

November 2026 Alleluia! NEWS

Giving thanks today, and giving generously as we look to 2027

As we enter into a month of family gatherings, building anticipation, and, we hope, moments of rest and reflection amid all of the preparations, we give thanks for all that 2026 has brought for Alleluia--new mission and outreach activities, new staff and volunteers, and new members welcomed into our congregation.

It is thanks to the generous support of each and every person who makes a point to *come, connect* and *commit* that Alleluia! is able to make a positive impact in the lives of our members and our neighbors. We are excited to **Grow Our Impact** in 2027, with your help. Before November closes, please take a few moments to fill out your 2027 financial commitment card either online or in person. Also, if you haven't already, make plans to join us at our annual all-church **Stewardship Luncheon** on Sunday, Nov. 8, following our one worship service at 10:00 a.m. that day. **Please RSVP by Friday, Oct. 30, HERE.**

Thank you for all of the ways in which you have shown up for Alleluia! and for one another in 2026!





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Message from Pastor Joel



“Are you sure you want to do this?” Amanda asked as we stood at the top of the overlook of Pyramid Point in Sleeping Bear Dunes National Park in northern Michigan.

“Sam is going no matter what.” I said, “So I might as well join him.”

“You know that it costs $3,000 to rescue you if you can’t make it back up.”

“I’m sure I’ll be fine.”



Then Sam and I descended the 300-foot sand dune down to Lake Michigan. We felt great on the way down. The lake was like glass that day; the sun was shining; the sand wasn’t too hot yet on our feet. Then we turned around and looked up, and up, and up, and up at what we needed to climb. From where we stood, we could only see about 60%-70% of the hill. But it didn’t seem that daunting. We felt exhilarated and excited for the challenge that lay before us.

Psychologists have discovered that when climbing a large hill with a partner, we perceive the hill to be less steep compared with when we climb the large hill alone. Our perspective changes along with our attitude at the task set before us. Sometimes the demands of our daily life feel insurmountable. The stress of raising our kids or caring for an elderly parent and the demands of work can be overwhelming. But we are not alone.

One of our goals in 2027 is to **create more ministry opportunities for adults, including small groups, Bible studies, community groups, retreats, and mission trips.** Through these ministries, we will grow our impact and remind one another that we do not have to face the challenges of this life alone. To help us reach these goals we will hire a new part-time pastor or deacon of faith formation starting next year.

We need your help! On Nov. 8, we will have one worship service at 10:00 a.m., and then at 11:00 a.m. we will host our all-church stewardship luncheon. At the luncheon, we will celebrate you and your generous support of the mission and ministry of Alleluia! We will also share more about what we are looking forward to in 2027, including the hiring of additional staff. ***(continued on p. 3)***

Message from Pastor Joel

(continued from p. 2) Nov. 15 will be Commitment Sunday, and we'll take time during worship to collect financial pledge forms for 2027. I invite you to take time now and prayerfully consider your commitment for 2027 and consider increasing your pledge for next year. If you have not pledged before, prayerfully consider making a pledge for the year ahead. (If you'd like to make your pledge online, you can do so **HERE**.)

As we look forward to next year, we know that there are hills to climb. But **we are not alone.** We have one another and we have Christ, who is leading our way. And that makes me feel excited and exhilarated for what God has in store for us next. How about you?

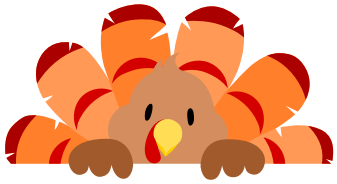


Children's Ministry

We're thankful for your participation in Children's Ministry!

Alleluia!'s Children's Ministry is grateful for all the families who entrust their children with us each week for KidsConnect, Connect45 and K3! Volunteers are what make ministry possible in all of these programs. Thank you to all the adults and youth who volunteer each week. Interested in getting involved? There's still time to join any of these programs as a participant or a volunteer. Simply click on the links below to register.

KidsConnect (Sundays after Children's Chat, ages 3 through 5th grade)
K3! (Wednesday nights for grades K-3)
Connect45 (Wednesday nights for grades 4-5)
KidsConnect volunteers



Celebrating a terrific Trunk or Treat 2026!

Sixteen decorated trunks, more than 100 guests, and thousands of pieces of candy: Thank you to everyone who contributed to an amazing Trunk or Treat on Oct. 28! With assists from nice weather, our Facebook event page, and a story submitted to and published in the Daily Herald about Alleluia!'s uniquely service-oriented Trunk or Treat, we saw great attendance not only from Alleluia! members but also from Little Blessings Preschool families and members of the community!

Attendees scored plenty of treats, tried their hand at carnival-style games in the Rec Center, and helped tie felt blankets, decorate homemade greeting cards for seniors, and pack shoeboxes with toys and other gifts for Operation Christmas Child. What a beautiful celebration of community and the fact that you're never too young to make a difference!







Children's Ministry

Parents' Night Out Nov. 6 / Parents' Day Out Dec. 5 - sign up today!

Parents, grab a moment to yourselves while we host supervised fun at church for your kiddos! We'll be hosting **Parents' Night Out** on **Friday, Nov. 6,** from 6:00-8:00 p.m. in The Underground, and **Parents' Day Out** on **Saturday, Dec. 6,** from 2:00-4:00 p.m. in the gym!

Ages preschool 3s (must be potty-trained) through fifth grade welcome. We'll play games, enjoy a nut-free snack, do a themed craft and watch a movie. Requested donation of $5 per child, payable at the door.

- **Sign up for PNO Nov. 6 HERE!**
- **Sign up for PDO Dec. 5 HERE!**



Caroling at Sunrise in 2025

Coming in December: Caroling at Sunrise Senior Living, Breakfast in Bethlehem, and more!

December is always a joy-filled time for Children's Ministry at Allelluia! as we eagerly await the Christmas celebration of Jesus's birth. To help share our holiday cheer, we'll be caroling at Sunrise of Naperville North on **Wednesday, Dec. 9,** and we'll host our annual Breakfast in Bethlehem on **Sunday, Dec. 13.**

Stay tuned for more info and registration for these events, as well as details about our Advent family craft! Wishing you and yours a beautiful and blessed Thanksgiving.

-April Blair, Children's Ministry Director

Alleluia! Youth News

Just a few weeks away: LOMC fall retreat for grades 6-12

It's fall retreat time! We're heading to Lutheran Outdoor Ministries Center in Oregon, IL, for an overnight retreat **Nov. 21-22.** Students in grades 6-12 welcome! Cost is $80/student; **sign up by Nov. 11** **HERE**.

Questions? Contact Youth Ministries Director Kurtis Arndt at **karndt@alleluia.church**.







Congratulations to our 2026 confirmands!

Many congrats and blessings to **Caige** and **Dillon** for affirming their baptism in being confirmed on Sunday, Oct. 25. We are honored to walk alongside you on your faith journey and to welcome you into membership of Alleluia! Lutheran Church!

Confirmation: What we're studying in November

Here's what middle school students will be learning about in Confirmation in November:

- **Nov. 4:** the Lord's Prayer
- **Nov. 11:** Prayers in worship
- **Nov. 18:** The Apostles' Creed

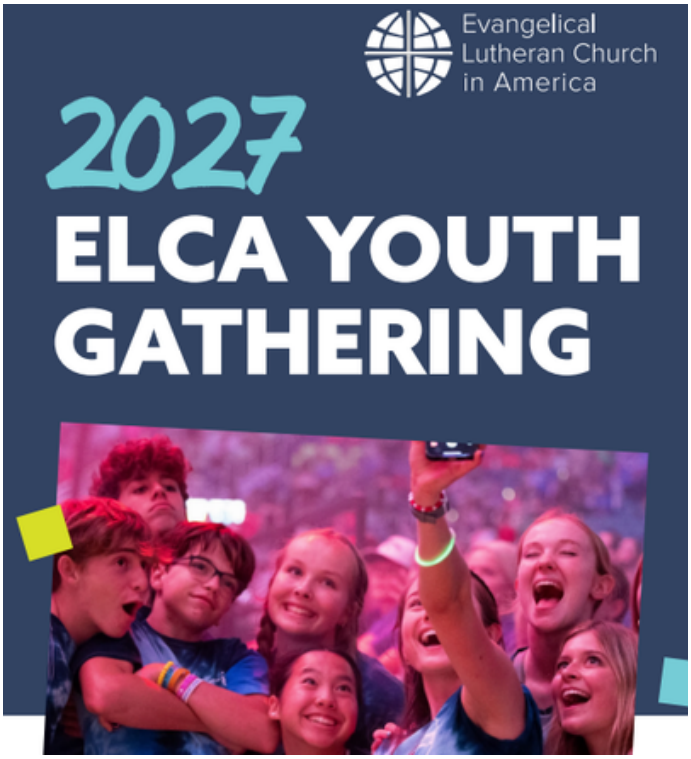
(continued on p. 7)



Alleluia! Youth News

Triennial ELCA Youth Gathering: Headed to Minneapolis in 2027!

Faith formation happens in all sorts of ways, and one of the special ways that our denomination nurtures faith formation for high school youths is through the triennial ELCA Youth Gathering!



Every three years, ELCA youths from across the country come together for a week of exploring and growing their faith through worship, service, play, and fellowship. In 2027, Minneapolis will play host to this memories-of-a-lifetime event, and Alleluia! youths currently in grades 8-12 will have the opportunity to be part of it all June 27-July 3.

You can sign up to join us for the 2027 Youth Gathering **HERE**, and be on the lookout for ways you can help support this faith formation trip that is not just a moment but a movement that comes home with students!





High School Youth Group imagines more love this November

We continue our **Imagine More!** series in November with the theme of “Imagine Love.” This month will include TWO lessons from the ELCA 2027 Youth Gathering curriculum to help introduce us to one of the themes we’ll dive into at the Youth Gathering in Minneapolis next summer!

Not sure if your student will be attending the Youth Gathering? No worries - you'll still have a blast learning alongside our group and having fun with our weekly games and activities.

Questions about any of our activities? Contact Youth Ministries Director Kurtis Arndt at **karndt@alleluia.church**. To sign up for our High School Youth Group email list, click **HERE**!

Alleluia! Music News

A note of thanks for our new piano!



We were so excited in late October to (very carefully) move in our new-to-us piano! The purchase of this beautiful, great-condition Yamaha, which we were able to buy from the friend of an Alleluia! member, was made possible through a generous gift from an Alleluia! family. We are so grateful to be able to replace our old piano, which went out of tune frequently and required workarounds to play successfully during worship.

Looking ahead this month, we're excited to have the **Children's Choir** sing (and sign!) during worship at 10:30 a.m. on Nov. 15. Thank you to our new Children's Choir director, Sarah Wise, for helping some of our youngest musicians share their gifts during worship.

Finally, if you haven't had the chance yet to purchase your Butter Braids for our Music Ministries fundraiser, this Sunday (Nov. 1) is your last chance to do so. Every purchase helps our music ensembles at Alleluia!, and you get a sweet treat to enjoy on a weekend morning or during the holidays! Butter Braids will be available for pickup **Nov. 15**.
-Nicole Melody, Worship and Music Director

Gift yourself a Butter Braid & support Alleluia! Music Ministries!



Order via QR code or at church Oct. 18–Nov. 1.
Pickup: Nov. 15.

BEHIND THE MUSIC



Music ministry at Alleluia! depends on many individuals of wide-ranging talents sharing their gifts together to make a joyful noise unto the Lord. Since the summer, we've been fortunate to welcome two new contributors to our music ministry team!

In late June, Alleluia! welcomed **Chung (Jane) Yoo** as accompanist for our worship services.

Born in Seoul, Jane has played piano since she was 6 years old and moved to the U.S. with her family as a teenager. She began accompanying church choirs, largely for Korean congregations, as a young adult in Pennsylvania. When she and her husband married, they lived in Reading, Pennsylvania, before his work for Lucent brought the family to Naperville, where they have resided for the past 30 years. The couple have three adult children and two grandchildren, and Jane is proud pet parent to Bella, a shih tzu-bichon mix, and Teddy, a miniature-poodle and Spaniel blend.

After taking a break from serving as a church accompanist while raising her children, Jane says she was ready to return to the role when she saw the posting for the job at Alleluia!. "My children are all grown up now, and I wanted to do something that I like to do," she says.

After a speedy interview process, Jane was hired as accompanist in June. "It's work that's close to my heart," says Jane. "I'm really grateful to Nicole (Melody, worship & music director) and to be part of Alleluia! music ministry—it's great people to work with." ***(continued on p. 12)***



Jane Yoo, Alleluia! accompanist

Get to know Jane Yoo!

- **Favorite hymn:** "How Great Thou Art"
- **When she's not playing/teaching music:** Find her working in the yard or chasing her dogs Bella and Teddy. She also enjoys seeing live music performances in Chicago with her daughter!
- **Fun fact:** Besides teaching lessons out of her home studio, Jane also teaches at Community Music and Arts Center of Harper College.

BEHIND THE MUSIC



Sarah Wise stepped up to serve as volunteer coordinator of Alleluia!'s children's choir in September—thank you, Sarah!—but her connection with Alleluia! music goes back more than a decade.


Sarah Wise, Children's Choir director

"My son has been involved with this church since he was 2 months old, and he did Music & Me with Ms. Michele (Nelson)," Sarah says. "He learned to walk here; he took his first steps in this room (the music room); he said his first word here ('hi')."

Sarah, a soprano who started opera lessons in New York as a preschooler and who has sung with choirs since first grade, says that after overhearing a parent express the wish that a Children's Choir could return to Alleluia! this fall, she decided to raise her hand to lead the group.

"I just had a lot of empathy," she said. "I wanted to give back. My son really loved music and coming to choir. It's a safe space, and I really needed that as a child, so hopefully I'm creating that now." ***Watch the Children's Choir sing during the 10:30 a.m. service on Sunday, Nov. 15!***

Get to know Sarah Wise!

- **Favorite personal performance:** Singing "Getting to Know You," a song she sang with her dad as a child, at the University of St. Francis with her dad in the front row.
- **When she's not singing/teaching music:** Sarah is finishing up her psychology degree and is set to graduate in June 2027.
- **Fun fact:** Sarah doesn't read music but can sing and play an instrument following someone's example.


Outdoor Worship, 7/5/26

Little Blessings News!

November 2026



From the Director's Desk

It's hard to believe November is already here! We are enjoying watching our classrooms come alive with fall activities, exciting learning opportunities, and lots of smiles. October was filled with wonderful memories, from our chapel services and school pictures to our Trunk or Treat and 30th Anniversary Celebration. Thank you for being such an important part of our Little Blessings family! As we enter this season of Thanksgiving, we are reminded of how blessed we are to share each day with your children. We are thankful for our amazing teachers, our supportive families, and the opportunity to help your little ones learn, grow, and discover God's love.

Throughout November, our classrooms will be exploring the themes of thankfulness, family, and Thanksgiving through stories, art projects, songs, and hands-on activities. We will be talking about what it means to be thankful and finding ways to show kindness to others. Every day brings new opportunities for our children to build friendships, develop skills, and grow in confidence.

At Little Blessings, we believe that even the smallest moments can be the biggest blessings. Whether it's a friend sharing a toy, a child learning something new, or a hug from a teacher, we see so many reasons to be thankful each day.

This Thanksgiving season, we are especially thankful for our Little Blessings families and for Alleluia and its continued dedication to Little Blessings Preschool as an important part of the church's mission. We are blessed to be part of a church community that values early childhood education and supports our efforts to nurture children as they learn, grow, build friendships, and experience God's love.

Thank you to our families, congregation, and church leadership for your continued support and partnership. Together, we are creating a loving environment where children can grow in faith, discover their gifts, and build a strong foundation for the years ahead. We are truly blessed to be part of the Alleluia family!

With gratitude and blessings,

Shannon Webb
Little Blessings Preschool Director.

#MoreMahjongPlease

You wanted more mahjong lessons; you got more mahjong lessons! Learn the basics of the game in our next two-night Beginner Mahjong lesson series, happening **Wednesdays,** Nov. 3 and 17, from 6:30-8:30 p.m. in the Exclamations! Room. Cost is $60 and includes your mahjong playing card. Register **HERE**. Questions? Contact Deb Bostjancic at **dbostjancic@alleluia.church**.



Women's Ministry special event: Enneagram Part 2 with Amy Jackson



Come learn about the wisdom of the Enneagram with **Amy Jackson,** founder and director of The Perch in Aurora, in this follow-up to Part 1 from last spring! Join Women's Ministry in the Exclamations! Room from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. on **Saturday, Nov. 7,** for this deeper dive into all things Enneagram. Register **HERE**.

Part 1 highlighted the basics of the Enneagram and how to apply this new understanding of personality types and different types' motivations and fears to our lives and relationships. Part 2 will delve further into the personality types and look at helpful everyday practices (such as self-compassion) for each type.

Didn't attend Part 1? No worries! Background information on the Enneagram will be sent ahead of time. Additionally, if you have completed an Enneagram test/ training in the past, please join us! You can pick up where you left off.

Perfectly Imperfect Mamas group: Nov. 19 and Dec. 17

Looking to get to know other Alleluia! moms? The Perfectly Imperfect Mamas group will host its final two meetups of the year on Nov. 19 and Dec. 17 at Ancho & Agave restaurant, 2860 Showplace Dr., Ste. 100, in Naperville.

Grab a bite or a beverage and enjoy good conversation with a wonderful, welcoming group. For more info, contact Megan Glassman at **megan.amos@gmail.com** or Sara White at **sara.white00@aol.com**.

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Women's Ministry bake sale Nov. 22

Love to bake? **Sign up** to share a treat for the Women's Ministry bake sale, happening Sunday, Nov. 22! Baked goods can be dropped off in the church office on Friday, Nov. 20, or before the 9:00 a.m. service on Nov. 22. Questions? Contact Christy Russell or Karla Doherty.

You may leave larger items (pies, coffee cake, etc.) uncut. As applicable, please label your item(s) "contains nuts," "gluten-free," "dairy-free," etc. Thank you for supporting Women's Ministry programming!





Help decorate the Sanctuary for Christmas!

If you're looking for a great way to get in the holiday spirit, join a festive crew in decorating the Sanctuary for Advent and Christmas on Sunday, Nov. 22, right after the 10:30 a.m. worship service.

Many hands make light work! Sign up to help **HERE**, or just show up!

Come. Connect. Commit



Leftover pumpkins? Don't trash 'em; smash 'em!

When pumpkins go to landfills, they release methane, a greenhouse gas, as they decompose without oxygen. Plus, they leach water--not good for trash piles and waterways, but good for gardens!

On Saturday, Nov. 7, from 9 a.m. to noon, take your pumpkins to Peterson Elementary School, 4008 Chinaberry Lane in Naperville (just off 104th St.) or the Ron Ory Community Garden Plots, 811 S. West St. in Naperville, for a PUMPKIN SMASH! Pumpkin composting enhances the soil and helps reduce greenhouse gas emissions!

Want to get involved in Alleluia!'s new Creation Care team?? Email Christy LaFave Grace at **clafavegrace@alleluia.church***!*



Coming in November: Holiday lights recycling

From Nov. 22-Dec. 3, bring in your unwanted or not-working holiday lights, drop them in our labeled containers, and our Alleluia! Creation Care team will take them to SCARCE in Addison for recycling. Keeping lights out of landfills this holiday season--it's a bright idea!



Thank you for bringing in Styrofoam for recycling!

Thank you to everyone who brought in Styrofoam for the Naperville Noon Lions Club's and and the City of Naperville's Styrofoam recycling event at the Route 59 Metra Station on Oct. 3! It was great to see a long line of vehicles dropping off Styrofoam with the Lions for recycling.



Churchwide Community Dinners

All are welcome!

Every 1st Wednesday of the Month

5:00-6:00pm * $5/person, $20/family

TABLE TOGETHER
Community Dinner



Operation Christmas Child

- Pick up one of our labeled shoeboxes
- Fill shoebox with toys/small gifts (for a child 2-14)
- Return filled shoebox to church by Nov. 22

Samaritan's Purse OPERATION Christmas Child

CONNECT WITH US!

Facebook: @alleluianaperville

IG: @alleluialutherannaperville

YouTube: @alleluia-napervilleil736



Alleluia! Come Connect Commit