



**Alive with God
Alive with Family
Alive in the Community**

August 2026

THE SPIRIT OF THE THING

PASTOR STEVE KLINE

Is Donald Trump going to Heaven?

If your answer to that question was an immediate and amplified, “No!” you have a problem. Unless you move in very high-end social circles and have met him personally, and he told you what was in his heart, you cannot possibly know the eternal destiny of Donald Trump. You are at best projecting what you believe and have heard in the media and online.

If your answer to that question was an immediate and amplified, “Yes!,” you have a problem. Unless you move in very high-end social circles and have met him personally, and he told you what was in his heart, you cannot possibly know the eternal destiny of Donald Trump. You are at best projecting what you believe and have heard in the media and online.

See how this works? We love to condemn the people we hate and glorify the people we like. In a society swimming in a 500-year flood of public images and celebrity worship and instant information, we assume we actually know Taylor Swift personally. We can just tell what kind of person Elon Musk really is.

And if we like them, we judge them worthy of the Father’s House, because after all, we’ll be there and maybe we can get an autograph! If we hate them, we damn them to eternal separation from Christ and Christians LIKE ME who wouldn’t be caught dead (literally) anywhere near *those* people.

WORSHIP SUNDAYS

9:00 AM

Tune in live on Facebook every Sunday at 9:00 AM, or catch up on past services anytime on our YouTube channel.

PARTNERSHIP IN MINISTRY

Alleluia Lutheran Church entered into a one-year ministry partnership with Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church in Greenville, Wisconsin, beginning May 4, 2026. This partnership will provide pastoral leadership and ministry support as we work together in shared mission and service. While we do not yet know exactly how this will look beyond this first year, we are excited and hopeful for what our Lord Jesus Christ has planned for us!

WALKING TOGETHER CONTINUED

Here's what we do know: Donald Trump professes faith in Jesus Christ. So does Joe Biden. Could they be lying? Of course. If you're a Democrat, chances are pretty good that you're sure Trump is lying. And if you're a Republican, odd are you think the same thing about Biden. But you and I have no way of knowing that. But they have both said this publicly. That makes Donald Trump and Joe Biden our brothers in Christ.

I'll give you a moment to recover.

This is where so many Christians are crossing the streams. My politics do not make me a Christian nor get me to heaven, and your politics do not make you the Antichrist destined for hell. The same applies to our preference in our music, our pets (dogs vs. cats), and even our sports teams!

Yes, I'll say it: there are probably a couple of Bear fans in heaven, and there may be one or two Packer fans in hell.

If only this were all a joke. We are growing further apart and more deeply polarized than at any point since 1865. Families divided, communities divided, nations divided because we insist on placing judgment where we cannot possibly have the wisdom nor vision to cast it. That mind's eye belongs exclusively to Christ. We all need a come-to-Jesus moment.

If you read **Matthew 16:15**, there's only one question in Christ's Final Exam. And it's not, "Who did you vote for?" Or, "What have you done?" Your answer cannot be the party's answer or Luther's answer or even Kline's answer.

Jesus asks, "**Who do you say I am?**" That's it. That's the whole test. Those like Peter who get it right will be right for all eternity. And those like Peter who also, just a few verses later, screw up again, will find out the tragic beauty of having Jesus the Christ, the Son of the living God, as your Lord and Savior. You're not going to be right every time, all the time.

He forgives you. For trying to tell Him how to do His job, He forgives you. For hating on one brother and hero-worshiping another, He forgives you. For hiding your light and His Gospel, He forgives you. Over and over and over again.

He dies for you before He'll let sin kill you. He rises to life again before He'll let death take you. He must like you a lot.

So, my fellow saved sinners, leave the eternal judging to the only One who gets it right every time.

Just in case any of you are asking, Is Steve Kline going to heaven? I can tell you positively and wholeheartedly YES! Could I be lying? Of course. But those of you who know me personally have a pretty good knowledge of my heart.

Truthfully, I'm with Job: I know that my Redeemer lives, and in the end I will see Him in the flesh. I'm also with Paul: I am crucified with Christ, so I no longer live but Christ lives in me. And John: by believing I have life in His name.

In a way, I guess I'm also with Peter: who let this clown in here? *I don't think I've got a verse to go with that one.*

Ultimately, I'm with Jesus: Today you will be with Me in paradise. I have prepared a place for you, and I'm coming back to take you to be with Me. Because I am the Way and the Truth and the Life, and no one comes to the Father except through Me.

"A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another." **John 13:34-35**

Focus on the loving. Jesus will handle the judging.

SERMON SERIES



Guard the Goods - 1 & 2 Timothy

We will have all sorts of temptations and infestations seeking to attack and destroy the good doctrine and good life the Holy Spirit entrusts to us. He equips the Church to live as Christ's people in doctrine, love, and vocation, while holding fast to the Gospel in a changing culture. He calls on us to guard the good deposit His grace makes with us in Christ Jesus.

August 2

Grace for the Chief of Sinners - 1 Timothy 1:12-17

August 9

Prayer for All People - 1 Timothy 2:1-6

August 16

Life in Holy Vocation - 1 Timothy 3:1-13

August 23

Trained in Godliness - 1 Timothy 4:6-16

August 30

Guard the Gospel - 2 Timothy 1:6-14

September 6

Preach the Word - 2 Timothy 4:1-8

OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE

Our community thrives when we share our unique gifts, and right now, Alleluia is looking for individuals who feel called to help guide and support our shared ministry.

Hospitality: We're looking for friendly faces to join our new Greeter Team at Alleluia! All it takes is a warm smile at the door before service. Plus, with a rotating schedule, you'll only serve every few weeks. Connect with Bill Maile at (920)615-1185 bmaile.hunter@gmail.com.

Leadership: Alleluia is looking for a few men to join our Board of Elders. Your commitment would include attending a monthly meeting, providing support for our Pastor, and helping out during church services. Reach out to Bill Maile.

Please consider volunteering for one of our open Church Council positions: President, Vice President, Properties, Stewardship & Finance. If interested, contact Roger Thiel (920)371-4706.

Photography: Alleluia is updating our website and looking for volunteer photographers to take high-quality photos. Contact the office if interested in sharing your talent!

Facilities: Alleluia relies on volunteers to clean the sanctuary and bathrooms. Please consider donating your time and sign up [here](#).

FROM PASTOR MACKIE

Members of Alleluia,

The generosity of your thank you gift overwhelmed me when I opened your card. The handwritten verse touched me deeply. I was flattered to be counted as a faithful shepherd God promised to serve in Jeremiah 3:15. Recently, I received word of another amazing gift. May the work of receiving and practicing forgiveness continue among you in Christ.

Pastor Roger L Mackie

UPCOMING EVENTS



August 15, 11:00 am
Wrightstown
Alleluia is looking for
volunteers!



August 23, 9:00 am
Alleluia
Alleluia is looking for
volunteers!



September 12, 10:00 am
Shepherd of the Hills

YOUTH CHRISTIAN EDUCATION



**2026-2027 ACE
ALLELUIA CHRISTIAN EDUCATION**

FOR ALL STUDENTS ENTERING
KINDERGARTEN-6TH GRADE

BEGINS SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13,
10:15 AM AFTER 9 AM WORSHIP

TO REGISTER, CALL OR EMAIL
ALLELUIA AT 532-3892
ALLELUIA.OFFICE@GMAIL.COM

A group of children and adults are posing for a photo in a church setting, standing in front of a large cross and colorful stained glass windows.

ACE - Alleluia Christian Education begins Sunday, September 13 at Alleluia for all students entering Kindergarten-6th grade.



**2026-2027 CONFIRMATION
CLASS**

**THE
CROSSING**

Welcome to all
students in grades 5th-
8th

At Shepherd of the Hills
Wednesdays 6-8 PM

REGISTER HERE

A QR code is located below the "REGISTER HERE" text.

A graphic of a cross is shown in the background of the "THE CROSSING" text.

The Crossing begins September 2 at Shepherd of the Hills for students entering 5th-8th grade.



**CONFIRMATION
RETREAT**

**AUGUST
9-11**

A group of people are standing in a line outdoors, possibly participating in a retreat activity. The background shows trees and a clear sky.

Students entering 7th-8th grade are invited to the Confirmation Retreat at Camp Luther.

Alleluia Blessings



Child Care Center

Items Blessings is in need of:

Extra clothes in various sizes up to size 10
Extra toddler & child socks and underwear
Extra winter gear/snowpants/boots
Scrap paper for kids to practice cutting or coloring
Used Dressup clothes and costumes





Comfort Dog Announcements:

Every day, we live to follow Jesus, be changed by Jesus, and commit to the mission of Jesus. (Matthew. 4:19).

One of the greatest blessings of serving with LCC K-9 Comfort Dog Samaria is seeing Jesus' love reach into our local communities in new ways each month. The following examples show how Samaria's recent visit requests connect with more people who need her comfort.

- Vacation Bible School ministries at other churches.
- Wellness fairs at schools and local businesses.
- Additional YMCA locations in nearby communities.
- More Wisconsin site visits within a two-hour radius of the church for multiple dogs.
- Counseling services in local communities.
-

These visits remind us that God is working through Samaria. During each visit, our handlers and ministry partners pray for God's guidance—for themselves, for the people they meet, and for opportunities to share His love in the way most needed in that moment. Afterward, our team continues to pray for those we have encountered. We are grateful for the growth of these visits in our community, for the chance to share Samaria's mission, and for the ways each of us continues to grow in the love of Jesus.



Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Colossians 3:12.