

Alleluia! April 2026

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.



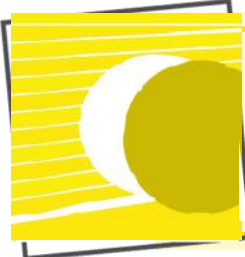
Maundy Thursday Worship – April 2

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



Good Friday – April 3

- Family Event (geared toward 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 – April 5

- Worship at 9:00 & 10:30am
- He is risen! Celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ!
- Easter Egg Hunts at 8:45 & 11:30am

(GREAT BIG Family PRODUCTIONS)
AN ACOUSTIC EVENING
with
SIDEWALK PROPHETS



Thursday
April 9th
7:00pm

Limited
Tickets
Available!

See page 6

Message from Pastor Joel



April is often the beginning of new things. We see the trees beginning to bud with new life. Plants that have been dormant all winter are beginning to shoot up out of the ground. We feel the warmth of the spring days and are refreshed by the cool nights. There are signs of new beginnings all around us. It is also a season of transitions. Matt Jakusz, our Media and Production Director has taken a new full-time job. Thankfully, Matt will still be in the A/V booth on Sunday mornings directing our many volunteers to insure everything runs smoothly while we look for his replacement. You can read more about this transition further on in this newsletter, page 9.

At the same time we are bringing on new staff members. The first being Mimi Raczak, our new part-time custodian who will be helping out with set-ups and clean-ups mostly on the weekends. Mimi is a long-time member here at Alleluia! and has already started in her new role.

We are also really excited to announce another new hire, Nicole Melody as our Director of Worship and Music! Nicole will officially start on April 20th. Her first Sunday will be April 26th.



She began a professional sacred music career at age 15, acting as soloist, cantor, choir section leader, and Music/Choir Director at various churches in the Chicago area, receiving her Bachelor of Music degree from St. Xavier University. Nicole continues to perform as a soloist and recitalist and teaches private voice and piano lessons to students of all ages and abilities. Most recently she has been the worship director at Wesley United Methodist here in Naperville.

We are so excited for Nicole to share her talents, gifts and passion for music and teaching here at Alleluia! Please be sure to introduce yourself to her over the next few weeks and months as she begins. And if you're interested in sharing your own musical talents and joining one of our amazing music ensembles or praise teams please reach out.

- New Member Orientation - Wednesday, May 13th, 6:30-8:00pm

Please meet in the Legacy Room behind the Well Café.
Childcare is available upon request. Contact Deb Bostjancic
at dbostjancic@alleluia.church with questions. [CLICK HERE](#) to sign up.

Children's Ministry

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

KidsConnect Church School - Every Sunday During Both Services

In April, KidsConnect children will explore the story of the Woman at the Well. Through engaging activities like art, drama, and games, kids will discover how Jesus helps us grow and shows us how to love others in our everyday lives.



We are looking for volunteers to help lead a pre-planned lesson—everything you need is provided! If you're interested in making a positive impact and connecting with the kids, we would love to have you join us. Please register [HERE](#).

NOTE: There will be no KidsConnect on Easter Sunday, April 5th.

Still Time to Join Us for the Good Friday Family Event - Friday, April 3rd, 10-11:00am

The Children's Ministry invites you to our **Good Friday Children and Family Event**. This special event will begin in the sanctuary with a child-friendly service that will help guide families through the meaning of Good Friday.



Following the service, we'll move to the gym where we'll dive into the creative and fun craft portion of the event. It's a wonderful opportunity for families to come together, reflect, and celebrate in a hands-on, meaningful way.

Your registration is requested for this event.

Please [CLICK HERE](#) to register. We look forward to seeing you there.

Join Us for Our Annual Easter Egg Hunts on Easter Sunday Morning

Easter Egg Hunts will take place near the lower level Garden of Thanks near the playground at:

8:45 AM before the 9 AM service

11:30 AM after the 10:30 AM service

Bring your baskets and your excitement!

In case of rain or wet conditions the egg hunts will move indoors to the lower level Rec Room.

We can't wait to enjoy this fun event with your family!



HOPE Marketplace - Sunday, April 12th



Join us for the HOPE Marketplace following the 9:00 and 10:30 AM services!

Come shop and support the young entrepreneurs of our church as they showcase the products they've worked hard to create and bring to market. Every purchase helps make a difference—proceeds will go toward supporting HOPE International and their mission to end global poverty.

Don't miss this chance to encourage and celebrate the next generation while contributing to a meaningful cause!

More Children's Ministry Info on the following page

Children's Ministry

—continued

VBS Registration!

Registration for Kingdom Quest Vacation Bible School is OPEN!

This summer, kids are guaranteed a fun-filled week created just for them.

Kingdom Quest will take kids on an exciting adventure to discover what it means to be part of God's Kingdom. Throughout the week, they'll learn how to live with courage, kindness, faith, and purpose through engaging Bible stories, energetic worship, creative crafts, and action-packed games.



DATE: June 8th-June 12th

TIME: Session 1 (9am-12pm) OR Session 2 (1pm-4pm)

3yrs-5th grade students are invited to participate. **Please note that preschool spots fill up quickly.**

[CLICK HERE](#) — Student Registration for Session 1: 9am-12pm

[CLICK HERE](#) — Student Registration for Session 2: 1 pm-4pm

VBS Volunteers are needed!

**We're looking for middle school, high school, and adult volunteers.
A full week adult volunteer will only pay \$40 per child.**

[CLICK HERE](#) — Volunteer Registration for Session 1: 9am-12pm

[CLICK HERE](#) — Volunteer Registration for Session 2: 1 pm-4pm

VBS Donation List

Thank You for Your Support of Alleluia! VBS.
We are so appreciative of your donations—large and small!
Please [CLICK HERE](#) to view our donation list.
Every contribution helps!

NEW THIS YEAR! - VBS Grand Finale Celebration

On the last day of VBS, June 12th, we'll go out with a splash!

To celebrate our incredible week together, we'll have:

- An inflatable water slide
- Popsicles for everyone

This will take the place of their Game Station that day as our way of celebrating all the fun, learning, and memories we've made this week at VBS.



Alleluia! Youth News!

Confirmation (6th - 8th Grade)

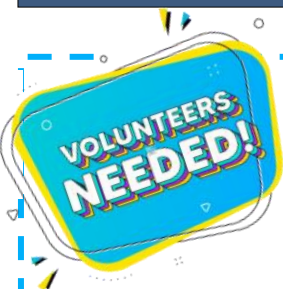


In March, topics we covered included Lord's Prayer and all three articles of the Apostles' Creed. As a part of this practice students then read what Martin Luther had to say in his Small Catechism. Using what Luther said, students by grade then wrote their own creeds of what they believe!

In April, Confirmation students will learn about the topics of Jesus vs. Devil, participate in our Grand Finale of the Clash of the Classes, and have a great time at Rufus's Rimshot Classic!



Early Bird Registration has opened for current 5th - 8th graders! Receive a \$10 discount by registering early for Confirmation 2026-2027! Sign up [HERE](#).



Attention all Middle School & High School Youth

Children's Ministry is in need of volunteers for VBS the week of **June 8th-June 12th!** Can you help? See page 4 of this newsletter. or see info and signups here:

[Session 1: 9:00am-12:00pm](#)

or

[Session 2: 1:00pm-4:00pm](#)

Save the Date - Summer Camp at LOMC: July 19th-24th

We encourage all of our wonderful students entering 3rd - 8th grades to sign up for a week of fun in Oregon, IL at Lutheran Outdoor Ministries Center.

Both Youth Director Kurtis Arndt and Children's Director April Blair will be visiting LOMC throughout the week to see our faithful friends and partake in the fun of a sleep away camp where over the week students will learn, laugh, play, sing, and have a ton of fun!

To learn more about this opportunity come to Alleluia! on April 12th when LOMC will be hosting worship!



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

Students grades 9-12 meet on Sunday nights in the Underground Youth Center from 6:30pm - 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 April lesson series is, "Now what?: Stories After Easter." We will spend three weeks reading and reacting to stories of Jesus after the Resurrection and the reactions of his disciples.



Stories after Easter

4/12 - Doubting Thomas (John 20)

4/19 - Breakfast at the Beach (John 21)

4/26 - Great Commission - (Matthew 28)

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



See the next page for **Mission Trip 2026: Let It Shine!** open to all current 8th—12th graders!

Alleluia! Youth News! — continued

2026 Mission Trip: Let It Shine! June 27th—July 3rd [Register HERE!](#)



Don't Wait! Registration will CLOSE on April 15th!

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!

Our 2026 Mission Trip will be to Iowa! Our basecamp for the week will be the Charis House at Camp Shalom in Maquoketa, IA (muh-kow-kuh-tuh), serving not only Maquoketa, but daily activities will also include the Quad Cities and Dubuque. This trip will conclude before noon on July 3rd.

All current 8th—12th graders are invited to join in this week of adventure, faith exploration, service, and fellowship!



Ushers are needed at both the 9:00am and 10:30am services. It's easy, fun, and a great way to meet more of your church family. Training is available. Please reach out to Deb Bostjancic at dbostjancic@alleluia.church.

An Acoustic Evening with Sidewalk Prophets
Thursday, April 9th at Alleluia!

Limited Tickets Available! - Over 500 Sold!



[CLICK HERE](#) -or- Scan the QR code - or- Visit alleluialutheran.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



Little Blessings News!

April 2026



From the Director's Desk

As we move into the heart of spring, our classrooms are filled with excitement, growth, and new discoveries. This is a special time of year as we prepare to celebrate Easter and look ahead to Spring Break as a wonderful opportunity for rest, family time, and reflection.

Spring brings so many exciting opportunities for our students. Classrooms will be filled with hands-on learning as we explore themes of growth, nature, and new life. From observing changes outdoors to engaging in creative art, sensory play, and discovery activities, children will experience the beauty of the season in meaningful and age-appropriate ways. We also look forward to spending more time outside enjoying the fresh air and sunshine! Please send your child with a jacket for those cool spring mornings.

A quick reminder that **Summer Camp Registration is filling up fast!** Our *Summer Preschool Fun* program has limited spots available, so be sure to register soon if you haven't already. It's going to be a summer full of engaging activities, friendships, and fun!



It's not too late to register for the 2026-2027 school year! We are already seeing great interest and encourage families to secure their spot early for Twos, Preschool, and Pre-K programs, AM and PM Care, as well as our many Enrichment Classes.

As we step into spring, we are reminded that growth takes patience, nurturing, and love — the very things that make our Little Blessings community so special. April is filled with meaningful moments and fun opportunities for our school community. We look forward to seeing many of you at these events as we build connections and create lasting memories together.

If you ever have questions, concerns, or ideas to share, my door is always open.

With gratitude,

Shannon Webb

Little Blessings Preschool Director



Upcoming Dates

March 30—April 6: NO SCHOOL – Spring Break

April 7: Welcome Back

April 10: Family Movie Night at 6:00 PM

April 14 & 15: Children's Chapel at 9:15 AM

April 23 & 24: Muffins with Moms (or a special adult), 8:15-9:00 AM

VBS 2026 Registration is OPEN! Kingdom Quest, June 8th-12th

This summer, kids, ages 3 years - 5th grade can expect a fun-filled week created just for them. Kids will go on an exciting adventure as they discover what it means to be part of God's Kingdom. [CLICK HERE](#) or scan the QR code for sign up info on the Alleluia! website.



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





Register Now! — for the Rufus Rimshot Classic — April 22nd

On April 22nd, 6:00-7:30pm we will hold the 2026 Rufus Rimshot Classic! This annual Gaga Ball Tournament includes great fellowship and competition, ice cream to celebrate, and an opportunity for us to honor Rufus Vethanayagamy.

Rufus was a passionate youth leader at Alleluia! who wanted to share the love of Christ everywhere he went. We celebrate his life with this Gaga Ball Tournament!

Youth of all grades are welcome and we encourage students to invite friends to compete against them in this tournament! The \$10 recommended registration fee serves as a donation in Rufus's name to our High School Mission Trip. Please [CLICK HERE](#) to register for this event!

Thank You! **FEED THE NEED!**[™]

2026 MobilePack Results

Over 1700 volunteers worked to provide 801,144 meals to feed 1,129 hungry children around the world for an entire year. Many thanks to all who packed meals or who donated toward the cost of ingredients and the facility.

There's still an opportunity to contribute to the Alleluia! commitment to raise \$5000 to help cover costs. We're currently at 83% of this commitment. Please [CLICK HERE](#) if you would like to contribute online. Many thanks to Alan Cook for organizing Alleluia!'s part in this event.



Looking to connect with other moms from Alleluia? Join us once a month (typically Thursdays) as we gather at a different local restaurant for Bible study, food, and fellowship with a supportive group of women. Come enjoy a meal, a treat, or simply a drink.

Our next gathering will be on Thursday, April 23, 7:00pm, at Chop'd. We would love to have you join us. Please reach out to Megan Glassman at

megan.amos@gmail.com or Sara White at sara.white00@aol.com for more information.

A Note of Gratitude and a New Chapter

Dear Church Family,

It is with a heart full of gratitude that I am writing to share some news regarding my role here at Alleluia! After three wonderful years as your Media and Production Manager, I have decided to accept a full-time position with a media interaction company. My last official day on staff will be April 9th, following the Sidewalk Prophets concert. However, because I care deeply about our ministry, I'll be sticking around for a bit to help with Sunday worship services until we find the right person to step into this role.

This was not an easy decision, as serving this community has been one of the greatest joys of my life. These past three years have been a season of incredible growth for me, both professionally and personally. I am so thankful for the freedom and grace this leadership team and congregation have extended to me; it allowed me to find my footing and truly flourish in this craft.

While I am stepping down from my staff position, the good news is that I'm not going far! I love this church and the people here too much to say a full goodbye. I look forward to sitting in the pews alongside you on Sundays and continuing to be part of this family as a fellow member.

Thank you for your support, your kindness, and for letting me be a part of how we share God's love through media. I am excited for what's next—both for my new career and for the continued growth of our church.

With love and blessings,
Matt Jakusz

THE STUDIOS

PERFORMING ARTS

Hey Alleluia! This is Kyle Halkerston, the owner of The Studios Performing Arts. We are so excited and thankful to be taking the next step in our business journey here in this space. I am sure you are all wondering what we are doing up here, I know I would be!

I am happy to share that we will be having an Open House to the public on Saturday, March 28th from 11:00 AM - 2:00 PM. This is an opportunity for the community to come see the space as well as learn about what programming we will be offering for the year. Below is information on our upcoming events and programs. Registration has begun for all programs.

Upcoming Performances

- **The Show Choir Studios: Broadway Lights & Boogie Nights**, Performance on Friday, April 10th at 7:00pm
- **The Studios Cabaret Series: Women's Cabaret**, Performance: Friday, May 15th at 7:00 PM

Upcoming Programs

- **The Studios Next Stage Series: Musical Theatre Production Workshop for Teen Actors**
Ages: 12 thru 18 Camp Dates: Mon - Fri, June 1-12, 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM
Performances: Saturday, June 13, 2:00 & 6:00 PM
- **The Studios First Stage Series: Musical Theatre Production Experience for Young Budding Actors**
Grades: 2nd thru 8th Camp Dates: Mon - Fri, July 13-24, 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM
Performances: Friday, July 24, 6:00 PM
- **The Show Choir Studios Kids Camp**
Grades: 3rd thru 8th Camp Dates: Mon - Fri, August 3-7, 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM
Performances: Friday, August 7, 12:00 PM

Kyle Halkerston, Director
The Studios Performing Arts

331.204.6169 - www.thestudiosperformingarts.com

Women's Ministry Enneagram Event

April 25th, 9:00-11:00am — Exclamations Room

During this morning event, we'll explore who God created us to be using a tool called the Enneagram. This ancient Christian tool offers meaningful insight, revealing both our strengths and blind spots that can hold us back. When reflected on, the Enneagram can become a roadmap for spiritual development, identifying areas that God might be inviting you to deepen and develop.



No worries if you're new to the Enneagram! Together we'll discuss what it is, what the numbers mean, a brief overview of the nine types, and how this tool can help in your everyday life. We'll also talk about practical things you can do to lean into growth.

You'll love this super-practical retreat with conversation, activities, and teaching. The cost is \$15/each. [CLICK HERE](#) to register.

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

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4055 S. Book Rd.
Naperville, IL 60564



Worship Schedule

All are welcome to join us
for worship!

Sunday Morning
9:00am & 10:30am

Stay Connected!

Website: www.allelualutheran.org



Alleluia - Naperville, IL



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