



Arcola Christian Preschool

"Let the little children come to Me . . . for of such
is the kingdom of God."
(Luke 18:16 NKJV)

December 2023

Director's Note

December is such an exciting month! Spending this time of year with preschoolers is a true joy. They are so excited about the decorations and the lights and the Christmas story. The next few weeks will be full of Christmas festivities. From baby Jesus to gingerbread to bells to gifts to stars to Christmas trees . . . we are making the most of our time together. It is the perfect time to begin teaching them the real reason for the season – the birth of Jesus! Pastor Chris will start off the Advent season with Chapel time and the children will get to hear the story of Jesus' birth. Ask your child to tell you about it!

My hope is that you will take plenty of time to enjoy the blessings of this holiday season and create lifelong memories with your children. Sometimes the smallest things make the biggest impact. Some fun ideas: cut down your own Christmas tree, decorate the tree together, listen to and sing Christmas songs, set up a child-safe nativity and let your child tell the story, bake goodies for your friends and neighbors, take a drive in PJs to look at Christmas lights, bake a birthday cake for Jesus, read Christmas books together, involve your kids in shopping for those in need, try out the activities on the attached "A Family Advent Calendar". The possibilities are

endless! Your children are at a wonderful age to think about what traditions you would like to create for your family.

Join Arcola Church for our Christmas Fest and Live Nativity. Details can be found on the last page of this newsletter!

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at any time.

Barbara

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ACP Family Christmas Sing-Along

Our annual Family Christmas Sing-Alongs will be on **Thursday, December 14 (TuTh, MTuTh, M-Th classes) and Friday, December 15 (MWF, WF, & M-F classes)**. You will drop your child off at the regular time of 9:30am. Families return for the sing-along which will begin promptly at 11am. The children always look forward to sharing their songs and friends with their families. Everyone in the family is welcome to attend!



Each family is asked to bring a dozen cookies to share during a time of fellowship following the singing. Because the children will be accompanied by their parents, the cookies may be homemade for this occasion only. **Remember we are a peanut and tree nut free preschool & church.** This is an airborne allergy, so we appreciate your assistance in keeping our students safe.

You will take your child with you after the sing-along and fellowship time. We will not have a carline for pick-up.

Please remember that your child is only a preschooler and will be in a room filled with adults they don't know. We have a song or two

the children are preparing to sing for you, however, please do not be upset if your child doesn't want to participate and would prefer to sit with you. We want our celebration to be fun not stressful.

ACP Calendar

December 14 & 15 - Christmas Celebration (see above)
Dec. 18 – Jan. 1 - NO SCHOOL (Christmas/Winter Break)
January 15 - NO SCHOOL (MLK Jr. Birthday)
January 22 - NO SCHOOL – LCPS & ACP Closed
Jan 25 & 26 - Pajama Days
February 9 - NO SCHOOL – LCPS & ACP Closed
February 14 & 15 - Valentine's Day Celebrations
February 19 - NO SCHOOL (Presidents' Day)
Feb 29 & Mar 1 - School Pictures

Lunch Bunch

Lunch Bunch is an optional program that requires advance registration and payment. Lunch Bunch will be offered on specific days each month. It offers the opportunity for regularly registered students to extend their school day until 1:30pm while enjoying lunch, friends, and play. **Details and the Sign-up for December dates was emailed on Wednesday, November 15.** Check your spam/junk mail if you don't see the email, or let me know and I will [send you the link](#).

Enter in Good Health

As a reminder, when you enter the building or send your child into the building, you are confirming that you or your child do not have symptoms of a contagious illness. Please stay home if you are unwell!

Clothing

Please be sure to label all clothes, jackets, and school bags with your child's name. Many children do not recognize their own belongings when there are several others that look similar. Especially new jackets!

Snack

All snacks must be nut free – that includes peanuts and tree nuts. We cannot serve items that have been processed or packaged in a facility that also processes or packages nut products. Snacks must be store bought with labels we can read and be unopened. **Thank you for your cooperation in keeping all our students safe.** We will send home any snack that doesn't meet our guidelines.

Tuition

Thank you for your timely tuition payments. They are **due the first of each month**. The best way to pay is on the preschool [payment page on our website](#).

Absences

If your child is going to be out of school due to illness or travel, please email your child's teacher or the preschool office.

Scholastic Books

Does your child love books? Reading to your child is the most important thing you can do to help them succeed in school. **Books make great gifts!** Each month, new flyers will be posted. Please take a few moments to explore the selection together and let your child help choose books he or she is excited to read. Orders will be submitted toward the end of each month (Scholastic sets the deadline.) Thank you for supporting your child's reading both at home and in the classroom! Your books will ship directly to our preschool, and we will send them home with your child. Books ordered this month will likely be sent home in January.

SHOP OUR CLASS PAGE:

<https://orders.scholastic.com/GZVWY>

SHOP FLYERS: <https://clubs.scholastic.com/prek>

Arcola Church Happenings

Arcola Church is an active church with opportunities for Worship, Sunday school for all ages, a variety of bible studies, music groups, support groups, and opportunities to donate to the Hygiene Pantry and the Dulles South Food Pantry. For more information, check out our website or ask me to point you in the right direction. You do not need to be a member of Arcola Church to participate in any of our programs.

Christmas Fest & Live Nativity

Friday, December 8, 5:30-8:30pm

Experience an evening of holiday joy! Christmas Fest is family fun for all ages. The night will include a Live Nativity with our favorite camel, Delilah (she loves selfies!); photos with Santa; free Hot Cocoa Bar and Christmas cookies; a tunnel of lights; food trucks with food available for purchase; musical performances; Christmas crafts for all ages; Reindeer Games and Workshop; a selfie station; a Christmas Fest Quest help you find all the fun activities! We will end our evening singing Christmas carols at the manger.

No registration necessary – See this webpage for schedule details:

www.ArcolaChurch.org/christmasfest

Christmas Worship Schedule –

All are welcome!

Sunday, December 10 @ 7pm – Night of Hope

(Christmas Remembrance Service)

Sunday, December 17 @ 9am – Acoustic Christmas

Sunday, December 17 @ 11am & 5pm –

Children/Youth Christmas Musical –

“The Little Drummer Dude”

Saturday, December 23 @ 7pm –

Christmas Eve (Eve) Worship - Candlelight & Communion

Sunday, December 24

@ 12 pm – Children's Themed Worship and telling of the Nativity Story

@ 2, 4, & 6 pm – Candlelight & Communion

Playgroup for Parents & Children Newborn to Preschool Ages

Come join us on Thursday mornings from 10-11am in Room 104 for a Parent & Child Playgroup led by Julia Riedel and her daughter, Jessalyn Odegaard. Bring your children, ages newborn to preschool, for a casual get together where kids can play, and adults can enjoy the company of others raising young kids! We welcome all caregivers: parents, grandparents, nannies etc. Please reach out to [Jessalyn](#) or [Julia](#) with any questions. Look forward to seeing you!

Sign-up here:

<https://arcolachurch.org/event/20308348-2023-11-30-playgroup-for-parents-and-children/>

Dates With a Purpose

December 2, 4:45pm

Get more out of date night by making it a Date With a Purpose! Start your date out at Arcola Church (with childcare) with a mini (20 minutes or so) relationship-building discussion and conversation topics for your date. The rest of the evening is yours! Go to dinner, get coffee, or just find a quiet place to sit and spend time sharing your thoughts and exploring your relationship. Dates with a Purpose is for couples of all ages and life stages!

Register here:

<https://arcolachurch.org/event/22838560-2023-12-02-dates-with-a-purpose/>

Wednesday Prayer Service

Every Wednesday @ 11:30am (finished before Preschool pick-up) **Pearson Chapel**

This service is 30 minutes and designed to strengthen us until Sunday comes. During this service, we will sing some good hymns, hear a brief message, pray and share communion together. In November, this prayer service will focus on thanksgiving and how being thankful everyday can bring peace to us even in difficult seasons. Contact [Tianna Durbin](#) with questions.

Arcola United Methodist Church

Pastor: Chris Riedel

Web site: www.arcolachurch.org

Worship @ 9am & 11am (Preschool & Nursery available)

Sunday School for Kinder-5th grade @ 9am

Youth (grades 6-12) Sunday School/Fellowship @ 10am

We will sing the following songs at our **Family Christmas Sing-Along and Celebration!** Singing these songs at home will help reinforce our singing at school and is also lots of fun!

Go Tell it on the Mountain

Go tell it on the mountain,
Over the hills and everywhere.
Go tell it on the mountain,
That Jesus Christ is born.

Away in a Manger

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed
The little Lord Jesus Laid down his sweet head
The stars in the sky looked down where he lay,
The Little Lord Jesus, asleep in the hay.

Jingle Bells

Jingle bells, jingle bells, jingle all the way.
Oh what fun it is to ride in a one horse open sleigh. Hey!
Jingle bells, jingle bells, jingle all the way.
Oh, what fun it is to ride in a one horse open sleigh.

Jingle bells, jingle bells, jingle all the way.
Oh what fun it is to ride in a one horse open sleigh. Hey!
Jingle bells, jingle bells, jingle all the way.
Oh, what fun it is to ride in a one horse open sleigh.

Joy to the World

Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her King;
let every heart prepare him room,
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven, and heaven, and nature sing.

We Wish You a Merry Christmas

We wish you a Merry Christmas,
We wish you a Merry Christmas,
We wish you a Merry Christmas,
And a Happy New Year.

Good tidings we bring, to you and your kin;
Good tidings for Christmas and a Happy New Year.

We wish you a Merry Christmas,
We wish you a Merry Christmas,
We wish you a Merry Christmas,
And a Happy New Year.