on in the field of justice.
- The ongoing theme for this year's lessons will be themes that will be covered at the ELCA Youth Gathering in New Orleans! The topics we cover are applicable to all high school students regardless if they plan to attend the 2024 Summer Trip or not!
- Haven't been on a Tuesday Night? Come! There is no cost! 7:00pm - 9:00pm every Tuesday! Contact Youth Director Kurtis Arndt at karndt@alleluia.church if you have any questions!



Summer Trip 2024 Update: ELCA Youth Gathering - Next Stop NOLA!

- We are so excited for what is to come at the ELCA Youth Gathering in New Orleans, LA. Alleluia! is sending 9 people in total to the ELCA Youth Gathering to learn, serve, immerse, and bond with thousands of other Lutherans from all over the United States!
- Participants are working hard to earn their way to New Orleans! The trip is a costly one - we are required to stay in hotels, we need airfare to New Orleans, plus the additional costs for food, fun, and miscellaneous expenses. Students and Adult Leaders are actively fundraising to pay for their trip! Be on the lookout for fundraisers and other ways you can lend your support! If you'd like to donate financially to this life changing trip or if you have connections to a travel agency, airline, or organization that can help offset costs, please contact Youth Director Kurtis Arndt.
- Lastly - LAST CALL registration remains open for the 2024 ELCA Youth Gathering. The cost did go up - your student isn't late - others are just early! Please reach out if your student would like to go - the absolute LATEST we can register students is April 15th, 2024. [CLICK HERE](#) for information and registration.



March Music News

Thanks to EVERYONE who came to enjoy Winterfest and to our amazing volunteers and participants! Enjoy photos on the next page!

As we reflect during this Lenten Season, please pray about any musical gifts God has given you to share! If you play (or played a musical instrument), or sing currently (or have in the past), please pray about contacting Michele Nelson, Director of Music and Worship, to join us in Alleluia! Music. You can choose to participate once a week, every other week, once a month, or just on special occasions. Whatever works for you!

With special **Holy Week** services coming soon, consider joining us short-term! Rehearsals begin in March to prepare for Palm Sunday (3/24), Maundy Thursday (3/28), Good Friday (3/29), and Easter Services (3/31). WE WOULD BE HONORED to have you JOIN US! Please contact Michele at mnelson@alleluia.church with any questions. Or, feel free to stop by the piano after any service. Michele would LOVE to visit with you and answer your Alleluia! Music questions!

The Children's Choirs will be performing at the Spring Festival on March 10th!
Help us celebrate Lutheran Schools Week and our own Little Blessings Ministry!

The festival will take place in the Alleluia! CLC following the 10:30 service. We'll enjoy a potluck, music, crafts, entertainment, and SO MUCH MORE!
 Please mark your calendars and be sure to sign up to attend the potluck [HERE](#).



Quick Reminder!



Mondays - Piano lessons

Tuesdays - Keyboarding II and IV

Wednesday Evenings -

- ♦ Piano lessons
- ♦ Children's Choir at 5:00pm
- ♦ K3 at 5:45pm
- ♦ Handbells at 7:00pm

Thursdays Evenings -

- ♦ Traditional Praise at 5:15pm
- ♦ SOMETIMES!- Praise Choir at 6:00pm (Please check your email)
- ♦ Contemporary at 6:00pm

Sundays - Instrumental rehearsals or small vocal ensembles

Let Michele know if you might be interested in a **"Spring Jam" on Thursday, March 21st**, where you can meet the Alleluia! music volunteers that are able to come. You can ask questions, and sing/play some music YOU enjoy. [Click HERE](#) for more info!

Email Michele at mnelson@alleluia.church with any Alleluia! music questions.



Please enjoy photos from Winterfest 2024 on the following page! →

WINTERFEST

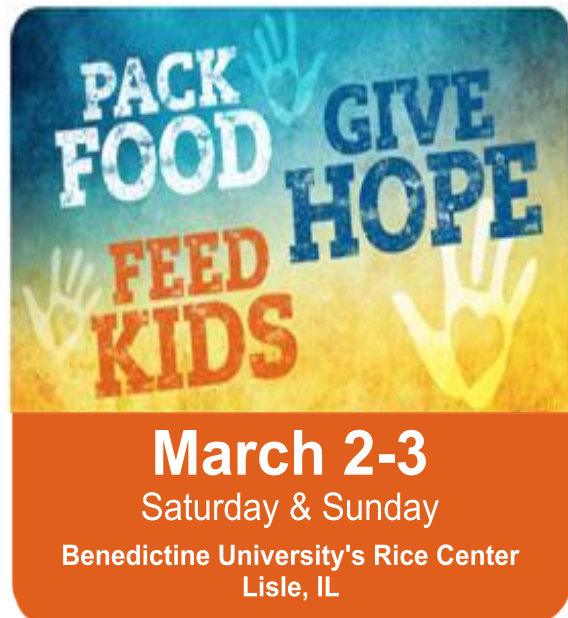




Thank You!

Souper Bowl of Caring Donations

We collected \$705 for the Feed the Need event. This is a great start toward our \$5000 goal. We also collected 220 lbs. of food that was donated to Loaves and Fishes. Many thanks to Kevin & Teresa Zahora for delivering the donated food to the food pantry!



FEED THE NEED!™

→ **There's Still Time!** ←

Sign up to Feed the Need!
Saturday & Sunday, March 2/3
at Benedictine University's Rice Center.

[CLICK HERE](#) to see available time slots and sign up. You can also use the link to make a donation toward the Alleluia! commitment to raise \$5000 to help cover costs.



Honor Loved Ones with Engraved Leaves on Our Memorial Tree

- A Bit of History of our Alleluia! Artwork -

In 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 also created the large exclamation point (!) that greets people in the west parking lot.

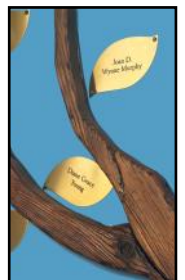
Tree of Life

The 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 103rd St. is the Memorial Tree, its branches adorned with gold leaves that are engraved with names of loved ones. If you would like to purchase an engraved leaf in remembrance of a loved one, we ask a donation of \$150 for each leaf.

If you have any questions or would like to order an engraved leaf, contact Deb Bostjancic at dbostjancic@alleluia.church to make arrangements.



CONGREGATIONAL UPDATE

Meet & Greet the Senior Pastor Candidate - Sunday, March 3rd

All are invited on this Sunday to meet the Senior Pastor candidate brought forward by the Call Committee and endorsed by the Church Council. The reception will take place in the Gathering Area after the 9:00 and 10:30am services. For reasons of confidentiality, information about the candidate will not be available until March 3rd.

March 17th—ONE Worship Service and Vote on Senior Pastor Candidate

A special meeting of the congregation will be held on Sunday, March 17th, on extending a call to the candidate for Senior Pastor. The meeting will follow the ONE combined worship service at 10:00am on that morning.

ALLELUIA! GAME NIGHT!

Saturday, April 27th, 5:00pm!

- 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 (21+) 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 5:00pm for teams to set up tables and bid on silent auction items. Games start at 6:00pm. We'll have a 50/50 raffle, a silent auction, and a wine pull. Each \$35 ticket includes 2 drink tickets—or, you can purchase an entire table for only \$245! **Prices increase on April 1st!**

Tickets are on sale NOW! [CLICK HERE](#) to purchase tickets.

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.church



Adult Outing to Morton Arboretum - Sunday, April 7th, 11:45am

Enjoy God's beauty with a walk in nature at the Morton Arboretum. Our tour will be led by John Garrison, Alleluia! member and Lead Education Guide at the Arboretum. We are limited to 20 people. We'll meet in the CLC at 11:45 for a boxed luncheon (\$11.00) and then carpool as able to alleviate that cost.

Tickets to the Arboretum are \$17.00 each and \$15.00 for those over age 65. The rain date is April 14th.

Questions? Email or call Deb Bostjancic at dbostjancic@alleluia.church or call 630-254-2002.

[CLICK HERE](#) to reserve your spot online!



Volunteers Needed!

We are seeking volunteers to monitor sound levels or advance slides during worship services. Training is provided!

If interested, please contact

Matt Jakusz at

mjakusz@alleluia.church

or

Michele Nelson at

mnelson@alleluia.church

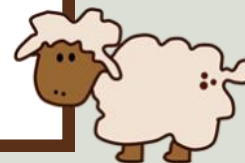
KNITTERS & CROCHETERS



Join us for lunch and knitting!

Bring a bag lunch and your knitting and enjoy friendship, food, and knitting/crocheting tips. We'll meet at Alleluia! on the 1st & 3rd Wednesdays of each month through May. Please stop at the office for a nametag if you don't have one. Meet in the Bride's Room near the sanctuary. Questions to Elaine at elaine.bynum@gmail.com.

Little Lambs Consignment Sale



The Little Lambs Consignment Sale is once again combining with Owen Elementary PTA Resale to host one big ONLINE super-sale! The store will be open online from **March 1st to March 3rd** with many items marked half-price on the 3rd. Purchased items will be picked up at Owen Elementary School on Saturday, March 9th. [CLICK HERE](#) for information.

Lenten Study Continues: Five Core Stories of the Bible

Wednesday evenings in Lent offer the opportunity to learn and reflect on five stories at the heart of the Bible. No prior knowledge of the Bible is needed!

March 6: The Covenant on Mt. Sinai

March 13: The Promised Land

March 20: The Reign of King David



The class meets from 7 to 8pm in the Community Room. A light meal will be served at 6pm in the CLC. An intergenerational table discussion including Confirmation students begins at 6:30pm.

[Click HERE](#) to sign up. Volunteers are needed to help plan, serve, set up, and clean up for the weekly meals.

[Click HERE](#) to view volunteer slots.



Several Alleluia! women recently enjoyed a morning with speaker, Becky Baudouin, learning and growing in faith as we discussed ways to avoid things that can steal our joy. Thanks to Karla Doherty and Christy Russell for planning this event.

*Alleluia!
Women*

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

Laura Bowler (Term Exp 2/26)
lbowler@alleluia.church

Darcy Jasien (Term Exp 2/26)
djasien@alleluia.church

Chris Sulzner (Term Exp 2/26)
csulzner@alleluia.church

Sara White (Term Exp 2/25)
swhite@alleluia.church

Ryan Glassman (Term Exp 2/25)
rglassman@alleluia.church

Michael Raczak (Term Exp 2/25)
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Jenn Vrba (Term Exp 2/26)
jvrba@alleluia.church

Gary Zoet (Term Exp 2/25)
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.alleluialutheran.org



Alleluia - Naperville, IL



Alleluia! - Naperville, IL