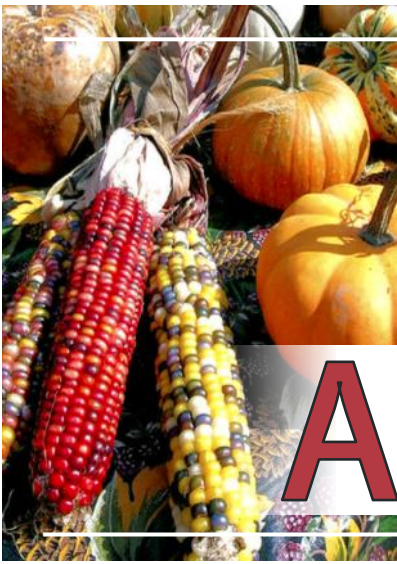




Alleluia! Lutheran Church, 4055 S. Book Rd., Naperville, IL 60564
www.alleluia!lutheran.org Phone: 630-904-3311
Our Mission: To enable all to come, connect, and commit to Jesus.

November 2025 Alleluia! NEWS

SATURDAY, NOV. 8TH, 6-8PM
ALL INFO ON PAGE 11

A CONCERT TO BENEFIT
LOAVES & FISHES FOOD PANTRY



Butter Braid
Page 11



Operation Christmas Child
Page 13



Harvest Sunday
Page 13

*Save
the Date!*

**ALLELUIA!
GAME
NIGHT**

Saturday, February 28th, 2026
More info on page 12

Find it Here!

Pastor Joel's Message: p. 2
Stewardship 2026: p. 3 & 4
Children's Ministry News: p. 5 & 6
Youth Ministry News: p. 7
Music Ministry News: p. 8 & 9
Little Blessings News: p. 10

Message from Pastor Joel

"They are like trees planted by streams of water, which yield their fruit in its season, and their leaves do not wither. In all that they do they prosper." ~Psalm 1:3



Dear Friends in Christ,

Every October we embark upon our annual Alleluia! stewardship campaign. When I think back on the past year, I think of how blessed I feel to be here with you at Alleluia! Together we are working through the joys and challenges of fulfilling our mission to "Enable all to Come, Connect, and Commit to Jesus." What comes to mind as I write this is that in some ways it feels like we are dancing along the precipice of a great mountain.

Grateful for our Many Blessings

I see God at work at Alleluia! We feel the excitement, passion, and momentum of all the great ministry happening in and through Alleluia!, pushing us up the mountainside. And regarding our financial challenges, God is with us, hearing our prayers and rewarding our commitment and efforts. For example: 2025 annual pledges were +22% above 2024; fall Little Blessings enrollment is 150+ students; and we secured a \$120,000 rental agreement with Wheatland Salem Church. God is good!

Financial Challenges Persist

Last week in worship our Treasurer, Roger Russell, shared that 2025 is the third year in a row with a deficit budget. It is difficult to hear the news that we will likely end the year with a -\$90,000 deficit. What is more troublesome is that without the support of our mortgage company, Thrivent, our deficit would be -\$250,000. It can feel like we're falling off that mountainside. Yet, we persist. The chasm feels big, at times even overwhelming, but Scripture reminds us to cling to God's steadfast love and hope-filled future for us.

Rooted in Gratitude

In September, we launched a new worship theme, "Rooted in Gratitude." Each of us wrote items that we are thankful for on paper leaves. We then decorated a large tree near The Well. The many leaves are a clear testimony of God's people expressing gratitude for His blessings. Throughout the fall, we have been "watered" by the word of God and have lifted our voices in praise through worship. For example, our children and youth are growing and "producing fruit" through our Children's and Youth Ministries. And our Little Blessings teachers are "sowing the seeds" of faith in our littlest ones.

Gratitude Sows Generosity

As one of our members, Betty Rae Smith said, "Gratitude is the seed of generosity." When we reflect on the abundance of God's great love, it leads us to act in generous ways in the world around us. We are like those trees planted near streams of water bearing much fruit. We give thanks for your continued financial generosity.

2026 Stewardship Campaign Challenge

Last year we challenged you to "Step Up" your giving. You met that challenge head on! Thank you to those who were able to "Step Up." Thank you to those who continued to support Alleluia! at the same giving level. Thank you to the families who gave but did not pledge. And thank you to the 20 families who made a pledge for the first time last year! This year we hope to continue our strong momentum. If you've not made a pledge in the past, please consider doing so (we hope to add 20 new pledging families). If you have pledged in the past, we encourage you to find yourself on one of the steps of the attached graphic and prayerfully consider "Stepping Up."

A Few Important Details

On November 16th will take time in worship to distribute and fill out pledge cards to place in the offering plate. If you are unable to attend that Sunday, please feel free to pick up a pledge card at the Welcome Center. You may drop it in the offering plate at worship any Sunday between now and the end of the year, or visit our Alleluia! website and click on the GIVING tab.

Summary

The journey ahead of us may be difficult, but we are not alone. God continues to walk beside us providing everything we need along the way. The Stewardship Committee and I thank you for your past generosity. We encourage you to review the enclosed estimates of what is needed for us to close the gap between our anticipated expenses versus income. Your pledge helps us plan for our budgeting process in 2026. Prayerfully consider how you can continue to financially support your church home in 2026.

Serving Christ Together,
Pastor Joel Vander Wal

The Alleluia! Stewardship Team asks that you view important Stewardship information on the following pages.
"Why We Give" on page 3 — "Financial Update" on page 4

Alleluia! Lutheran Church

2026 Stewardship Campaign



Giving is personal

Here's how we responded to a recent informal poll

"We give to Alleluia! because..."

giving back

thankful

blessed

belief

gratitude

faith

community

...God has blessed my family and we want to do our part for God

...we love the faith community, friendship, and spiritual fulfillment—this is our family!

...to sustain A! for future generations

...we want to support our church home

...church services fill my soul for the week

...in response to God's generosity to us

...if you had a dollar, would you give God a dime?—we believe in tithing to our church community

...we believe in our mission—for all to come, connect, commit to Jesus

...I want other families to experience what my family has experienced here at Alleluia!—children growing in faith and lifelong family friendships

...to support the community where we raise our kids—with families who share the same values—I can't imagine raising our children without this

...I believe God calls us to give—everything we have is from God

...A! is the hands and feet of Christ—I have received so much support for 30 years during every blessing and every challenge

...giving financially is one way to express my appreciation to God for providing me Alleluia! as a vehicle to grow my faith

...in gratitude for God's grace

...it's my church home—it's my family

...we all benefit from the fellowship and friends we see weekly.

...at A! we feel safe, loved, and seen—we give so that everyone, especially our kids, can grow up with that same support

...to honor those who came before us who built Alleluia! allowing us to connect and reflect God's Word

Continued on the following page—

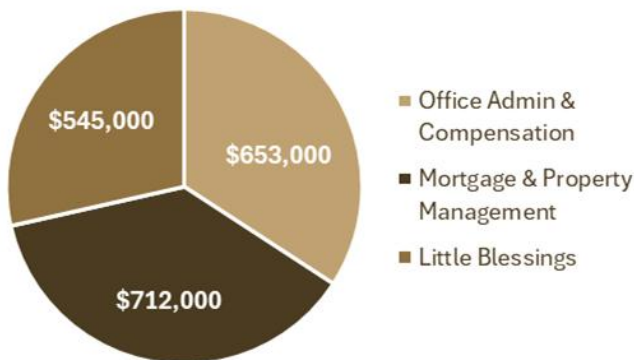
Alleluia! Lutheran Church 2026 Stewardship Campaign

Gratitude is the Seed of Generosity

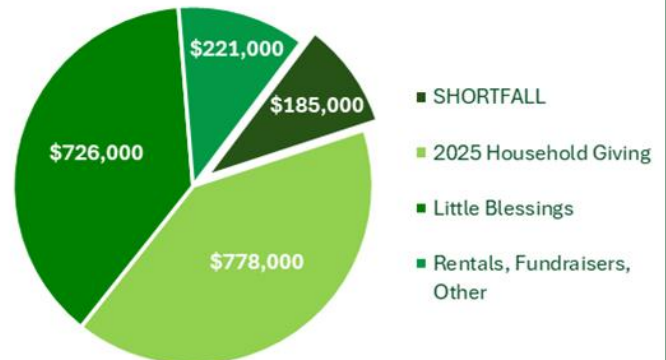
- **Grateful Good News!** — 2025 Pledges +22% vs 2024 — Wheatland Salem rental \$120K — Little Blessings enrollment is up
- **Expense Challenges** — Interest only mortgage payments end in Dec. resulting in +\$160K in 2026 — Increased facility repairs +\$60K
- **Bottom Line** — At current giving we project a **shortfall of \$185K**
- **Our Request** — Please continue to fund our many good works by increasing your household giving for 2026!



2026 Church Operating Expenses
\$1,910,000



2026 Church Income
\$1,725,000



We are grateful for your continued generosity!

This graphic shows current annual Alleluia! household giving at different levels. 13% gave \$1,001-\$2,000, 9% gave \$2,001-\$3,000, etc.

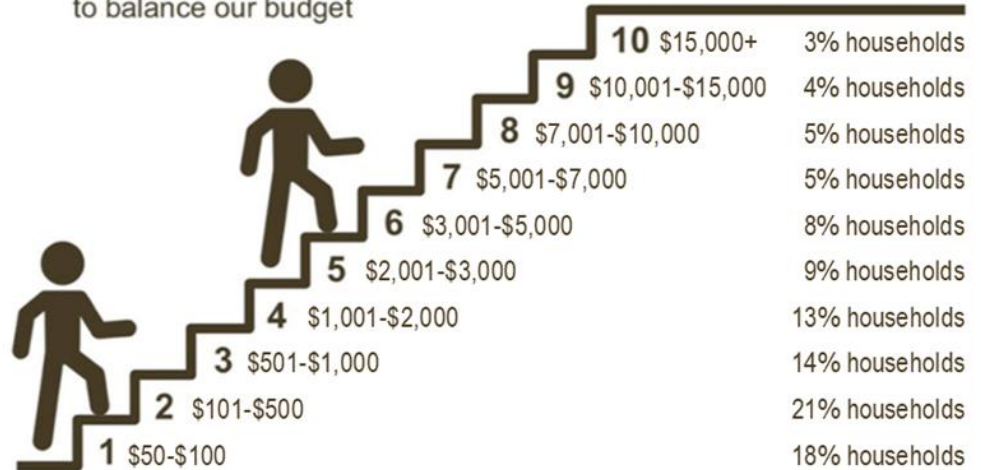
An Alleluia! balanced budget is within reach!

Please prayerfully consider increasing your giving in 2026.

If you currently give at the step 1 level, could you move to step 2? If step 2, could you move to step 3? And so on...

Take the Next Step!

to balance our budget



Please pledge by November 16th — [CLICK HERE](#)

Children's Ministry

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

KidsConnect Meets Every Sunday During Both Services

We welcome children 3yrs-5th grade, placing them in age-appropriate classrooms where they explore Bible stories in fun and meaningful ways. Each week, kids dive into God's Word through **art, games, music, videos, science, or drama**, making the Bible come alive! Our time together begins with **worship music, the Lord's Prayer, communion, and blessings**—a sacred and joyful experience created just for kids. Don't miss out — [CLICK HERE](#) to register your child today!



KidsConnect is Looking for Volunteers!

Join us in making a lasting impact on the faith journey of our children.

We offer:



- * flexible scheduling
- * easy-to-follow no-prep lessons
- * a meaningful and rewarding experience
- * occasional sweet treats as a thank-you!

Whether you're a middle schooler, high school student, or adult, there's a place for you on our team.

[CLICK HERE](#) and sign up to be part of something special.

Connect45 — Fun Service Projects Coming Up!

- ♦ Preparing Harvest Bags for Harvest Weekend
- ♦ Caroling at Sunrise Senior Center
- ♦ Serving at Feed my Starving Children
- ♦ Filling Easter Eggs
- ♦ Serving at Loaves and Fishes



Connect45 is for 4th/5th graders and meets every Wednesday evening from 6pm-7pm in the lower level Celebration Room. Register today by [CLICKING HERE](#) to enjoy weekly gatherings, Bible lessons, games, service projects, and more. Contact April Blair at ablair@alleluia.church with questions.

Save the Date for Breakfast in Bethlehem Sunday, Dec. 7th following 10:30 worship

- KidsConnect kids will sing at the end of service
- Pancake breakfast will be served
- Games & crafts will be available in the gym
- Service project: Christmas cards for senior citizens
- Visit with St. Nick



Hosted by the Children's Ministry

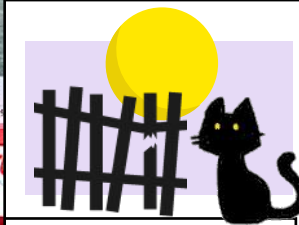
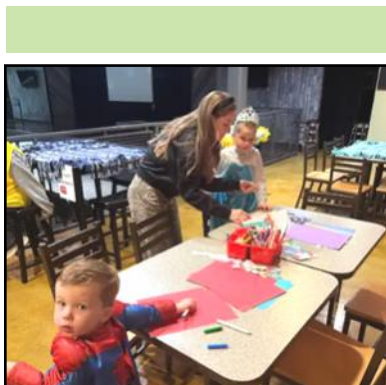
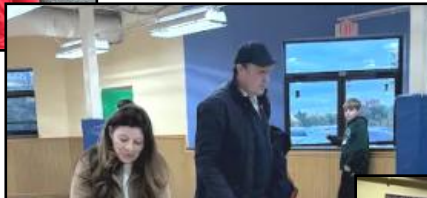
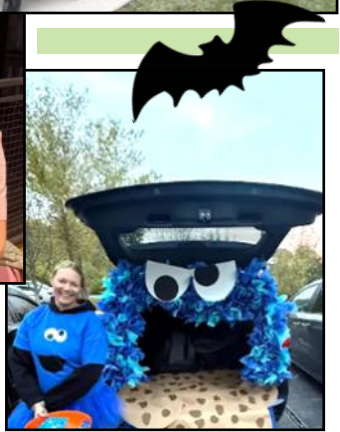
Join our planning committee! Email April Blair, ablair@alleluia.church if you are interested in helping to make this event even more special.



Enjoy pictures from Trunk or Treat on the following page

TRUNK or TREAT

Thanks to all who attended,
volunteered, or donated to Trunk or Treat!



Participants packed 63 Operation Christmas Child boxes! Great job!





Alleluia! Youth News!

Affirmation of Baptism

On October 26th at the 10:30am service 15 of our 9th Graders affirmed their baptisms.

Congratulations to them as they continue their walk in faith as full members of Alleluia! Lutheran Church.



Overnight Fall Retreat at Lutheran Outdoor Ministries Center

On November 21st into November 22nd, Alleluia! will join other churches at an overnight retreat at LOMC in Oregon, IL. This retreat is \$80 per participant. Sign up as soon as possible as we will carpool to and from LOMC. All students, grades 6-12, are invited to attend! Scan the QR code or [CLICK HERE](#) to register.



Confirmation (6th - 8th Grade)



In October we had an absolute blast - Culver's Night Out, Martin Luther & The Protestant Reformation. and a 'How To: Bible'! Our Confirmation program has a running registration - if your student is in 6th - 8th Grade, register! All are welcome! Please do so by scanning the QR code or by clicking [HERE](#).

In November, Confirmation students can look forward to Lutheran Outdoor Ministries Center Retreat (11/21 - 11/22). We also will have lessons on Grace, Paul & The Early Church, and the Letters of the Bible. So much to look forward to this November for our 6th - 8th grade students!



High School Youth Group (9th - 12th Grade)



Students in grades 9-12 meet Sunday Nights in The Underground Youth Center from 6:30-8:00pm for fellowship, a lesson, and a wide variety of activities including games, community building, service projects, and more. As always - all are welcome to come as they are!

Our November lesson series is, 'Jesus Jams', where we will be focusing on Christian Music and exploring not only the songs we hear, but learning the behind of the song and music video! We will gather on November 2nd, November 9th, and November 16th!

In addition, High School Students are also invited to the Fall Retreat at Lutheran Outdoor Ministries Center Retreat (11/21 - 11/22). [CLICK HERE](#) to register for the retreat.

Our High School Youth Group is always growing and welcoming new faces! Want more information or to be added to the email list? Scan the QR code or [CLICK HERE](#)!





November Music

BUTTER BRAID ON SALE NOW through Sunday, Nov. 2nd!

FREE SAMPLES of Butter Braid on Sunday, Nov. 2nd after services.



Butter Braid proceeds will go toward new microphones in the sanctuary and possibly a new camera for streaming. Thank you for helping us meet our goal. Enjoy the upcoming holidays with delicious Butter Braid!

ORDER PICK UP TIMES/PLACES are as follows:

—For Alleluia! orders: **After services on Nov. 9th** in the Gathering Area. Please look for your order form attached to your bagged order. Contact Ms. Michele at mlui@alleluia.church if unable to pick up your order on this day.

—For Little Blessings orders: Pick up just outside the Little Blessings Office on Nov. 10th-13th at 11:30am. Please email Ms. Michele (mlui@alleluia.church) to let her know when you are picking up your order.

ALL SAINT'S DAY is SUNDAY, NOV. 2nd (and turn your clocks back one hour!) We will enjoy the music of a professional cellist playing at both services! He will accompany hymns, contemporary music, and add LOTS of special music to these contemplative services.

All Saints' Day



TICKETS ARE ON SALE FOR OUR LOAVES & FISHES BENEFIT CONCERT

Please come and enjoy the fun! [CLICK HERE](#) for info and tickets. View the concert ad on page 11.

LET'S COUNT THE THINGS FOR WHICH OUR MUSIC MINISTRY IS THANKFUL:

- 1) Donations made to repair "diminishing parts" of our sound/video equipment. We need microphones, new streaming cameras, and new projectors!
- 2) Fundraising through Butter Braid for repairs to our media and sound equipment.
- 3) Musicians who GIVE of their talent and time WEEKLY through rehearsals and leading worship—and a SPECIAL THANKS to their families who are supportive so that this can happen!
- 4) Sound monitors and slide monitors who use their talents to provide a meaningful worship experience!
- 5) Servant HEARTS of EACH of our musicians!
- 6) Families who DEDICATE their weekly time to drive their children to and from Children's Choir!
- 7) Mothers, fathers, and caregivers who spend quality time with a child during a Music 'N Me class! Please contact Ms. Michele at mlui@alleluia.church if you are interested in class information!
- 8) Supportive teachers and EXCITED Little Blessings children who LOVE singing about God's love and care!
- 9) Adult musicians who BALANCE "real life" and our music ministry!
- 10) Music—NEED WE SAY MORE?!

CHILDREN'S MUSIC

The Children's Choirs sang in worship on Oct. 5th and they were awesome! We are preparing to sing again on Nov. 16th at 10:30 as well as getting ready for caroling and Christmas Eve! Lots of fun!

Both choirs are gearing up for a musical entitled, "USS PERFECT" based on the Fruits of the Spirit. This production explores what awaits people on their journey with Christ in different countries! We can't wait for the discussions! Our 2nd through 5th graders will lead the speaking parts! We hope to share this in the spring and might try to share it at another location too!

Little Blessings is working on learning the music for "Little Blessings Shares the Christmas Story" before rehearsals begin next month.

Music 'N Me is waiting for YOU - Early childhood music classes for infants through age 5! Ms. Michele and Ms. Rachel are eagerly waiting to hear from you. Please contact Ms. Michele at mlui@alleluia.church for info or to register.

Our K3 Ministry reflected on "talking to God" through several prayer stations! Please enjoy photos on the following page.



November Music — continued

CALLING FOR CHRISTMAS MUSICIANS

Do you play an instrument? Did you sing with a praise team or choir previously? Do you LOVE Christmas music? If you answered "YES!" to any of these questions, please contact Ms. Michele at mlui@alleluia.church ASAP about opportunities to sing or play during the Christmas services!

DID SOMEONE SAY IT'S TIME TO JAM?!

Alleluia! Jam Night is on the 3rd Thursday of each month at 6:30pm in the sanctuary. Come join the contemporary praise team and JAM with them...or, just watch! [CLICK HERE](#) to let us know you'll join us!

Our K3 Ministry reflected on "talking to God" through several prayer stations!



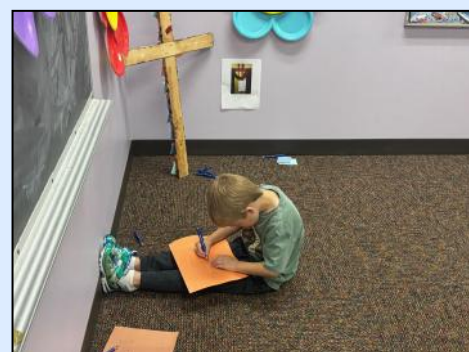
Creating a family tree and praying for each family member



Leaving our "burdens" at the cross



Prayer Corner:
"Be still and know that I am God."



Drawing a picture of blessings in
God's creation



Copying some of our favorite Bible
verses to keep on our wall



All Kindergarten - 3rd graders are invited to meet with Ms. Michele in the Music Room every Wednesday evening, 6:00-6:45pm. We explore different Bible verses weekly and our Bible stories may be enhanced through technology, cooking, dance, music, creative expression, or video. It's something different EACH week! Please reach out to Ms. Michele with questions!

[CLICK HERE](#) to sign up a student for K3 and join the fun!



Little Blessings News!

November 2025



From the Director's Desk

November is a wonderful month to pause and reflect on all that we're thankful for. I am appreciative for the gracious welcome I have received since I joined Little Blessings in September. I am especially grateful for our amazing children, dedicated teachers, and supportive families who make our preschool such a joyful place to learn and grow.

As we enter this season of gratitude, our classrooms will be focusing on kindness, sharing, and recognizing the blessings around us—both big and small. You may hear your little ones talking about acts of kindness, thankfulness trees, or friendship activities. These lessons are beautiful reminders that even the smallest hearts can show the biggest love.

We wish each of you a November filled with warmth, gratitude, and special family moments. Thank you for being part of our Little Blessings family!

My door is always open and you can reach me at 630-904-9898 ext. 222 or swebb@alleluia.church.

With appreciation,
Shannon Webb
Director



Upcoming Dates

October 30 & 31: Halloween Parades
November 2: Last day to order Butter Braid
November 4 & 5: Children's Chapel, 9:15-10:00am
November 8: Mix Tape Junkies Concert, 6:00-8:00pm
November 10-13: Butter Braid Pick Up, 11:30am
November 17: Yogurt Beach Fundraiser
November 24-28: No School—Happy Thanksgiving
December 13: Christmas Pageants, 1:00/2:30/4:00



FUNDRAISER

Mon, Nov. 17th

2:00– 9:00pm

3027 English Rows Ave.
Naperville

Must mention
LITTLE BLESSINGS
when ordering!

Looking to Extend Your Child's Day?

We have a few more openings in our Extended Day hours.

- Before School Care, 8:00am-9:00am
- Enrichment Classes with Lunch, 11:30-2:00pm
- Lunch & Nap, 11:30-2:00pm for 2yr olds
- After School Care, 2:00-5:00pm

Sign up today! Email Beige at bpickert@alleluia.church or call 630-904-9898, ext. 229.

4055 S. Book Rd, Naperville - littleblessings.org - 630-904-9898

Little Blessings is a Ministry of Alleluia! Lutheran Church

All are welcome at Sunday Worship - Traditional: 9:00am - Contemporary: 10:30am





- ♦ Apple
- ♦ Blueberry & Cream Cheese
- ♦ Cinnamon
- ♦ Cream Cheese
- ♦ Raspberry
- ♦ Strawberry & Cream Cheese
- ♦ Caramel Rolls (9/pkg)
- ♦ Cinnamon Rolls (9/pkg)



**Delicious Pastries—
Order NOW for the
upcoming holiday season!**

**Sale ENDS on Nov. 2nd
\$17 each item**

[CLICK HERE](#) to order online

**Paper forms are available
at the Welcome Center**

**Pick up Sunday, Nov. 9th
following both services.**

**If unable to pick up on this day
please contact Michele Nelson Lui
at mlui@alleluia.church**

MIX TAPE JUNKIES CONCERT!

Saturday, Nov. 8th, 6:00-8:00pm

Doors open at 5:30pm

The Alleluia! Outreach & Mission Team is sponsoring a community outreach concert to benefit Loaves and Fishes Food Pantry.

Mix Tape Junkies will perform songs from the '80s and '90s in the Alleluia! Underground.



We're excited to offer this concert for such a great cause! The music will be suitable for all ages. Invite your family and friends!

[CLICK HERE](#) for ticket information and sales.

Tickets are available for presale and also at

the door. [CLICK HERE](#) for info on Mix Tape Junkies. [CLICK HERE](#) for Loaves & Fishes current food needs.



**All are welcome—
Please join us!**

On the 2nd Wednesday
of each month, 5:00-6:00pm

\$5/person or \$20/family

Sign up: Scan the QR code or visit

alleluia.lutheran.org/events/upcoming



*Save
the Date!*

The date has been set, so
please mark your calendar!

Alleluia! Game Night 2026 will be
Saturday, February 28th.



Interested in helping with this event? — Have something to donate to the auction?
Please contact Laura Bowler at LBowler@alleluia.church

FALL
ALLELUIA!
CRAFT & VENDOR
FAIR



Thanks to all who shopped,
baked, donated, or volunteered
at the September Craft Fair.
Proceeds benefit Alleluia!
ministries.

Many thanks to Jenn Vrba
for organizing this event.





Operation Christmas Child Box Collection continues through Nov. 23rd

Pack a shoebox with small toys, school supplies, and hygiene items for a needy child to receive as a gift this Christmas! Use your own shoebox or pick up one at Alleluia! Please do not gift wrap items.

"How to Pack a Shoebox" pamphlets are available at the Welcome Center or online at SamaritansPurse.org. There is also an opportunity to pack an online shoebox!

Thank you for providing a gift in Jesus' name to a child who may otherwise receive nothing for Christmas.



Harvest Sunday November 23rd

Non-Perishable Donations for Loaves and Fishes

In gratitude for the blessings you have received this year you are invited to share a blessing with your neighbors in need. Bring non-perishable items to worship on Harvest Sunday, Nov. 23rd.

[CLICK HERE](#) to see a list of most needed items.

Alleluia! is hoping to provide 60 Holiday Meals to Loaves and Fishes for the upcoming season.

[CLICK HERE](#) to participate in achieving this goal. Enter "Alleluia!" on the company line. Thank you!



The Exclamations! Bookstore has been closed and is being repurposed. Look forward to a welcoming multi-purpose space that serves both as a meeting room and social hub—a place where people can gather for conversation and fellowship as well as a space for meetings and small groups. Renovations will begin after the first of the year. Our bookstore sale generated over \$1200. Proceeds will be used to furnish and decorate our new space—the Exclamation! Room. Thank you to the volunteers that helped with the sale. Items which were not sold were donated to Wayside Cross Ministries, Vietnam Veterans, and Paralyzed Veterans of America.



Honor Loved Ones with Engraved Leaves on Our Memorial Tree

- A Bit of History about 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. The artists created several items including the large exclamation point (!) in the west parking lot.

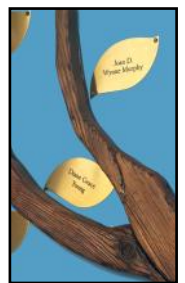
Tree of Life

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 Street is our Memorial Tree, its branches adorned with gold leaves that have been engraved with names of loved ones. If you wish to add a leaf in remembrance, we ask a donation of \$150 for each engraving.

Please contact Deb Bostjancic at dbostjancic@alleluia.church with questions or to make arrangements to add a memorial leaf.





A new Prayer Box as well as forms to fill out are located at the Welcome Center. All submissions are confidential and go to Pastor Joel.



A collection box for used eyeglasses can be found in the Well Café area. The Lions Club collects and distributes glasses to optical missions around the world.



Seeking Sound Board Monitor and Slide Projection Subs!

Are you able to help once in a while? This is a great opportunity to volunteer during the service you attend. Training is available!

Please contact Michele Nelson Lui at mlui@alleluia.church for more info.



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

Kent Nelson (Term Exp 2/27)
knelson@alleluia.church

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

Nancy Hamera (Term Exp 2/27)
nhamera@alleluia.church

Carole Krush (Term Exp 2/27)
ckrush@alleluia.church

Roger Russell (Term Exp 2/27)
rorussell@alleluia.church

Jenn Vrba (Term Exp 2/26)
jvrba@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