



July 2026 Alleluia! NEWS

See you for special worship experiences this month!

We kicked off summer in high-energy style with **Kingdom Quest VBS** in June, and we're keeping things rolling with several special worship opportunities to look forward to in July. First, join us for **Outdoor Worship Sunday** on July 5 at 10:00 a.m.! Bring blankets/lawn chairs (or a pup tent) and your reusable water bottle, and we'll give thanks in the great outdoors for the many wonders of God's creation. The following Sunday, July 12, we'll celebrate our **Youth Mission Trip** participants after their return from eastern Iowa. Come learn about their experiences and help us thank them for their work throughout the week! Finally, on July 19, it's your chance to sing with a choir—even if you never have before (or it's been a few decades). Worship and Music Director Nicole Melody will lead a **Pop-Up Choir**, which will share an anthem during 10:00 a.m. worship. Come at 9:00 a.m. for rehearsal; no experience necessary!

See you in worship!

A Ton of Love food & goods drive for Loaves & Fishes



This July, you're invited to help Alleluia! collect **1 ton** of pantry staples and household necessities for our friends at Loaves & Fishes Community Services!

Each week, we'll focus on a different high-demand item. You can place your donations in the labeled shopping carts at church!

- **Week of June 28: breakfast foods**
- **Week of July 5: dinner foods**
- **Week of July 12: canned items**
- **Week of July 19: household/hygiene items**
- **Week of July 26: baby items**

What's inside...

- **Pastor's Message: p. 2**
- **Children's Ministry news: pp. 3-4**
- **Youth Ministry news: p.5**
- **Music Ministry news: p. 6**
- **Hospitality volunteers needed: p.6**
- **Little Blessings news: p. 7**
- **Welcome, new hires!: p. 8**
- **Alleluia! Moms: p. 9**
- **Employment opportunities at Alleluia!: p.9**
- **The Studios Performing Arts: p.9**

Alleluia! Lutheran Church, 4055 S. Book Rd., Naperville, IL 60564
alleluialutheran.org / 630-904-3311

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

Message from Pastor Joel

Transitions are hard. Staff transitions are really hard. Staff transitions in a church context are especially hard. This month, three staff transitions are taking place. Alan Cook, our cleaning and maintenance technician, is stepping away from his role. Werner Herb, our other maintenance technician, has decided to officially retire. And Sharon Wynne, our Creative Director, also is moving on.

Alan and Werner have been our “dynamic duo” for the past three years cleaning, maintaining, and fixing our 80,000-square-foot facility. We have relied heavily on them to do a lot of behind-the-scenes work, whether it was setting up more than 500 chairs in the CLC for a special event, shampooing all of the carpets throughout the building, or using the mobile lift to replace lightbulbs and hang Christmas decorations. They also fixed toilets, sinks, ice makers, and things in our preschool classrooms that were “well-loved” by our preschoolers and broke. I am grateful to God not only for their commitment to this building but also for all of the behind-the-scenes work that they have done to enable us to do good ministry here at 103rd and Book Road.

Likewise, Sharon has been an incredible asset to our congregation, serving as our Creative Director for several years. Sharon started working for Alleluia! almost at the beginning; her first day of work was August 15, 1998. Many of you may remember her running the A/V booth in the CLC when we used to worship there. Her expertise in communications has continued to expand as she has helpfully guided our community through the transitions from print media to digital media. Pause. Read that sentence again. Sharon’s willingness to adapt to new and ever-changing technology, learning tools that didn’t exist 28 years ago, let alone five years ago or even three years ago, has been invaluable. It is a truly rare thing to find someone who is so committed to an organization and who is willing to learn and master so many new forms of technology! Alleluia! wouldn’t be who we are today if it weren’t for Sharon’s dedication and ongoing work.

Although I have only been serving at Alleluia! for two years, I am so grateful for great colleagues like Alan, Werner and Sharon—people whom I have had the joy of getting to know and serve alongside here at Alleluia! Thanks be to God for their work, commitment, and ministry that they have shared with us during this time.



Children's Ministry

July KidsConnect!

KidsConnect meets during the 10:00 a.m. service this summer - join us in the Rec Room for themed Bible lessons, games, and fun activities!

Our theme for July is **Treasure Hunt**. Kids will seek God and discover what matters most! What will you *find* when you join us this month? Bible scavenger hunts, a chance to "dig for treasure" on the playground, and a special opportunity to create a treasure chest filled with prayers and scripture verses that we can treasure in our hearts!

KidsConnect volunteers needed! Can you join us one or more weeks this summer? At least one adult volunteer is needed each week. Youth volunteers are always welcome, too! Sign up [HERE](#).

Vacation Bible School

WOW! Vacation Bible School was quite the adventure! Thank you to everyone who donated their time, energy, and resources to help make Kingdom Quest VBS a memorable and meaningful week! We had 200 students and around 100 volunteers fill our church with laughter all week. Save the dates for next year's VBS: June 7-11, 2027! *(Read more from Children's Ministry on p. 4!)*



Children's Ministry

Summer in full swing with fun for the whole family!

Splash-pad meetup: Wednesday, July 8, 10:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.

Wolf's Crossing Community Park Splash Pad

3252 Wolf's Crossing Rd, Naperville, IL 60564



Kids ages 3 through 5th grade and their families are invited to join us for a fun morning at the Wolf's Crossing splash pad! Come cool off, play with friends, grab a popsicle, and enjoy summer together. Please register so we can ensure we have enough popsicles! Sign up [HERE](#).

Springbrook Prairie trail bike ride: Monday, July 13, meet at 6:00 p.m.

All ages are invited to bring their bikes to Springbrook Prairie Trail for a church bike ride! We'll gather at the 83rd Street and Book Road parking lot at 6:00 p.m. and then bike the trail starting at 6:15 p.m. The trail is a 5.5-mile loop that will take us back to the parking lot. (There is also parking at the 2.25-mile marker at Plainfield-Naperville Road and 87th Street.)

Bring a blanket and/or snacks for a picnic after the ride! Expect a sweet treat from Alleluia! at the finish. Please register so we know to look for you! Sign up [HERE](#).

S'mores at Alleluia! Wednesday, July 29, 7:00 p.m.

Alleluia! backyard



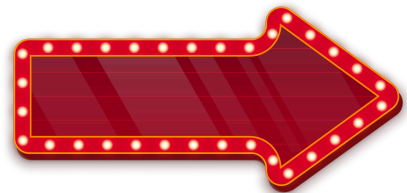
Families, bring your yard games and lawn chairs, and we'll provide the s'mores fixings at this sweet evening of fellowship right here at Alleluia! Sign up [HERE](#).

Looking ahead to August...

Save the date for more family fun next month!

Aug. 14: Movie Night at Alleluia!

Aug. 30: Rally Day



Children's Ministry registration for fall is underway!

Sign up your students today for KidsConnect, as well as for our K3! program (for Ks through third grade) or Connect45 (for fourth and fifth grade)!



[KidsConnect 2026-'27 student registration](#) (ages 3 through 5th grade)

[KidsConnect 2026-2027 volunteer registration](#) (middle school-adult)

[Connect45 student registration](#) (4th and 5th grade)

[K3! student registration](#) (kindergarten-3rd grade)

Alleluia! Youth News

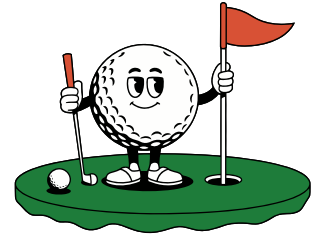
Mission Trip Sunday, mini golf and more this month!

So much is happening with Alleluia! Youth Ministry in July! We leave for our mission trip to Maquoketa, Iowa, on June 27, and we'll celebrate our week of service, connection, and growing in faith together at **Mission Trip Sunday** on July 12. Come to 10:00 a.m. worship and hear our trip participants share their stories and their unique perspectives on what "Let It Shine" means to them!

Middle school mini-golf outing: Tuesday, July 14, 4:30-6:00 p.m.

Wilderness Falls Mini Golf

145 Clow International Pkwy, Bolingbrook, IL 60490



Incoming 6th- through 8th-graders are invited to join us for some mini-golf fun at Wilderness Falls. Please register in advance; you can pay on site! Sign up [HERE](#).

High school Raging Waves trip: Wednesday, July 15, 10:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m.

Carpool from Alleluia! to Raging Waves, 4000 N. Bridge St., Yorkville, IL 60560

Incoming 9th- through 12th-graders, take a break for a day of fellowship and fun on July 15. We'll meet at Alleluia! at 10 a.m., carpool to Raging Waves, and then carpool back to church. Sign up [HERE](#).



See our Children's Ministry listings on the previous page for info on the [Springbrook Prairie bike ride](#) July 13 and [S'mores at Alleluia!](#) July 29! All ages welcome!

Coast(er) into August with us! All-church outing to Great

America: Thursday, Aug. 6, leave from Alleluia! at 9:00 a.m.

Six Flags Great America, 1 Great America Pkwy, Gurnee, IL 60031



Whether you're a coaster fanatic or the carousel is more your speed, let's gather for a day of fun at Great America before school begins. We'll caravan from Alleluia! at 9:00 a.m.; the park is open until 10:00 p.m. (Minors must be accompanied by an adult 21+ after 5:00 p.m.) Sign up [HERE](#).



Register for Confirmation for the 2026-'27 school year!

Have an incoming 6th- through 8th-grader? Now is the time to register for Confirmation! We'll explore our Lutheran tradition, dive further into scripture, and grow in faith and as members of our church community. Have questions? Contact Youth Ministry Director Kurtis Arndt at karndt@alleluia.church.

Alleluia! Music Ministry

Be part of Pop-Up Choir on July 19!

Alleluia!'s Summer to Connect is going strong in music ministry! Our musicians have enjoyed playing and singing together in our blended worship style this summer, and we're excited to share another opportunity for everyone to make some new musical connections.

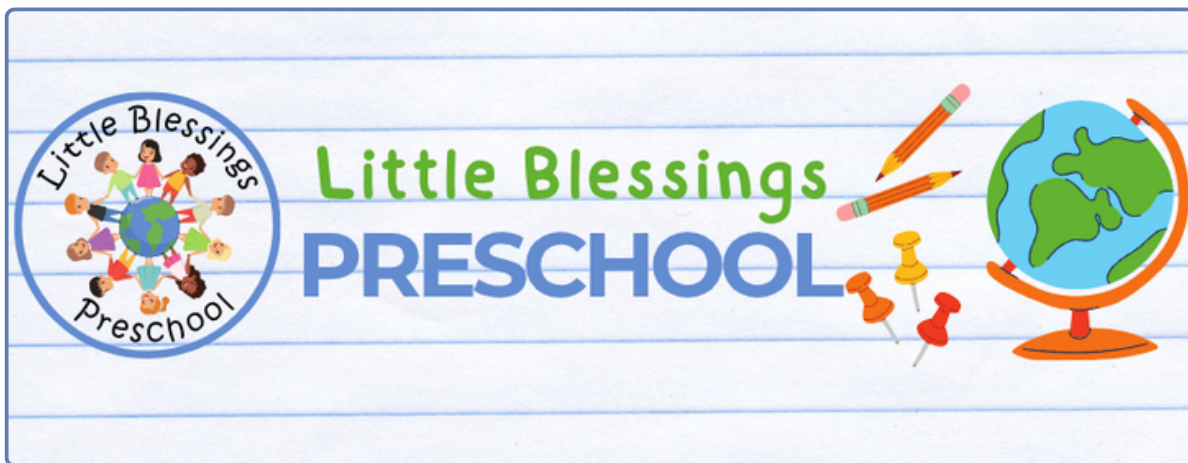
On Sunday, July 19, you're invited to be part of our **Pop-Up Choir!** In this low-pressure, come-as-you-are worship music experience, we'll raise our voices in song with a simple two-part choral anthem. Come to learn and rehearse the piece that Sunday morning at 9:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary; we'll then sing the anthem during the offertory at the 10:00 a.m. worship service. If you love to sing, please join us! You do NOT need to have choral experience, but if you have fond memories of singing in your high school or church choirs, this is the perfect opportunity for you to warm up those vocal chords! Questions? Please speak with Music and Worship Director Nicole Melody in person or email her at NMelody@alleluia.church!



Hospitality volunteers needed

Be part of a team that helps create a welcoming and caring environment for all of our worship and special event participants! Volunteers will assist in logistics, setup and cleanup for gatherings where food and beverages are served. This flexible role offers the chance to be part of an important ministry that connects and cares for our members and guests. Interested in serving? Questions? Reach out to Deb Bostjancic at dbostjancic@alleluia.church or call 630-254-2002!





From the director's desk:

Summer is in full swing at Little Blessings Preschool, and we have been having an amazing time at Summer Camp! Our campers have been busy exploring, creating, experimenting, playing, and making new friends. From exciting themed activities and creative projects to outdoor adventures and special snacks, each week has been filled with laughter, learning, and fun. We are so grateful for the wonderful children and families who have joined us this summer!

As we look ahead to July, we still have a few openings available in our Twos Camp and Camp Kindergarten programs. If you know a family looking for a fun and engaging summer experience, we'd love to welcome them to Little Blessings.

We are also continuing to register students for the 2026-'27 school year. While several classes are filling quickly, there are still opportunities to join our Little Blessings family this fall. If you have friends, neighbors, or family members searching for a preschool program, please encourage them to contact us for more information or to schedule a tour.

Behind the scenes, our staff has been busy planning for another wonderful school year. We are preparing exciting classroom experiences, enriching activities, and special events as we celebrate Little Blessings Preschool's 30th anniversary this fall. We look forward to welcoming both returning and new families and continuing our mission of providing a nurturing environment where children can learn, grow, and experience God's love.

Wishing you a safe, fun, and blessed July!

With gratitude,

Shannon Webb

Little Blessings Preschool Director

Upcoming Camps:

July 6th – 10th – Summer Camp Week 4: Knights & Princesses

July 13th – 17th – Summer Camp Week 5: Messy Art

July 20th – 24th – Summer Camp Week 6: Beach Week

July 27th – 31st – Summer Camp Week 7: Carnival Week



Welcome, new hires!

Alleluia! welcomes three new staff members

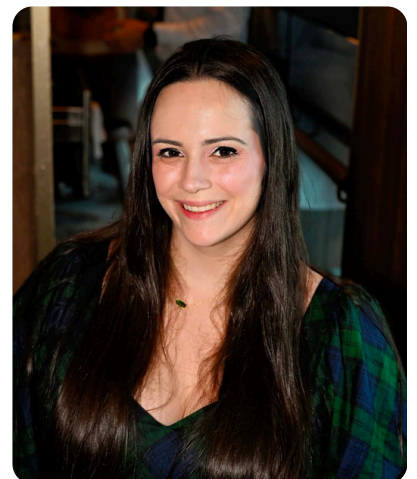
Please join us in welcoming **Christy LaFave Grace**, **Chung (Jane) Yoo**, and **Cassie Knowles** to the Alleluia! staff!

Christy LaFave Grace started at Alleluia! on June 15 as Communications and Marketing Director. She earned her B.A. in Communications and Marketing from Indiana University-Bloomington and served as an editor and reporter at trade publications throughout the Chicago area for 15 years before becoming communications manager at Our Saviour's Lutheran Church in Naperville in 2022. She is a member of Gary United Methodist Church in Wheaton and lives in Naperville with her husband and son Colin, a rising fourth-grader. She is starting part-time graduate studies this fall through Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary, with a focus on chaplaincy.



Jane Yoo is starting at Alleluia! as musical accompanist on June 28. She earned her bachelor's degree in piano performance at the Esther Boyer College of Music at Temple University and her master's degree in piano performance and pedagogy from Northern Illinois University. She is an active member of the Music Teachers National Association and is a Nationally Certified Teacher of Music. She previously served as a piano instructor at North Central College and currently teaches at the Community Music and Arts Center of Harper College. Jane also teaches private students in Naperville. She has three adult children, two grandchildren, and two small dogs who keep her busy!

Cassie Knowles, an Alleluia! member, will start on staff in the coming weeks leading media production. We are grateful to Cassie for her interest in taking on this important ministry that helps those near and far connect with Alleluia! through our YouTube channel!





Are you an Alleluia! mom looking to connect with other moms?
Meet up with us this summer! Perfectly Imperfect Mamas will meet the evenings of Thursday, July 23, and Thursday, Aug. 27, at a local restaurant. Come for Bible study, food, and fellowship with a supportive group of women. For location info and more details, please reach out to Megan Glassman at megan.amos@gmail.com or Sara White at sara.white00@aol.com. Please join us!

Alleluia! is a wonderful place to worship *and* a wonderful place to work!

We're hiring for the following part-time positions:

- Maintenance and repair technician
- Lead preschool teacher
- Assistant preschool teacher



Find details about the roles and how to apply at alleluialutheran.org/about-alleluia/employment



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

CONNECT WITH US!



Facebook: @alleluianaperville



IG: @alleluialutherannaperville



YouTube: @alleluia-napervilleil736

Have you checked out our social channels recently? Find the latest on what's happening at Alleluia! and photos from our great summer events. Traveling this summer? Watch our services on Alleluia!'s YouTube channel! Did you know many folks watch a church's services online before attending in person? Share our channel with friends!

THE
STUDIOS
PERFORMING ARTS

CREATE YOUR BEST SUMMER!



The Studios: Next Stage
Ages: 12 thru 18
June 1 - 13, 2026



The Studios: First Stage
Grades: 2 thru 8
July 13 - 24, 2026



The Show Choir Studios: Kids Camp
Grades: 3 thru 8
August 3 - 7, 2026

To Learn More & Register Visit www.thestudiosperformingarts.com
4055 Book Road Door 5 Naperville, IL 60564



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 Summer Worship
May 24th - Sept 6th at 10:00 a.m.

Stay Connected!

Website: www.alleluialutheran.org



Alleluia - Naperville, IL



Alleluia! - Naperville, IL