

Alleluia! Lutheran Church, 4055 S. Book Rd., Naperville, IL 60564

[www.alleluia!lutheran.org](http://www.alleluia!lutheran.org) Phone: 630-904-3311

*Our Mission: To enable all to come, connect, and commit to Jesus.*

## Alleluia! NEWS - December 2025

# Christmas Eve



Services:

3:00, 4:30, 7:00pm

Candlelight and Holy Communion  
at All Services

### Holden Evening Prayer Services - Dec. 3rd, 10th, & 17th

**On three Wednesdays in Advent**, we will hold simple services of evening prayer at 7pm, with a reflection by Pastor Joel. These services of peace and light help us prepare for the coming of Christ at Christmas and in our daily lives.

Please join us 15 minutes prior to each service at 6:45pm, for **CommuniTEA** in the Gathering Area. Enjoy hot tea, cocoa, and baked goods. All are welcome!



ALLELUIA!  
GAME  
NIGHT

**Saturday, February 28th**  
More info on page 9

*Save  
the Date!*



**Purchase  
your  
TICKETS  
NOW!**

**Coming to Alleluia! — Thursday, April 9th**  
More info on page 9

## Message from Pastor Joel



*"Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." ~Luke 2:10-12*

About 2,000 years ago an angel said this to the shepherds watching their flocks in the fields by night. The angel began with a simple command: "Do not be afraid." Afraid of what? Certainly, the angels. But was there anything else? Luke begins this chapter providing several details to set the historical and political stage of that moment in history, reminding his readers that those in power ruled through oppression, threats, and fear. Therefore, this command from the angel wasn't only about the fear of seeing an angel, it is also about the existential fear that so many experienced in 1st century Palestine. The angel was there to deliver this message from the God of the Universe: Do not be afraid; **Insist on Hope**. Hope that is found in the birth of God's Son: "a Savior," "the Messiah," "the Lord."

Like our biblical ancestors: the shepherds, the angels, Zechariah, Elizabeth, Mary and Joseph, we too are **"Insisting on Hope"** this Advent Season. Beginning in worship on November 30th we will be exploring this theme as we wait for the Christ Child on Christmas Day. Throughout the season there are going to be several opportunities for us as a community, as families, and as individuals to lean into this theme of **"Insisting on Hope."** Such as our Holden Evening Prayer services during first three Wednesdays in December. We'll start with some "CommuniTEA" at 6:45 p.m. in the gathering area, serving tea, hot chocolate, and cookies, then worship together. Additionally, we have 100 DIY Advent Wreath Kits available for families to pick up, with a simple prayer poem to be said each Sunday as we journey through the Advent Season. You could also use a simple daily Breath Prayer that will be posted on our Facebook and Instagram pages. Lastly, there are devotional booklets available for those who want to dig a little deeper into the theme this Advent season.

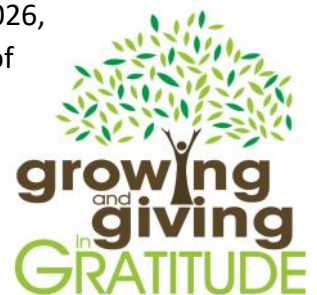
"Do not be afraid . . ." the angel said to the shepherds. **"Insist on Hope!"** Hope that is found in the coming of the Christ child, the Messiah, the Lord, our Emmanuel. Invite a friend and join us this Advent Season and Christmas Eve as together we **"Insist on Hope!"**

## From the Alleluia! Stewardship Team

"Thank you! Thank you! Thank you! The Stewardship Team would like to thank the congregation for their support during this stewardship season. So many of you were able to "Step Up" your pledges in 2026, and many others were able to commit again to our 2026 pledge campaign. We thank all of you who were with us in worship on Commitment Sunday and made your 2026 Pledges either in person or online. These pledges really help our leadership plan the 2026 budget and plan for future ministry opportunities.

If you have not filled out your pledge yet, don't worry! There is still time. Please use [this link](#) to fill out your 2026 pledge online. Or you can pick up a pledge card at the Welcome Center and place it in the offering plate or bring it to the front office throughout the week.

Thank you so much for your continued financial support of the ministries of Alleluia! Lutheran Church. Your support allows us to fulfill our mission to "Enable all to Come, Connect, and Commit to Jesus!"





# 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 will take a break for the Holidays

There will be no KidsConnect on December 21st OR December 28th. Please visit the usher's table for a special children's bulletin.

## 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.

## All are Invited - Breakfast in Bethlehem

**Sunday, Dec. 7th following 10:30 worship**

- KidsConnect kids will sing at the end of service
- Pancake breakfast in the CLC after BOTH services
- Games, crafts, & bounce house in the gym
- Service project: Christmas cards for senior citizens
- Visit with St. Nick



**Hosted by the Children's Ministry**  
**All are Welcome!**

## Something NEW! Play & Connect Days!

**When school is out let's meet up!**

**January 19th, 10am-12pm:** Families are invited to join us for an action-packed Gym Day at Alleluia! We'll beat the winter chill with an indoor "snowball" fight, a thrilling obstacle course, and plenty of room to run, play, and burn off energy on their day off from school. Contact April Blair with any questions!

**February 16th, 10am-12pm:** Let's meet at Funtopia (2639 Aurora Ave in Naperville). Tickets can be purchased ahead of time via the Funtopia website. Be on the lookout for more Play & Connect Days in the New Year!



**More Children's Ministry Info on the following page**

# Children's Ministry



## Advent Wreath Kits

We invite each household to pick up an Advent Wreath Kit as we enter this season of hope and expectation. These meaningful resources are crafted for all ages—not just children—to help you prepare your hearts for Christ's coming. Advent kits will be available in the Gathering Area throughout the Advent Season.



## Wednesday Night Children's Programs Celebrate Jesus' Birthday Wednesday, Dec. 17th

Connect45, K3, and both Children's Choirs will get together for a Happy Birthday Jesus Party! There's still time for you to join us! Register today to enjoy weekly gatherings, Bible lessons, games, service projects, and more! Use the links below to register.

### [K3 \(Kgtm-3rd grades\)](#)

Meets 6:00-6:45pm  
Music Room (lower level)  
[mlui@alleluia.church](mailto:mlui@alleluia.church)

### [Connect45 \(4th & 5th grades\)](#)

Meets 6:00-7:00pm  
Celebration Room (lower level)  
[ablair@alleluia.church](mailto:ablair@alleluia.church)

### [J.C. Choir \(4 yrs-1st grade\)](#)

Meets 5:15-6:00pm  
Music Room (lower level)  
[mlui@alleluia.church](mailto:mlui@alleluia.church)

### [Faith Choir \(grades 2-5\)](#)

Meets 5:15-6:00pm  
Celebration Room (lower level)  
[mlui@alleluia.church](mailto:mlui@alleluia.church)

Wednesday Night Programs will be on Christmas Break from Dec. 24—Jan. 7th. All will resume on Jan. 14th.

## Created By God: Bridge to Adolescence Human Sexuality Program for 5th & 6th Graders

Created By God is a Bible-based program on human sexuality, appropriate for current 5th & 6th graders. The classes will be held in January over 3 sessions on 1/18, 1/24, & 1/25 9:00am—12:30pm. A Parent Orientation will be held to allow parents to view materials and ask questions. See signup for details.



Register your student [HERE](#) or scan the QR code.

Contact Michele Nelson Lui at [mlui@alleluia.church](mailto:mlui@alleluia.church) with questions.



Our Children's Choirs sang with the Praise Team on Sunday, Nov. 16th, helping to lead worship. Great job!

# Alleluia! Youth News!

## Confirmation (6th - 8th Grade)



In November we had an absolute blast - Our topics were Grace, Paul & The Early Church, and Paul's Letters. Grace! Paul who needed a ton of Grace! Letters written by Paul! They all connect!

In December, Confirmation students can look forward to Holden Evening Prayer and CommuniTEA! In addition to this time, Confirmation students can expect a jam-packed 6:00-6:45pm! Topics we will cover include Advent, The Church Building, and a Christmas celebration!

We have a rolling registration! Want to get involved in this program? Sign up [HERE](#).



## 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 December lesson series is, "Shine: Illuminating Hope This Christmas," where we will have three distinct weeks of Shining bright!

**12/7-** We are going to start an art project that will be on display for Christmas Eve and have conversation on Hope.

**12/14-** We will be out of the church! We will gather at "Activate" (804 Rt 59) for an evening of fun and games. This is a Youth Group that will have a cost of \$30 per participant for the 75 minutes of interactive game. This is really fun and really cool! If you need assistance, let me know. Register [HERE](#) Online Waiver [HERE](#)

**12/21-** We will be finishing our art projects that will be on display for Christmas Eve, making sure candles are ready for Christmas, and our annual white elephant gift exchange.

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](#)!



## 2026 Mission Trip: Let It Shine! June 27th—July 3rd

This little light of mine? I am going to let it shine!

This simple song from our younger years talks about letting the light of God shine bright through your actions, being, and the way you interact with the world around you. What also is fascinating is that this light we have is contagious... a spark can create a wildfire of love that spreads among communities and in our young people!



Much of this trip theme is going to be getting away from the hustle and bustle, retreating to nature, exploring God's creation, and serving communities in a variety of ways! Be on the lookout for the announcement of where we are going!

Our trip dates are different this year! We will depart Alleluia! on Saturday, June 27th, likely after lunch! Our return will be on Friday, July 3rd, bright and early! Our hope is that by departing early on July 3rd students and families will be able to enjoy their July 3rd, July 4th, and July 5th—4th of July celebrations with plenty of stories of a wonderful week serving, being in community, worshiping around a fire, and too many laughs to keep track of!

**Be sure to save these dates: June 27th—July 3rd, 2026!**

Enjoy photos from our recent Youth Retreat at LOMC in Oregon, IL on the following page



# Alleluia! Youth News! — continued



## 6TH - 12TH GRADE YOUTH FALL RETREAT AT LUTHERAN OUTDOOR MINISTRIES CENTER



We joined 5 other churches for  
an overnight Fall Retreat at  
Lutheran Outdoor Ministries Center  
in Oregon, IL!

Our High School Youth Group  
and Confirmation Program loved  
playing games, seeing God's creation,  
and growing closer in community!







# December Music News

Joy to the World, the Lord is Come!

**Alleluia! Music is excited to share the Good News of Jesus' Birth this month. ALL AGES will participate in some type of "celebration" as listed below.**

- Holden Evening Prayer Services will be held on 12/03, 12/10, and 12/17 from 7-7:30pm, preceded by a 15 minute "CommuniTEA" in the Gathering Area. Join us for hot tea, cocoa, and baked goods!
- Handbell Choir rehearses Tuesday evenings in December at 7:00pm in the Music Room.

## **Check out some of our upcoming CELEBRATIONS:**

Christmas Eve Rehearsals— Thursdays at 6:00pm in the sanctuary (after Traditional Team rehearsals)

Private Lesson Christmas Music— a celebration each time we "play" about Jesus' birth

Dec. 3: Preschool through 5th graders practice Christmas carols and make Christmas cards as they prepare to sing at Sunrise Assisted Living of Naperville North on Dec. 10th

Dec. 7: Family Christmas Event, "Breakfast in Bethlehem" begins at 11:30am. ALL are welcome!

Dec. 10: Caroling at Sunrise Assisted Living of Naperville, 5:15-6:00pm - Children's Choirs, K3, & Connect45 attend, this is our 23rd year! ALL are welcome. Meet at 535 W. Ogden Ave, Naperville

Little Blessings Children continue rehearsing for their Christmas Pageants through Dec. 11th

NO MUSIC JAM NIGHT will be held this month due to rehearsals for Christmas

Dec. 13: Little Blessings Shares the Christmas Story, 1:00/2:30/4:00

Dec. 17: Jesus' Birthday Party (Children's Choirs, K3, & Connect45). Following this party, these groups will meet next on Jan. 14th

Dec. 24: Christmas Eve Services at 3:00, 4:30, & 7:00pm

**Merry Christmas, everyone...from our hearts to yours!**



## **Thank you, Alleluia!**

The Alleluia! Music Ministry greatly appreciates your support of our recent fundraiser.

We had over 117 Butter Braid orders!

The proceeds from this sale will allow us to purchase one microphone and receiver.





# Little Blessings News!

## December 2025



### From the Director's Desk

Dear Little Blessings Families,

As we enter this beautiful season of wonder, I am reminded daily how truly special this time of year is—especially through the eyes of our children. December at Little Blessings is filled with joy, creativity, and the simple magic that comes from learning, sharing, and growing together.

The children have been joyfully preparing for our **Christmas Pageant**, a special celebration that reminds us of the humble and miraculous night when Christ was born. Their songs, Scripture readings, and precious retellings of the Nativity story are a beautiful reflection of childlike faith. We pray that their message touches your hearts and helps your family enter this season with renewed hope and peace.

During this season of giving, our students are also learning about generosity, compassion, gratitude, and helping others. Whether they are making crafts for loved ones, practicing kindness in the classroom, or learning to use gentle hands and words, the spirit of Christmas shines through their actions every day.

As we wrap up 2025 and look toward the new year, I want to extend my deepest appreciation to each of our families. Your partnership, encouragement, and trust mean so much to us. It is a blessing to walk alongside your children as they discover, create, laugh, and learn.

Wishing each of you a joyous Christmas season filled with peace, love, and cherished family moments. May the new year bring continued growth, happiness, grace, and blessings to all.

With warmest holiday wishes,

**Shannon Webb**

Little Blessings Preschool Director



### Upcoming Dates

**December 1:** Early Registration opens for Little Blessings 2026-2027 School Year

**December 7:** Breakfast in Bethlehem - Pancake breakfast following the 10:30am service. Join us for games, crafts, service projects, bounce house, and a visit with Saint Nicholas.

**December 13:** Christmas Pageants & Bake Sale, 1:00/2:30/4:00

**December 15 & 16:** Vision & Hearing Screenings (during class time)

**December 18 & 19:** Christmas Parties & PJ Days

**December 22-January 2:** NO SCHOOL – Christmas Break

### Early Enrollment Opens December 1

We are happy to share that **Early Enrollment for the 2026–2027 school year will open for current Little Blessings Preschool families on December 1.** This early window gives our families the first opportunity to secure a spot for next year before enrollment opens to the community.

More information and registration materials will be sent home after Thanksgiving. We have added new Enrichment and Extended classes. We are grateful for your continued trust in Little Blessings Preschool and look forward to another wonderful year of learning and growing together!

**4055 S. Book Rd, Naperville - [littleblessings.org](http://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





# An Acoustic Evening with Sidewalk Prophets

## Thursday, April 9th at Alleluia!



Get your tickets sooner rather than later to avoid disappointment!

[CLICK HERE](#) -or- Scan the QR code -or- Visit [alleluia.lutheran.org/events/upcoming](http://alleluia.lutheran.org/events/upcoming)



900 Million Streams  
588,000 Monthly Listeners  
Red Rocks  
K-Love Cruise  
Ryman Auditorium  
Grand Ole Opry  
National Anthem at Wrigley Field  
Five #1 Christian Hits

*Save the Date!*

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

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

**Ticket sales will begin on January 4th.**



Interested in helping with this event? Have something to donate to the auction?  
Please contact Laura Bowler at [LBowler@alleluia.church](mailto:LBowler@alleluia.church)

### Church Council Candidate Interest — 2026

Four positions on the Alleluia! Church Council will be available in February 2026. Council positions are 2-year terms with a minimum of one monthly meeting. Those serving on the Church Council should be active members of the congregation in participation and giving and able to work collaboratively to achieve the mission and core values of our church. All names submitted will be considered by the Alleluia! Nominating Committee for placement on the ballot. If interested, please click [HERE](#) and submit your application by December 12, 2025.





## Poinsettia Plants for Christmas Worship Services

You are invited to purchase a poinsettia plant to adorn our altar for Christmas Worship Services. You have an option to provide this plant in honor or in memory of a loved one. If you wish to pick up your plant, please do so after the 7pm Christmas Eve service. Please [Click HERE](#) to place your order for a poinsettia and pay by credit card. Paper order forms are available at the Welcome Center if you wish to pay by cash or check. Each plant is \$20 and you may order through 12/15. Thank you for helping to beautify our sanctuary for Alleluia! Christmas Worship!

## Women's Ministry Event! Saturday, Jan. 24th



This half-day event at Alleluia! will feature speaker  
Amy Jackson from *The Perch* in Aurora.

Amy will speak to us about the importance of REST.

Rest is not a reward. It's a gift God wants us to open every single day. Needing to rest isn't an annoyance—it's precisely the way God made us. When we rest, we stand in God's truth that our value and worth never come from what we produce—no matter what the world may tell us. If we want to live in step with God, we have to learn to slow down and rest.

Watch for more details to come.



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.

## New Member Class Save the date!

The next New Member class will be held Wednesday, February 4, 2026. We will meet at 7:00pm in the Legacy Room. Childcare available upon request. Reach out to Deb Bostjancic at [dbostjancic@alleluia.church](mailto:dbostjancic@alleluia.church) with any questions.



# MIX TAPE JUNKIES CONCERT - ENJOYED BY MANY!

Thanks to all who supported the Loaves & Fishes Food Pantry by attending or volunteering at the Mix Tape Junkies concert. It was wonderful to have so many join us for this fun evening of music!



## 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](mailto:mlui@alleluia.church) for more info.



### The Alleluia!

Laura Bowler (Term Exp 2/26)  
[lbowler@alleluia.church](mailto:lbowler@alleluia.church)

Nancy Hamera (Term Exp 2/27)  
[nhamera@alleluia.church](mailto:nhamera@alleluia.church)

Darcy Jasien (Term Exp 2/26)  
[djasien@alleluia.church](mailto:djasien@alleluia.church)

Carole Krush (Term Exp 2/27)  
[ckrush@alleluia.church](mailto:ckrush@alleluia.church)

Kent Nelson (Term Exp 2/27)  
[knelson@alleluia.church](mailto:knelson@alleluia.church)

Roger Russell (Term Exp 2/27)  
[rorussell@alleluia.church](mailto:rorussell@alleluia.church)

### Church Council

Chris Sulzner (Term Exp 2/26)  
[csulzner@alleluia.church](mailto:csulzner@alleluia.church)

Jenn Vrba (Term Exp 2/26)  
[jvrba@alleluia.church](mailto: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](http://www.alleluialutheran.org)



Alleluia - Naperville, IL



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