

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.*

# August 2025 Alleluia! NEWS

## *Blessings for the New School Year*

A blessing for college students will be offered at worship on Sunday, August 10th.

Blessing of the Backpacks will take place at worship on Sunday, August 17th.



### Employment Opportunities

Alleluia! currently has multiple employment opportunities available in both the church and in our Little Blessings Preschool. For more details, please see page 10.

### 3rd Grade Bible Presentation

Register your child to receive a Bible. See page 3 for more information and registration.



Wednesday Night programs are undergoing time changes! Please check for your programs on page 9 so that you don't miss out on the fun!

## RALLY DAY!

Sunday,  
Sept. 7th

Rally Day will be the kickoff celebration for all 2025 Alleluia! programming. See page 9 for information on the activities planned for this day.



**Registration for Little Blessings  
Twos, Preschool, & Kindergarten  
Fall 2025-2026 is Ongoing!**  
See page 2 for information.



See Inside for  
More Info!

Pastor Joel's Message: p. 2  
Little Blessings Registration: p. 2  
Children's Ministry News: p. 3-4  
Youth News: p. 5-7  
Music Ministry News: p. 8  
Wed. Night Program Changes: p. 9  
Employment Opportunities: p. 10

## Message from Pastor Joel



Have you noticed it yet? I first realized it when I walked out the door one early morning to walk the dog, and had to run back in to grab a flashlight. The days are getting a little shorter each day. It's barely noticeable at first, then all of a sudden we find ourselves in a new rhythm. Maybe you're like me and you're not ready to give up on summer just yet. In these last few weeks of summer, before school starts again, before extra-curricular activities take over our evening plans, before fourth quarter projections at work land on your desk, take a minute to look back at this summer and express prayers of gratitude to God.

One of the spiritual practices that I regularly turn back to is this practice of gratitude. Simply writing down in my journal three things I'm thankful to God for. I find it roots me deeper in the life and being of God active in this world, and specifically in my life. As I think about the ministries we have done this past summer I give thanks to God for the hundreds of kids who came to Vacation Bible School in June. I'm thankful for all of the volunteers that week who gave of their time, energy, and creativity to teach these kids how to live out God's love in the world around them. I'm thankful for our high schoolers and adult leaders who got to go on the mission trip to Nashville this summer, and for their courage to share with all of us what they discovered about God as they led worship in July. I'm thankful for the 70 of us who came to the pop-up concert in the Underground at the end of July, led by Kenny and Claire. The concert quickly turned into an impromptu worship service as together we sang familiar hymns and heard stories about God's steadfast love in their lives.

What about you? What would you add to this list of prayers for gratitude? What if, everyday this month of August you took a few moments to write down three things you're thankful to God for? What if you started your family dinners sharing with one another what you're thankful for? How might that create a new rhythm in your life?

## Little Blessings — Twos, Preschool & Kindergarten Fall 2025-2026 Registration!

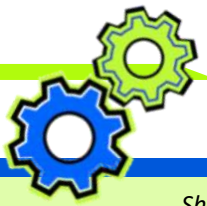


Fall registration is open for Twos, Preschool, and Kindergarten, as well as **Enrichment classes** and an **Extended Care option!**

Please visit [LittleBlessings.org](https://LittleBlessings.org) for further information.

Scheduled tours are available by phoning the Little Blessings office at 630-904-9898.

Little Blessings is a ministry of Alleluia! Lutheran Church.



# Children's Ministry



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

## KidsConnect News

**There will be NO KidsConnect on Sunday, August 31st, Labor Day weekend.**

Please enjoy worshipping together as a family.



Throughout the summer, KidsConnect Church School is offered during the 10:30am service only. Each week brings something new—games, park adventures, crafts, and more! All ages stay together for a relaxed and fun experience. We will resume our fall KidsConnect schedule on September 7th.



It's also the perfect time to give volunteering a try—no experience needed, just a heart to help and have fun! [CLICK HERE](#) to join us for a summer full of faith and fun!



## Fall KidsConnect - Fall 2025-2026

**KidsConnect will meet weekly during both the 9:00am and 10:30am services beginning on Rally Day, Sunday, September 7th!** We welcome children ages 3yrs-5th grade, placing them in age-appropriate classrooms where they explore Bible stories in fun and meaningful ways. Each week, kids will dive into God's Word through **art, games, music, videos, science, and 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. [CLICK HERE](#) to register your child today!

**KidsConnect is looking for volunteers!** Join us in making a lasting impact in the faith journey of our children. We offer flexible scheduling, easy-to-follow no-prep lessons, a meaningful and rewarding experience, as well as 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. **Volunteer Training will be held on Sunday, August 24th after the 10:30am service and on Wednesday, August 27th beginning at 5:00pm.** [CLICK HERE](#) and sign up to be part of something special.



**3rd Grade Bible Presentation** will take place **Sunday, Sept. 14th at Both Services.**

Any child in 3rd grade or above is able to receive a Bible. After the presentation, all recipients are invited to join KidsConnect to engage in games while exploring his/her Bible. All recipients are encouraged to bring his/her Bible to KidsConnect weekly. Please [CLICK HERE](#) to register your child to be presented a Bible.



## Wednesday Night Programs - Please note the Changes!

**Connect45 Registration is Now Open!** Calling all 4th & 5th graders! Get ready for a fun year of growing in faith, building friendships, and connecting with God in new ways. Let's make this year the best one yet!

- Enjoy Bible lessons, games, service projects & more
- Weekly gatherings begin on Wednesday, Sept. 10th, 6:00-7:00pm in the lower level Celebration Room
- Register [HERE](#) to reserve your spot in Connect45.

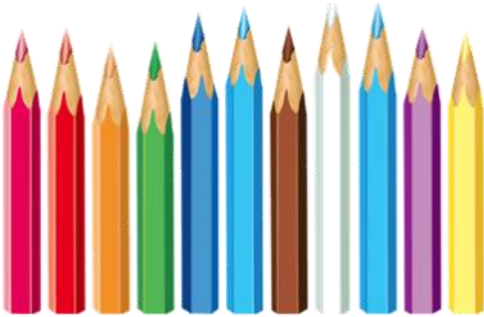
**New this year:** We will host a Churchwide Community Meal on the 2nd Wednesday of each month from 5:00-6:00pm. The **first Community Meal will be on Wednesday, September 10th at 5:00pm.** All are welcome! Contact April Blair at [ablair@alleluia.church](mailto:ablair@alleluia.church) with any questions.



**Children's Ministry News Continues on the Following Page.**



# Children's Ministry



## Upcoming School Supplies Drive

On Rally Day, Sunday, Sept. 7th, we will collect donations of school supplies in support of the KIDS IN NEED FOUNDATION. Please consider picking up a few extra items as you shop for your own school supplies.

You can view a list of suggested items for donation on the Upcoming Events page of the Alleluia! website or by clicking [HERE](#).

*Save the Date!*



**Saturday, Sept. 27th**  
**10:00am - 4:00pm**  
**at Alleluia!**

**More info coming soon!**

# Alleluia! Youth News!



## Please Note the Changes!

The Wednesday Night Children & Youth Programs have made changes to their scheduled meeting times so please be sure to note the changes in the program descriptions.

Additionally, the High School Youth Group will now meet on Sunday evenings rather than Tuesday evenings.

## Confirmation (6th - 8th Grade)



If you have a student headed into 6th - 8th grade for the 2025-26 academic school year, (9/3/25—4/29/26), now is the time to register for Confirmation! Confirmation is a time of faith formation that ultimately leads to the Affirmation of Baptism as 9th grade students on Reformation Sunday.

Our first Confirmation gathering will be on Wednesday, Sept. 3rd from 6:00-7:30pm.



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



Students in grades 9-12 meet on 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 first High School Youth Group gathering will be on Sunday, Aug. 31st, 6:30-8:00pm.



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 or [CLICK HERE!](#)

Contact Youth Director Kurtis Arndt at [karndt@alleluia.church](mailto:karndt@alleluia.church) with any questions.

## Volunteer Opportunities in Youth Ministry

Our Youth Ministry is powered by volunteers who share their time and talents with our Youth. Both our High School Youth Group (Sunday Nights) and Confirmation (Wednesday Nights) have volunteers that serve in a variety of ways!

If you are interested in learning more about volunteering among our Youth, please contact Youth Ministries Director Kurtis Arndt at [karndt@alleluia.church](mailto:karndt@alleluia.church). Volunteer training will take place on August 24th at 11:30am. Please click [HERE](#) to view the Youth Ministry Volunteer Interest Form.

**Youth Ministry  
Volunteer  
Interest  
Form**



## Youth Mission Trip 2025 is a Wrap!

Yee-haw! Sixteen of our youth and chaperones traveled to Nashville, TN on June 22th-28th for the 2025 Summer Mission Trip where they partnered and served with a variety of organizations.



Enjoy more Mission Trip photos  
on page 7.





## Letter from Youth Director, Kurtis Arndt Mission Trip Thank You - "Followers of Christ"

Dear Church,

I want to take a moment to say thank you to everyone who helped make this mission trip not only possible, but truly meaningful and successful.

We are incredibly grateful for the organizations that welcomed us and gave our students the opportunity to serve in real, hands-on ways. 'City Service Mission' was our Mission Trip Organization throughout the week, helping us make connections to local ministries, house us, and feed us. 'Preston Taylor Ministries', the primary space we served, allowed us to build relationships with some amazing kids and staff. The joy we found in ourselves and saw in students and staff at PTM there will stick with us for a long time. At 'ThriftSmart', we saw how sorting and organizing, doing the small tasks, and giving our time can directly support communities. And at 'The Well Outreach', we learned what it looks like to serve with dignity, compassion, and generosity.

None of this could have happened without the generosity of others. Over 100 donors came together to support this mission, praying for us, covering costs, cheering us on, and making sure each student had the chance to experience something bigger than themselves. Thank you for believing in this trip and investing in the lives of these students.

To our three incredible chaperones, Amy Forner, Stephanie Hardy, and Eric Walsh, thank you for giving your time, energy, and care to make this trip not just safe, but deeply meaningful. You were mentors, guides, drivers, encouragers, and above all, reminders of what faithful service looks like.

To all the parents of our students, thank you for raising such remarkable kids. Time and time again, your students stood out for their kindness, leadership, patience, and respect. They served with humility, laughed with joy, and stepped up in ways that made us all proud. You've raised them well, and it showed.

And to our students, thank you. Thank you for taking a week out of your summer to step into service. Thank you for trusting me and our chaperones, for showing up with open hearts, and for being willing to love and care for **all** of God's creation. You made a difference, not just in Nashville, but in each other's lives, and in mine.

Thank you all for your participation in Youth Sunday for hearing our stories, watching our recap video, and learning what a lip dub is. I can not wait to start planning Mission Trip 2026!

Follower of Christ,  
Kurtis Arndt





# Alleluia! Youth Mission Trip 2025







# Music News

## — MUSIC OPPORTUNITIES —

**Each Week:** Traditional Praise Team, Contemporary Praise Team, Special Instrumental Music, and Music Community in Christ.

### Twice Each Month:

If you'd like to SING for God...but you're a little nervous or shy...we have the group for you! Please email Michele and to find out more about our Praise Choir that usually meets twice each month. It's an Incredible community of people! Sign up [HERE](#).

### Third Thursday of Each Month Alleluia! Music Jam Nights (coming up August 21st, 6pm)

[CLICK HERE](#) to let us know you're coming to hang out and jam with us!

## — DATES TO REMEMBER —

### September 7th - Totally Traditional Service at 9:00am

The 9:00am service becomes TOTALLY TRADITIONAL beginning on Sunday, September 7th. This service will begin and end with a hymn (or a variation of one). The 10:30am service will remain ALL CONTEMPORARY.

### September 10th - Handbell Choir Rehearsals Resume

Middle School - age 99 are WELCOME to join us! Contact Michele Nelson at [mnelson@alleluia.church](mailto:mnelson@alleluia.church) for info.

### September 10th - CHANGES COMING to Wednesday Evening Children's Programs

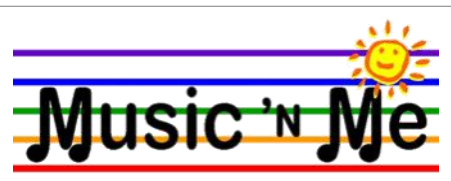
Wednesday Night Programs are CHANGING! Connect45 and Confirmation will both begin at 6:00.

J.C. Choir - [CLICK HERE](#) to register a child 4yrs—1st grade (New time! 5:15-6:00)

Faith Choir - [CLICK HERE](#) to register a child 2nd—5th grades (New time! 5:15-6:00)

K3 - [CLICK HERE](#) to register a child aged Kindergarten—3rd grade (New time! 6:00-6:45)

A CHURCHWIDE COMMUNITY MEAL (all are welcome) will be served on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 5:00 in the lower level Rec Room.



### Fall Music (Sept. 9– Dec. 18)

We welcome Rachael Jasien to our fall program! Rachael will teach Toddler Music (15 mo.—3 years) on Tuesday, Wednesday, & Thursday mornings. Ms. Michele will teach Baby Music on Tuesday & Wednesday. Visit the Music page of our website at [alleluialutheran.org/ministries/music](http://alleluialutheran.org/ministries/music) to view the full schedule for fall.



### Fall Private Music Lessons



We are currently offering lessons in: **Clarinet, Saxophone, Piano, Voice, Beginning Flute, and Percussion/Drums.** Contact Michele Nelson at [mnelson@alleluia.church](mailto:mnelson@alleluia.church) with questions or for availability. You can view more information on private lessons at Alleluia! [HERE](#).



# ALLELUIA! RALLY DAY!

## SUNDAY, SEPT. 7<sup>th</sup>, 11:30am

Rally Day is a CHURCHWIDE EVENT for ALL ages! We'll kickoff a new season of worship, learning, and community with a fun and festive Rally Day celebration following 10:30am worship.

Enjoy bouncy houses, bingo, delicious food, and a special congregation-wide art project which will be on display near the Well Café from September through November. Join us as all our ministries spring back to life with this year's theme, "Rooted in Gratitude," inspired by Psalm 1.

We're seeking Rally Day volunteers! [CLICK HERE](#) to view volunteer opportunities.

We'll collect school supplies at Rally Day to benefit the KIDS IN NEED FOUNDATION. [CLICK HERE](#) to view suggested items for donation.

WEDNESDAY  
NIGHTS *at Alleluia!*

**Please note time changes for  
Wednesday Night Programs!**

**Children's Choirs: 5:15-6:00pm**

**K3: 6:00-6:45pm \* Connect45: 6:00-7:00pm**

**Confirmation: 6:00-7:30pm**

**Churchwide Community Meal:**

Every 2nd Wednesday, 5:00pm - All are welcome!

## EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Alleluia! Lutheran Church currently seeks to fill the following positions:

- A **full-time Director** for our Little Blessings Preschool Program
- A **part-time Assistant Director** for our Little Blessings Preschool Program
- A **part-time Administrative Assistant** for our Little Blessings Preschool Program
- A **part-time Administrative Assistant** for the Alleluia! church office.

[CLICK HERE](#) for more information and full job descriptions for all positions.



## Aug 7th, 6:30pm at Khaos Brewcade & Kitchen

If you are between 20-29 years old, you're invited to join us at Khaos Brewcade & Kitchen, 12337 Illinois Rt 59, Suite #155 in Plainfield, on August 7th at 6:30pm. Come meet new people or see old friends. Bring friends! We'll each cover the cost of our own food and drinks. Please RSVP to Laura Bowler at [LBowler@alleluia.church](mailto:LBowler@alleluia.church) by August 5th.

## A New Addition to the Little Blessings Playground Area—A Lending Library!

This delightful library box has been installed near the lower level Little Blessings playground. Handcrafted by the grandfather of one of our Little Blessings students, the library was generously donated by the LaGrippe family as a special gift for our young readers. Please feel free to leave a book or take one to enjoy!

## Summer Nursery Care

During the summer months, we offer nursery care during 10:30am worship only for children through age 3.

**We'll resume childcare at the 9:00am service on Rally Day, Sunday, Sept. 7th.**







# KENNY & CLAIRE

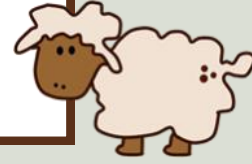


Alleluia! was pleased to host the musical duo, Kenny & Claire this past month in the Alleluia! Underground Youth Center. They shared their musical ability as well as stories about their personal faith journey. Many thanks to all who worked to make the concert possible! A special thanks to Culvers (Rt 59 & 75th St) for donating delicious frozen custard.



# 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 **Sept. 5<sup>th</sup> at 9am until Sept. 7<sup>th</sup> at 9pm** with many items marked half-price on the 7<sup>th</sup>. Purchased items will be picked up at Owen Elementary School on Saturday, Sept. 13<sup>th</sup>.

**To be a seller**, send an email to [littlelambs.alleluia@gmail.com](mailto:littlelambs.alleluia@gmail.com) or visit our Facebook page and sign up from the link on our "About" page (scan QR code). Those who sell items or volunteer their time will be able to shop the sale before it opens to the public.



**We are accepting like-new donations** of toys or clothing (infant through juniors). Drop items at the church office during office hours through August 31st. Proceeds benefit various Alleluia! ministries.



### 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 at [mnelson@alleluia.church](mailto:mnelson@alleluia.church) for more info.

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

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

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

Kent Nelson (Term Exp 2/27)  
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Chris Sulzner (Term Exp 2/26)  
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Roger Russell (Term Exp 2/27)  
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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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