



Arcola Christian Preschool

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

December 2025

Director's Note

When we return from Thanksgiving break, we will jump right into Christmas fun. 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 will make the most of our time together. It is the perfect time to begin teaching the children the real reason for the season – the birth of Jesus! Pastor Chris will start off the Advent season with Chapel time where 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 have 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.

Please join us at Arcola Church for a variety of Christmas experiences. Details for everything offered, including the Christmas Fest and Christmas Eve worship, can be found here - <https://arcolachurch.org/christmas/>

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

Barbara

BarbaraL@ArcolaChurch.org

703-327-7878 x222



Lunch Bunch opportunity

Lunch Bunch is an optional program that occurs Monday – Thursday for children enrolled in regular morning classes. It offers the opportunity for students to extend their school day occasionally until 1:30pm while enjoying lunch, friends, and play. The link to sign up for your desired days can be found in our Friday emails.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0B49A8AE292-59799101-acpdecember>

ACP Family Christmas Sing-Along

Our annual Family Christmas Sing-Alongs will be on **Wednesday, December 17 (WF & MWF classes) and Thursday, December 18 (TuTh, MTuTh, M-Th & 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

The calendar for the school year is posted on our website for you to view at any time.



December 17 & 18 - Christmas Celebration

(No Extended Day on Thursday)

Dec. 19 – Jan. 2 - NO SCHOOL (Christmas/Winter Break)

January 19 - NO SCHOOL (MLK Jr. Birthday)

January 23 - NO SCHOOL – LCPS & ACP Closed

Jan 29 & 30 - Pajama Days

February 12 & 13 - Valentine's Day Celebrations

February 16 & 17 - NO SCHOOL – LCPS & ACP Closed

Feb 26 & 27 - School Pictures – all students

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. Children should be 24 hours symptom free without medication before returning to school. Please stay home if you are unwell!

Snack Policy

Snacks must be in unopened, INDIVIDUAL, commercial packaging with a label we can read. The label can be on the box holding the individual packages. We will not serve any foods at Arcola Christian Preschool that may contain peanut or tree nut products or that were processed/manufactured in a facility that processes nuts (including coconut) or peanuts. Do not send beverages (i.e. juice, milk). There is a list of some snack suggestions in the Parent Handbook, but there are many more options available in stores.

To assist in preventing choking, please do not send grapes, raw carrots or popcorn.

Tuition

Tuition payments are **due the first of each month.** We do not send a bill. The best way to pay is on the preschool tuition [payment page on our website](#). There is a \$25 late fee after the 5th of the month. We are a non-profit and rely on your timely payments to pay our staff and purchase supplies.

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.

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.

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. 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. 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.



You'll have access to expertly curated, affordable books that help boost your child's reading skills, build your home library, and maybe even create moments of quality time you can share together.

Family Order Due Date: **12/4/2025**

Shop Our Class Page:

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

Shop Flyers: <https://clubs.scholastic.com/all-flyers>

Thanks so much for your support!

Help those in need in our community:

Personal Hygiene Pantry

Provide for your neighbors' personal care needs through Arcola Church's hygiene pantry! Arcola Church provides hundreds of items each month and the pantry is regularly in need of restocking. The most current needs are found on their **Amazon Wish List**. You can also make a **donation here**.

Dulles South Food Pantry

There are several places locally to drop off food for the Food Pantry, including the shopping cart just outside our front door! Some frequent requests can be found **here**.

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.

www.ArcolaChurch.org

Wednesday Prayer Service

Every Wednesday beginning October 29

@11:30am (finished before pick-up carline)

Join us on Wednesdays in Pearson Chapel for Arcola's Wednesday Prayer Service. This service is 30 minutes long and designed to strengthen us until Sunday comes. During this worship, in addition to a variety of prayer opportunities, we will sing some good hymns, listen to special music, hear a brief inspirational message, and share communion together. Bring a friend from work, pack lunch too and spend fellowship time in the narthex or chapel afterwards.

Christmas Fest & Live Nativity

Friday, December 12, 5-8:30pm

Experience an evening of holiday joy! Our annual smash hit Christmas Fest is family fun for all ages. We're bringing back live animals in our nativity, Christmas music performances, pictures with Santa and Mrs. Claus, plus Santa's workshop, games, hot coca, food trucks, and more. No registration necessary - schedule details can be found online.

www.ArcolaChurch.org/christmasfest

Christmas Worship Schedule –

All are welcome!

Sunday, December 14 @ 7pm – Night of Hope
(Christmas Remembrance Service)

Sunday, December 21 @ 11am - "Go Sing it on the Mountain" Choral, Orchestra, & Musial Experience

Sunday, December 24

@ 11 am – Children's Worship & Christmas Pageant

@ 1, 3, 5, & 7 pm – Candlelight & Communion

Arcola United Methodist Church

Pastor: Chris Riedel

Web site: www.arcolachurch.org

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

Sunday School for K-5th grade @ 9am

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

If you are interested in learning more about what is happening in the life of Arcola Church, please send me an e-mail (BarbaraL@ArcolaChurch.org) and I will have you added to the church newsletter e-mail distribution list.

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.