

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.

May 2026 Alleluia! NEWS

A Message from Our New Worship & Music Director, Nicole Melody

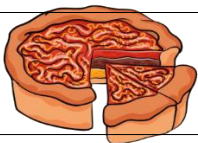


Hello! I am so excited to join Alleluia! as the Worship & Music Director. I look forward to getting acquainted with the music teams and connecting with each of you as my time here unfolds. Please introduce yourself as you are able, and most definitely if you are interested in making music in any way during Sunday worship services. We are looking for special music for the month of May, so if you have an instrument you would like to lift up in praise (voices included!), please let me know so we can get you on the calendar! I feel truly blessed to be welcomed into this Alleluia! community.

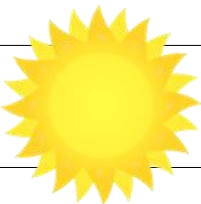
There's Still Time to Sign Up for Vacation Bible School 2026 — Kingdom Quest!



Ages 3 years through 5th grade are invited to join in on this upcoming adventure. We are also on the lookout for volunteers ages middle school through adults to help us make this the best VBS ever. We'd love to have you join us. Please see page 3 for all information as well as the donation list.



The Popular Lou Malnati Pizza Fundraiser is Back!: pg 6



All Church Summer Events & Service Opportunities: pg 6



Summer Camp for Ages 3rd-8th Grades: pg 6

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Message from Pastor Joel

“Jesus prayed, ‘And now I am no longer in the world, but [my disciples] are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one as we are one.’”

~John 17:11



You may remember how last fall we joined with Our Saviour’s Lutheran Church and St. Timothy Lutheran Church to raise money for our local ministry partner Loaves and Fishes. As a part of that fundraising initiative, we hosted a benefit concert featuring Mix Tape Junkies. Following that concert, Pastor Brian from Our Saviour’s asked me, “What’s next?”

Last week, our program staff took half a day and went to Our Saviour’s to dream with each other, to encourage one another, and to break bread with one another. That day we were reminded how Our Saviour’s planted Alleluia! 31 years ago. Some of our long term members know that we have a long history of joining together in mission and ministry with Our Saviour’s, whether that be the Crop Walk, or the Women’s Ministry Retreat, or even covering for pastoral care when one of us is on vacation. As we met, we started to explore possible ways we can join together for the sake of the Kingdom of God.

Some of the ideas that came out of that meeting include: a joint outdoor service in downtown Naperville. Or having a joint Christmas Cantata at each other’s churches. Maybe that means sharing transportation to the ELCA Youth Gathering in the summer of 2027, not only as a potential cost saver, but so that our youth can meet others and develop stronger relationships with other churches.

One of our goals for the Strategic Plan is to learn from and pursue ministry opportunities with other local congregations. This type of work together is not something that can be rushed, instead it moves at the pace of relationships as we work to develop trust with one another and experiment with different ministry opportunities. The main goal is to live into Jesus’ prayer from John 17, that we may be one, just as Jesus and the Father are one.

- 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 News

In May, KidsConnect will focus on the Fruit of the Spirit. Each week includes a video lesson, games, and an art activity, with lessons rotating between grade levels. This is our final series of this school year before transitioning to summer hours on May 31st. (Please see info below)



Volunteers needed 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 [CLICK HERE](#).

NOTE: There will be no KidsConnect on Sunday, May 24th, Memorial Day weekend.

Summer KidsConnect Hours

Starting May 31, KidsConnect will meet during the 10:30 a.m. service only. All ages will gather together in the Rec Room. Each month will feature themed Bible lessons, games, and activities:

June: Sports - running the race and growing in perseverance

July: Treasure Hunt - seeking God and discovering what matters most

August: Beach Party - building a strong faith that stands firm



At least one adult volunteer is needed each week. Youth volunteers are always welcome too! Please consider helping when you're able! Adults and Youth can [CLICK HERE](#) to sign up. Thank you for supporting KidsConnect!

Registration for Kingdom Quest Vacation Bible School is ONGOING!

This summer, Kingdom Quest will take kids on an exciting adventure to discover what it means to be part of God's Kingdom. Through 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/TIME: 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 Session 1: 9am-12pm

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

VBS Volunteers are needed!

Middle School, High School, and Adult Volunteers. A full week adult volunteer will only pay \$40 per child!

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

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

VBS Donation List - Thank you for your support of VBS. We appreciate all donations—large and small! Please [CLICK HERE](#) to view our donation list. Every contribution helps!

NEW THIS YEAR!

VBS Grand Finale Celebration - We'll Go OUT with a SPLASH!

We'll celebrate our incredible week together with an **INFLATABLE WATER SLIDE** and **POPSICLES for EVERYONE!** This will take the place of the Game Station that day as a way to celebrate all the fun, learning, and memories we've made at VBS.



More Children's Ministry info on the following page

Children's Ministry

Thank you for celebrating Holy Week with us! The week began as we celebrated 15 kids receiving their First Communion.

The Good Friday Family Event welcomed children and families to hear the story of Holy Week. The event began with a parade and a donkey! We ended in the gym with 5 interactive stations that walked everyone through the story. Special thanks to Shannon Webb, Little Blessings Director; Kurtis Arndt, Youth Director; Pastor Joel; and Sara White for being our donkey!



Good Friday Family Event

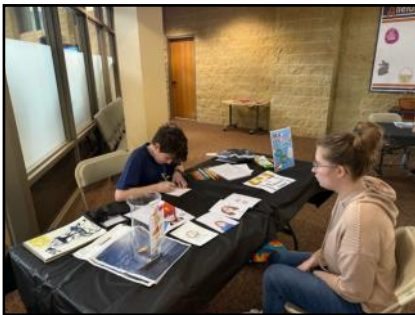


First Communion

As always our annual egg hunts were loads of fun! Thanks to all who donated candy and filled eggs!



Many thanks to everyone who participated in and shopped at the HOPE Marketplace! We are so proud of the 9 entrepreneurs that provided products this year. As a church we raised \$762 to benefit HOPE International. Way to go Alleluia!



Alleluia! Youth News!

Confirmation (6th - 8th Grade)

Early Bird Registration & End of Year Celebrations



Just like that Confirmation for the 2025-2026 academic year is over. Our 6th Graders won the Clash of the Classes for the second semester and we spent our last couple weeks of the year honoring Rufus in the Rimshot Classic and celebrating our time together as a Confirmation class.



As we look forward to summer, a couple of dates to keep on your mind for our middle school aged friends are July 14th when we will be gathering for Mini Golf, and July 19th - July 24th for camp at LOMC!

Early Bird Registration has opened for current 5th - 8th graders! [REGISTER](#) early for 2026-27 to receive a \$10 discount!

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

As we wrap up our school year we will have three final weeks of Youth Group: May 3rd, May 10th, and May 17th. The theme for these final three weeks?—

The next two weeks of Youth Group will be all about how do we respond to injustice around us! I am most excited about our collaboration with Our Saviour's Lutheran Church. They are having a guest host in David Scherer aka Agape from the ELCA Youth Gatherings! This extra special event will be covered by the church. Please let Kurtis know if you're coming!



David Scherer

May 3rd - "Just Move" at Our Saviour's Lutheran Church (815 S. Washington St) 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

May 10th - How Can We Respond to the World Around Us ("Just Move" Part 2)

May 17th - Final Gathering of the Year - Away from church (Students will vote on location)

Job Board - Mission Trip 2026 Fundraiser - This Spring

Have a pet that needs to be walked? A child that needs to be baby sat?
A dessert needed for a party? Mulch that needs to be spread? Your lawn cut?



As a part of our fundraising efforts in 2026, we are offering students the ability to work tasks for congregation members in exchange for donations toward their mission trip! How does this work? Congregation members fill out a form explaining what they are looking for, what they can donate for the task financially, and a timeline of when they would need the task done. Members will then donate directly to a student's account digitally or with a check or cash given to Youth Director Kurtis Arndt. These funds go directly to the student's mission trip payments!

Students and their families are responsible for transportation and commit to finishing their job to the best of their abilities! Contact Youth Director Kurtis Arndt at karndt@alleluia.church with any questions.

Let it Shine Youth Mission Trip - Adult Chaperones

This year's mission trip to Maquoketa, Iowa includes an application process for adult chaperones to build the best possible team. We invite any adult with interest, whether you have a student attending or not, to apply and share your heart, gifts, and willingness to serve. Your responses help show interest and intent while equipping Youth Director Kurtis to lead a connected, called, and effective team.

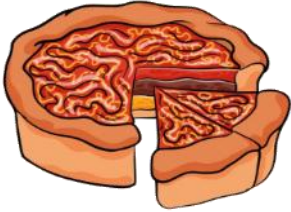
Please indicate your interest by filling out the attached application [HERE](#).



Alleluia! Youth News! — continued

Lou Malnati's Fundraiser - Mission Trip 2026 - May

"What's for lunch"? - The first thought after the benediction and sending each and every week... The answer?... Lou Malnati's Frozen Deep Dish Pizza! Each week, while supplies last, "Let It Shine!" students and leaders will be selling Lou Malnati's \$20 Frozen Deep Dish Pizza Certificates and \$25 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, Wisconsin, Indiana, or Arizona. If you would like to purchase an abundance of certificates for gifts, business, or personal use - please reach out to Youth Director Kurtis Arndt at karndt@alleluia.church so he can order more.

All Church Summer Fellowship, Fun & Service

June 3rd - VBS Work Day [Sign up here](#)

June 11th - Yogurt Beach

June 19th - Feed my Starving Children [Sign up here](#)

June 27th - Mission Trip Sendoff, Potluck, and Yard Games [Sign up here](#)

July 5th - Outdoor Worship Sunday

July 13th - Springbrook Prairie Trail Bike Ride

July 29th - S'mores at Alleluia!

August 6th - Six Flags Great America Trip

August 14th - Movie Night at Alleluia!

August 30th - Rally Day



Attention: Students in 3rd-8th Grades

Save the Dates for Summer Camp at LOMC

The week of July 19th - July 24th we encourage all of our students entering 3rd - 8th grades to sign up for a week of fun at Lutheran Outdoor Ministries Center in Oregon, IL.



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 students over the week will learn, laugh, play, sing, have a ton of fun!



Little Blessings News!

May 2026



From the Director's Desk

As we arrive at the close of a wonderful school year, I want to take a moment to say thank you. It has been a year filled with joy and meaningful growth for our students, and I deeply appreciate the partnership, support, and trust you've shared with our preschool community.

Our classrooms have been filled with laughter, learning, and significant moments as children built friendships, explored their world, and grew in faith. None of this would be possible without the support of our incredible families and our church community.

In the coming weeks, I will be sending out a **parent survey**. Your feedback is incredibly valuable as we reflect on this year and begin planning for the next. I encourage you to take a few minutes to share your thoughts so we can continue to strengthen and grow our program.

I would also like to extend a heartfelt thank you for your participation in our Bundtlets For Blessings - Nothing Bundt Cakes fundraiser. Because of your generosity, we have taken meaningful steps toward establishing a scholarship fund, which will help Little Blessings families who may experience financial hardship or temporary crises during the school year. This is a beautiful example of our community coming together to support one another.

As we look ahead, we are excited to celebrate our students. The end of the year is always a special time as we recognize how much our students have grown and prepare them for their next adventure. We are so proud of everyone and can't wait to celebrate this conclusion of a wonderful year together.

I also invite you to stay connected with us over the summer! Join us for Summer Camp beginning June 1 through July 31—there are still a few openings available. You can also be part of Vacation Bible School (VBS) taking place June 8–12. We would love to continue the fun and learning with your children during these special summer programs.

Thank you again for a truly special year. I am so blessed to serve your families and to be part of such a caring and supportive church community.

With gratitude,

Shannon Webb

Little Blessings Preschool Director



Upcoming Dates

May 4 — May 8: Teacher Appreciation Week

May 5 & 6: Last Children's Chapel, 9:15 AM

May 20: Last Day of School

May 21 & 22: End of the Year Celebrations, 9:15 AM & 10:30 AM

June 1: Summer Camp Begins

June 8 — 12: Vacation Bible School (VBS)



Summer Camp



VBS

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

Little Blessings is a Ministry of Alleluia! Lutheran Church
 Sunday Worship - Traditional: 9:00 a.m. & Contemporary: 10:30 a.m.



Message from Sheila Ferrarelli, Director of Operations

As many of you are aware, our keycard door access system had begun to fail. Due to its age and the inability to service it, we found it necessary to implement a new solution for our church.



This past month we upgraded our building keycard/access system. The new system provides greater security and allows us to manage access more efficiently. Changes to building accessibility were based on Little Blessings Preschool hours of operation, our Children's and Youth Ministry programs, the addition of The Studios Performing Arts in the upper east wing, and the many renters who use our building. Access groups were created to provide entry as needed.

If you currently have a keycard, your card remains active, however, your access permissions may have changed. Only staff keycards will function during Little Blessings Preschool office hours, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. — 3 p.m. During those hours, entry into the building is restricted. Access through the upper east door (#4) and upper west door (#1) will be available via the call button. All visitors will need to sign in at either the church office or the Little Blessings Preschool office. The Studios Performing Arts has exclusive use of door #5.

If you have more than one keycard, please return the extra card to the church office so it can be reused. If you have any questions or experience issues with your keycard, please contact Lori Hayman in the church office at 630-904-3311, ext. 245.

Many thanks to Shannon Webb, Little Blessings Preschool Director; Bruce Kallberg, church council member; and Scott Lustik, church member, for helping ensure this system is the right fit for Alleluia!

Thank you for helping us keep our church and preschool family safe.

Sheila Ferrarelli

Alleluia! Women



The Alleluia! Women's Ministry recently held two fun event opportunities: Laugh Your Socks Off, Part 2, which was a great evening of fun and laughter!—



and an Enneagram Event, where we explored this ancient Christian tool that offers meaningful insight into personal strengths we can build on as well as the weaknesses that may hold us back.



Alleluia! Game Night 2026 was a great success! We raised over \$20k for Alleluia!, with over 100 people in attendance. Thanks to all who volunteered, donated, and attended the event!

Thank You!

ALLELUIA! GAME NIGHT



Thank You!



Thank You!



An Acoustic Evening with Sidewalk Prophets - and Many Thanks!

What a night! Dave Frey and Cal Joslin led an incredible evening of worship, stories, and laughter! I want to thank our many volunteers, the other organizations that helped us put on this event, our staff, and all of you for making this night possible!

A huge thank you to—

- The Compass Church for allowing us to use their parking lot for overflow parking
- The First Baptist Church of Downers Grove for allowing us to use their bus for transportation
- The Islamic Center of Naperville who allowed us to use their parking cones and barricades
- The Naperville Police Department for helping us make those connections

Talk about interfaith, ecumenical, and community teamwork!

Thank you to all of our volunteers and staff who jumped in to help lead this event. We had over 25 people between staff and volunteers help plan, welcome, and gather most of the day to make this event the success it was!

Lastly— thanks to our anonymous donors who supplied the hotel rooms for the band and the other anonymous donors who supplied meals for the band. These donations offset nearly all the costs of this fantastic night!

To see 600 persons in our sanctuary on a random Thursday in April?—What an amazing night to remember! The sound of praises and the sights of worship of this night will stick with me for life! Thank you all for being such a great big part of this event!

Let it Shine,
Kurtis Arndt



SCRAP & STAMP

Saturday, May 9, 2026

9:00 a.m. — 10:00 p.m.

in the Lower-level Alleluia! Rec Room

All Scrapbookers, other crafters, and anyone with a project are invited for 13 uninterrupted hours to work on your projects. You'll have your own 6-foot table to work on. Bring your lunch, snacks, and beverages as desired. A pizza and salad dinner with dessert will be provided. All attendees will receive a gift and a snack!

Enter at door #8 (down the hall and turn right - no stairs on this level)

Register by May 2nd - [CLICK HERE](#) for Google form.

Pay the **\$25 entrance fee** via Zelle to Laurie @ 630-362-5364 (will show as William Cottrill) or Venmo @Laura-Cottrill-3 or send a check payable to Laurie Cottrill and write "Scrap-n-Stamp" or "SNS" on the memo line:

Laurie Cottrill, 4007 Jersey Ct., Naperville, IL 60564

Please email us with questions.

Scrapnstamp.alleluia@gmail.com

Just for Fun! Mahjong! Who wants to learn how to play?

This summer we are launching Mahjong lessons as a new way to bring people together for fun and fellowship.

Though the game may look complicated at first glance, it's a social game at heart with lots of conversation and laughs. Lessons are designed for beginners over age 18. It will include simple strategies, basics of the game, and the flow of play.

Interested? Reach out to Deb Bostjancic at dbostjancic@alleluia.church or call/text 630-254-2002.



Join the fun!

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

Amy Freitag
AFreitag@alleluia.church

Nancy Hamera
NHamera@alleluia.church

Kent Nelson
KNelson@alleluia.church

Roger Russell
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Gary Zoet
GZoet@alleluia.church

**4055 S. Book Rd.
Naperville, IL 60564**



Worship Schedule

All are welcome to join us
for worship!

Sunday Morning
9:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.

Stay Connected!

Website: www.alleluialutheran.org



Alleluia - Naperville, IL



Alleluia! - Naperville, IL