



October 2026 Alleluia! NEWS

Embracing changing seasons and our vibrant church history

Do you know the story behind the **Tree of Life** (right) in our Sanctuary? Alleluia! worked with Professor Michael Strand and art students at the Center for Liturgical Art at Concordia University in Seward, Nebraska, to design the beautiful piece in August 2008. Those artists also designed the Exclamation Point sculpture that greets folks when they walk into our church. Our Tree of Life extends a beautiful, vibrant welcome to all who enter the Sanctuary. Strand developed a unique process for glazing and firing clay that takes as many as five separate firings to create the rich colors you see.



On the other side of the wall, facing the windows looking out onto 103rd Street, is our **Memorial Tree** (below), which features gold leaves that congregants have purchased in memory of loved ones who have passed. Leaves are available for purchase and engraving for \$150 each. Questions? Please reach out to Deb Bostjancic at dbostjancic@alleluia.church.



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Alleluia! Lutheran Church, 4055 S. Book Rd., Naperville, IL 60564
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Our mission: To enable all to come, connect, and commit to Jesus.

Message from Pastor Joel

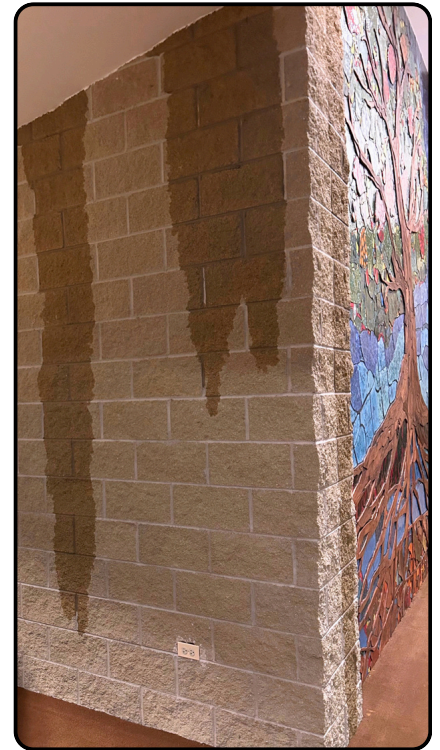
“Remember, our people are our greatest asset at church.” I said over lunch at McAlister’s with one of our council members. “Our building is our second. And right now, we need to invest some resources into our second-greatest asset.” What does it look like for us to invest some resources in our building?

We started by hiring a part-time weekend custodian to help with cleaning and preparing our facility for Sunday worship after renters used our space. Mimi Raczak (and her spouse, Mike) have been a huge help making sure we are ready for Sunday mornings. Next, we hired a new full-time facilities and campus manager, Eric Vogt. Eric started the first day of preschool this year. Already, he has been putting his past knowledge of working in schools and the park district to good use. Our 80,000-square-foot building is used morning, noon and night, providing space for ministries such as our Little Blessings Preschool, our women’s book study, the men’s Friday morning small group, musical ensembles, and Wednesday night programming for children’s ministry and youth ministry. Additionally, two Scouting America troops use our facilities; Wheatland Athletic Association uses our basketball court every night of the week; we host an AA group; and every Saturday an Indian language school meets throughout the whole church.

As you know, this summer was full of big storms. Across the months of June, July, and August, we received nearly 23 inches of rain, compared with our historical average of 12 inches. After one of the hard rains we received in mid-August, I went into the Sanctuary to see if there was any damage and took some photos. For the last several years, we’ve seen these extra “water features”—leaks from the roof extending down through the masonry—on Sunday mornings during worship. Our finance, stewardship, ERC (employee retention credit) and council teams have been discussing what to do.

As a leadership team, we decided to use our ERC to cover the costs of repairing the roof and the walls. The plan is to complete the work this fall before it snows. While this will stop the leaking and prevent further damage, we will not be doing any “interior cosmetic” work at this time. As we look ahead to the new year, our leadership teams will spend some time discussing the scope of work needed in the Sanctuary and determine the best course of action for caring for our facility. Remember, YOU are our greatest asset as a church. And as we seek to provide meaningful opportunities for ministry to take place, we also will need to spend some resources on our second-greatest asset in order to provide a place for those ministries to happen.

I am so grateful to you and your ongoing financial support to Alleluia! **Your tithes and offerings allow our ministries to flourish.** As we prepare for 2027 and commitment Sunday next month, I ask that you prayerfully consider what your pledge will be. And if you are in a financial position to increase your pledge, that will allow our leadership teams to better plan for growth and outreach in our community. Thank you for being our greatest asset. -Pastor Joel



Children's Ministry

It's never too late to sign up Children's Ministry programming!

Registration for Children's Ministry programming is ongoing for 2026-'27! It's never too late to register for [KidsConnect](#) Church School (Sundays after the Children's Chat for ages 3 through 5th grade), [K3!](#) (Wednesday nights for grades K-3) and/or [Connect45](#) (Wednesday nights for grades 4-5)!

Also: **Volunteers are needed year-round** to help make our various children's programs happen! Whether you can help out on a Sunday morning, a Wednesday evening or both, we're grateful for your participation in helping make this year of children's ministry at Alleluia! great! Find more details and sign up [HERE](#).

Third-graders received their own Bibles!

We joyfully celebrated our third-graders as they received their very own Bible from their parents during worship on Sunday, Sept. 13, at both the 9:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. services.

Thank you to everyone who shared a favorite Bible passage with these students by writing out the verse(s) or pointing students directly to the text via sticky notes affixed to the inside cover of one of our third-grade Bibles. What a gift of encouragement and tradition you shared in doing so! It is so meaningful for students to be able to discover stories and verses that have comforted, challenged and inspired other members of our faith community. If you have a third-grader who did not have the chance to receive a Bible on Sept. 13, please contact April Blair at ablair@alleluia.church!



Children's Ministry

Sign up to decorate a trunk for Trunk or Treat on Oct. 28!

One of our families' favorite events of the year returns on Oct. 28 from 6:00-7:15 p.m. in the Alleluia! parking lot! Tell your friends about this all-ages event, and get in on the fun early by signing up to host a trunk! Register to attend and/or sign up to decorate a trunk [HERE](#).

While Trunk or Treat is free to attend, you're encouraged to bring a small toy (it must fit in a shoebox) suitable for a child age 2-14 for packing in boxes for Operation Christmas Child. A \$10 donation covers the cost of shipping one box, and we'll pack boxes during Trunk or Treat! Questions? Email Children's Ministry Director April Blair at ablair@alleluia.church.

What not-so-spooky fun can you look forward to at Trunk or Treat this year?

- Halloween-themed games in the rec room
- a photo booth in the lower-level gathering area near Door 10
- opportunities to participate in service projects in The Underground
- prizes for the winning trunks!
- no tricks, plenty of treats, and good times with friends



Parents' Night Out Nov. 6 - sign up today!

Parents, grab a moment to yourselves while we host supervised fun at church for your kiddos! Our first **Parents' Night Out** of the school year will happen **Friday, Nov. 6**, from 6:00-8:00 p.m.!

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 Nov. 6** [HERE](#)!

-April Blair, Children's Ministry Director



Alleluia! Middle School Youth News

Registration now open! LOMC fall retreat: Nov. 21-22 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 [HERE](#). Questions? Contact Youth Ministries Director Kurtis Arndt at karndt@alleluia.church.



A Confirmation reminder & what's ahead in October!

It's not too late to sign up your sixth- through eighth-grader for Confirmation! In October, we'll be exploring the sacraments of baptism and communion, and we'll learn more about Martin Luther and the Reformation. Register your student for Confirmation [HERE](#). Have questions? Email Kurtis at karndt@alleluia.church!

The logo for "Trunk or Treat" features the words "Trunk" in green and "Treat" in orange, with "or" in a smaller font between them. Below the text, it says "Service Projects - Games - Fun" in a smaller green font. To the right of the text is a small illustration of a person in a costume sitting in a car trunk.

October

- Oct. 7th - Holy Baptism
- Oct. 14th - Holy Communion
- Oct. 21st - Reformation & Luther
- Oct. 28th - Trunk-or-Treat

A group photo of students and adults standing in front of a building. The building has a sign that says "LOMC" and "Lutheran Outdoor Ministries Center". The students are holding a banner that says "The World of God".

November

- Nov. 4th - Lord's Prayer
- Nov. 11th - Prayers in Worship
- Nov. 18th - The Apostles' Creed
- Nov. 21st & Nov. 22nd - LOMC Fall Retreat

Alleluia! High School Youth News

What does it mean to be bold? Exploring boldness in High School Youth Group

In October, High School Youth Group will continue the **Imagine More!** study series with an exploration of Biblical stories of boldness as well as a look at Martin Luther and the Protestant Reformation (as we get ready to observe Reformation Sunday on Oct. 25).

Also in October, we'll head to **Six Flags Great America** for Fright Fest on Saturday, Oct. 3, and help lead activities at **Trunk or Treat** on Oct. 28. (Please RSVP to be part of Trunk or Treat [HERE](#)--your help is needed to make it great!) Parents of high school youth, don't forget to sign up your student(s) to attend our [overnight fall retreat at LOMC](#), happening Nov. 21-22.

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



Alleluia! wants to hear your voice!

The traditional and contemporary music teams are looking to grow and add new singers to our weekly praise teams. If you're interested in seeing what our Sunday music ministry is all about, **join us for a rehearsal on Thursday evenings** in Sanctuary!

- **Traditional praise team:** 5:00–6:00 p.m.
- **Contemporary praise team:** 6:00–7:30 p.m.



If you don't have the time to commit weekly but would still like to share your musical gifts in worship, we have openings for for vocal and instrumental solos during the offertory and communion.

If you have any questions, please talk to me (Nicole) on Sundays or email nmelody@alleluia.church! We'd love to help you nurture your musical interests through serving in worship!

-Nicole Melody, Worship and Music Director



It's time to ring in another year of Handbell Choir!

1ST REHEARSAL: SEPT. 30, 7:00 P.M.,
PRAISE ROOM. AGES 14 & UP WELCOME!
CONTACT: NMELODY@ALLELUIA.CHURCH



Little Blessings News!

October 2026



From the Director's Desk

Fall is officially here, and October is going to be a wonderful month at Little Blessings! Our classrooms are filled with pumpkins, leaves, apples, and lots of fun fall learning. We also have several special events planned, and we are excited to share them with you.

We are so excited to begin another year of Chapel at Little Blessings. Our first Chapel will take place on Tuesday, Oct. 6, and Wednesday, Oct. 7, at 9:15 a.m. Chapel is always a special time for our preschoolers to gather together, sing songs, hear Bible stories, and learn more about God's love. We look forward to sharing these meaningful moments with our children throughout the year.

We are excited about our new weekly music classes with Mr. Music Man. Each week, the children have the opportunity to explore music in a fun and engaging way. The children are introduced to fun instruments, music vocabulary, rhythms, songs, and so much more. We love giving our students opportunities to explore, create, and learn—and we know they are already having a great time making music with Mr. Music Man.

Sunday, Oct. 18, is a very special day as we celebrate **30 years of Little Blessings Preschool**. For three decades, Little Blessings has had the blessing of being part of the lives of so many children and families. We are incredibly grateful for all of the teachers, staff, families, and church community members who have helped make Little Blessings what it is today. We hope you will join us for this special 30th Anniversary Celebration as we celebrate God's faithfulness and the wonderful history of Little Blessings.

October is a wonderful reminder of how blessed we are to have such an amazing community of children, families, teachers, and staff. From Chapel and music to celebrating 30 years of Little Blessings and enjoying some fall fun, there is so much to look forward to.

Thank you for allowing us to be a part of your child's early years. We are so grateful for the opportunity to love, teach, encourage, and grow alongside your children each day.

With gratitude,

Shannon Webb

Little Blessings Preschool Director.

HOPE

IT'S IN OUR BLOOD

Alleluia! Lutheran Church Blood Drive

WHEN & WHERE

Sun, October 4
9:30 a.m. - 2:00p.m.

Church Gym
4055 BOOK RD
NAPERVILLE, IL 60564

PROMOTION

During the Give Comfort. Get Cozy. campaign, donors will receive a cozy fall thank-you item (flannel pj pants OR a hooded sweatshirt) while supplies last.



◀ **Schedule your appointment**
Appointments preferred. Walk-ins welcome!

 **versiti**
Blood Center of Illinois

NEW! Beginner mahjong lessons return!

Back by popular demand, our two-night beginner mahjong lesson series returns **Thursdays, Oct. 8 and 15**, from 6:30-8:30 p.m. in the Exclamations! Room. Come join in the fun of this global phenomenon! Register [HERE](#) or via QR code below. Questions? Contact Deb Bostjancic at dbostjancic@alleluia.church.



NEW! 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.



COMMUNITY CONNECTION:



Anyone who has participated in Scouting won't be surprised by what Adan Campos, leader of Alleluia's own Scouting America Troop 597, names as his favorite activity of the Scouting year.

"I look forward to all the campouts," says Adan, who first became a Troop leader in 2006 when his second son joined Cub Scouts. "It's my sign that I'm done with being a troop leader when I can't enjoy camping anymore."

The fun of fishing and campfire building and s'mores-making aside, what has kept him volunteering with Scouts for two decades is the impact he has seen it make on young people's lives during some of their most formative years.

"I love watching kids come in when they're 10 years old, and they're all over the place, and then watching them grow up and become Eagle Scouts," Adan says. "It's a phenomenal thing to watch."

Troop 597 was chartered by Alleluia! in 2004 and currently counts more than 30 members. The Troop generally meets the first, third, and fourth Monday of each month at Alleluia! from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m., with regular outings and camping trips to local forest preserves and state parks. Troop 597 emphasizes youth ownership of both event planning and general operations, with the Troop noting on its website that "(l)earning leadership skills is one of the most important benefits of being a Boy Scout."

One thing that many people don't realize about Scouting, Adan says, is that it doesn't have to be a year-round activity. Some members of Troop 597 step back from troop meetings and events during their sport's competition season, for example, and then return when their season ends. "I think there are a lot of people who don't understand that," he says. "You come back, and you go to meetings and a couple of campouts and just enjoy it."

Scouting also offers the chance to develop lasting friendships, Adan points out, while building skills that most students' peers won't acquire until college or later.

"One of the biggest things I'm always telling the kids is that by working on *(continued on p. 11)*



Eagle Scout ceremony at Alleluia!

COMMUNITY CONNECTION:



(continued from p. 10) an Eagle project, they've done something that no other student their age will probably do until they get a job (as an adult)," says Adan. "An Eagle project gives them the ability to put together a project that's worth a certain amount of money, and they work with the owners and benefactors and the approvers, the reviewers—they're kids, working with adults."

He continues: "They manage a project from the workforce to the money to the time schedules. You get exposure to all of that."



And long before Scouts get to the point of conceptualizing an Eagle project, they learn about serving others and making a positive impact in their community. In August, Scouts from Troop 597 helped move around 18 tons of mulch behind Alleluia! to get the Little Blessings Preschool playground ready for the new school year.

"It's really rewarding," Adan says—and he hopes more youths have the opportunity to experience that. "It's amazing how all of these kids have made lifelong friendships," he says. "It's nice to see."

For more information, contact Adan at camposad@gmail.com or visit [Troop 597's website](#).

Share your Alleluia! hospitality!

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!





WOMEN'S MINISTRY

Sip n' Shop

Grab your favorite drink & your girlfriends
and join us at Simply Embellished for a
fun evening together!

TUES. SEPT. 29TH 6:30 - 8:30 PM

SIMPLY EMBELLISHED

13717 S. RT. 30 #119A, PLAINFIELD

CONNECT WITH US!



Facebook: @alleluianaperville



IG: @alleluialutherannaperville



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Alleluia!

Come
Connect
Commit