



Arcola Christian Preschool

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

December 2020

Director's Note

Wow! It's hard to believe it's December! 2020 has been such a unique year and I'm sure we'll all remember it for a long time. Although we have had to adapt and do things different in our personal lives and at the preschool, our lives are still full of so many blessings.

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. It is the perfect time to begin teaching them the real reason for the season – the birth of Jesus! Pastor Chris started off the Advent season with Chapel time where the children got to hear the story of Jesus' birth. The teachers will reinforce the nativity story in their classrooms throughout December. 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 are: cut down your own Christmas tree, decorate the tree together, listen to and sing Christmas songs, set up a child-safe nativity, 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. The possibilities are endless! Your children are at a wonderful age to think about what traditions you would like to create for your family.

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

Barbara

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Christmas Festivities

The entire month of December will be full of Christmas festivities at the preschool. From gingerbread to bells to gifts to stars to Christmas trees to baby Jesus . . . we are making the most of our time together. In lieu of our annual Family Christmas Sing-along, each class will prepare a special presentation for their families that we will film and send you before Christmas, so stay tuned for a fun surprise.

Admin Notes

Tuition

Tuition payments are **due the first of each month**. The best way to pay is on the preschool tuition payment page on our [website](#). You can also use bill pay through your bank but please allow at least a week for the check to be delivered. 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.

Warm Clothes

We play outside every day unless it is raining, or the playground is covered in snow. Please make sure your child is dressed appropriately with all items labeled. If your child cannot put on their own gloves, please help the teachers and send **MITTENS** instead! We want the children to feel as independent as possible (plus, mittens keep their hands warmer). Thank you!!!

Snacks

Now that we have settled into the school year, families are providing snack for their child's class on a rotating basis. Please keep in mind snacks are being served picnic style and that all snacks must be nut free – that includes peanuts and tree nuts. Snacks must be store bought with labels we can read and be unopened. **Thank you for your cooperation in keeping all of our students safe.** Unsafe and unacceptable snacks will be returned home. A snack list was attached to the November newsletter and can be found online.

Please continue to send a small, reusable, empty water bottle each day. We will fill it with water.

Odds and Ends

Please be sure to label all clothes, jackets, and school bags with your child's name. Many children do not recognize

their own jackets when there are several others that look similar.

Scholastic Books

Each month there are new book order fliers available at www.Scholastic.com/bookclubs. Books are a wonderful way to extend your child's learning and they also make great gifts! This month's **orders are due Tuesday, December 2** (so they'll arrive before Christmas). You can order online with the information below. Books will be delivered to the preschool and will be sent home with your child unless you choose to have them shipped to your house. Let me know if you prefer they are a surprise and I'll notify you when they arrive.

December order due date: 12/2/2020

Web address: scholastic.com/bookclubs

Class Activation Code: GZVWY



Arcola Church this Christmas

You can find information about upcoming events at Arcola Church on our website. Click on the Church Hub button in the grey menu bar for the most current information, including:



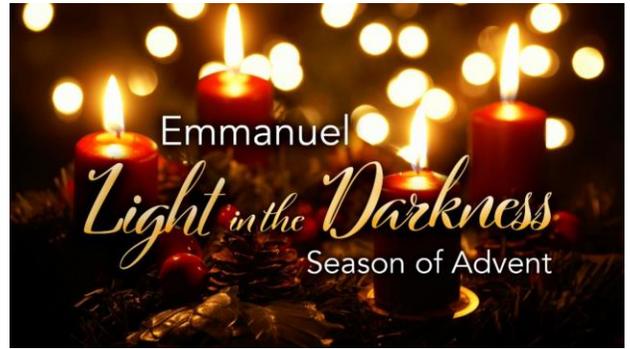
Arcola Angel Tree

Would you like to help a local family with necessities and gifts this Christmas? The parent liaisons at three local schools have families that need our help, and those families have made requests that are on our virtual Angel Tree. Requests include everything from underwear and coats to toys. For more information or the link to sign-up, go to our website -

<https://arcolachurch.org/news-resources/articles/angel-tree/>

Gifts are due back to the church by December 9.

Advent and Christmas are almost here!



Save the dates for all the virtual and in-person merriment coming your way in December. You can find information about all of our Advent/Christmas activities on our website -

<https://arcolachurch.org/news-resources/articles/advent-christmas-2020/>

- **Pub Theology** - December 14
- **Christmas Cafe Music Ministry Concert and Ugly Sweater Contest** - December 18
- **Stories in the Field: Christmas Edition** - Dec 19 and 20
- **Carols and Cocoa Worship Service** - December 20
- **Night of Hope Worship Service** - December 20
- **Scrooge in Bethlehem: Children and Youth Musical** - December 22
- **Christmas Eve Worship** - December 23, 7pm, and December 24, 4 & 7pm

Arcola United Methodist Church

Pastor: Chris Riedel

Web site: www.arcolachurch.org

Sunday livestream worship: 8:30 & 11:00 am

on Facebook & www.arcolachurch.com/live

Stories in the Field – Outdoor gathering for all ages @ 9:45am through mid-November

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.