



## Arcola Christian Preschool

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

## December 2018

### 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. 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 this week and 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.

Barbara

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### Family Christmas Sing-Along

Our annual Family Christmas Sing-Alongs will be on **Tuesday, December 18 (TuTh, MTuTh classes) and Wednesday, December 19 (MWF, WF, & M-Th classes)**. The sing-along 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 2, 3, 4 or 5 years old 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.

### Midday Worship: Advent Wednesdays

All in our community are invited to attend a special Advent midweek worship service. This will be held from 11:30am-12pm in the Great Room on November 28, December 5 and December 12. Come keep the spirit of Christmas in your heart!

### Breakfast with Santa

The Arcola Volunteer Fire Department will hold their Annual Breakfast with Santa at Arcola Church on **Saturday, December 1, 2018 from 8:30-11 am**. Bring the whole family to enjoy eggs, bacon, sausage, coffee, juice and a pancake bar with our local firefighters! There will be special activities for the kids, including a visit with Santa and a complimentary photo.

### Christmas Café: Music and Dessert

You are invited to the Christmas Café on Friday evening, December 7 from 7-9pm. This night will include holiday music provided by the Arcola Choirs, Joyful Noise, and

the Grace Note Ringers! There will also be yummy desserts, hot drinks and a Christmas Sing-along! Just what you need to get in the Christmas spirit!

## 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!!!

## 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 5<sup>th</sup> of the month. We are a non-profit and rely on your timely payments to pay our staff and purchase supplies.

### **Illness**

Reminder – If your child is ill, they cannot return to school until 24 hours after their symptoms (fever, vomiting, diarrhea) have subsided. We play outside every day so if they cannot go outside, please keep them home. Thank you for helping keep all of our children healthy!

### **Tuition**

Tuition payments are **due the first of each month**. We 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 inform your child's teacher or the preschool office.

### **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.

### **Snack**

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.**

## **Arcola Christian Preschool Calendar:**

December 18 & 19 - Family Christmas Sing-Along beginning @ 11 am  
Dec. 20 – Jan. 1 - No School (Christmas/Winter Break)  
January 18 – NO SCHOOL - LCPS movable student holiday (if date changes for LCPS, so will ours)  
January 21 – NO SCHOOL – MLK, Jr. Day

## **Arcola Church:**

December 1 – Breakfast with Santa  
December 9 – “A Night of Hope” Worship Service @ 5pm - *A special worship service that acknowledges people who are having a difficult holiday season because of heartache, pain, loss or frustration.*  
December 23 – Christmas Eve Worship @ 5pm – Child-focused Worship - *featuring the Christmas story with nativity characters*  
@ 7pm – Candlelight Worship *(same as the 2, 4, 6 & 8 pm on Christmas Eve)*  
December 24 – Christmas Eve Worship @ 12 – Child-focused Worship - *featuring the Christmas story with nativity characters*  
@ 2, 4, 6, & 8 pm – Candlelight Worship

*Childcare will not be available at Christmas Eve services, but children are welcome in all of our worship services.*

### **Arcola United Methodist Church**

**Pastor:** Chris Riedel

**Web site:** [www.arcolachurch.org](http://www.arcolachurch.org)

**Sunday worship times:** 8:00, 9:15 & 11:00 am

**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](mailto: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.

Dashing through the snow in a one-horse open sleigh.

O'er the fields we go, laughing all the way!  
Bells on bobtail ring, making spirits bright.  
What fun it is to ride and sing a sleighing song tonight. Oh!

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.



## A Letter to Parents on Art

### What We Do and Why

Art is an important part of our curriculum. Every day, children find a variety of art materials available on our shelves. Drawing, painting, cutting, pasting, and playing with playdough are not only enjoyable but also provide important opportunities for learning. Children express original ideas and feelings, improve their coordination, develop small muscle skills, learn to recognize colors and textures, and develop creativity and pride in their accomplishments by exploring and using art materials.

When children are engaged in art activities, we talk with them about what they are doing and ask questions that encourage them to think about their ideas and express feelings. For example, we might say:

- “I can see you like the new colors we put on the easels today.”
- “You made a lot of pictures. Which one do you want to hang up?”
- “You worked a long time with the clay today. What did you like doing best?”

As you can tell, we like to focus on what children are doing—not on what their finished artwork looks like. We say such things as these:

- “Tell me about your picture” instead of “What did you make?”
- “It looks like the playdough is sticking to your fingers. What could we do to make it less sticky?” instead of “You’re not having much success with the playdough.”

### What You Can Do at Home

Art is a very easy way to bring your child’s school life into your home. Here are some things you might wish to try:

- Designate a drawer in the kitchen or living room as an art drawer, or use a bookshelf or sturdy cardboard box. In this space include crayons, marking pens, paper, a pair of scissors, and a separate box for collage materials.
- Let your child know where art materials can be used—at the kitchen table, at a small child-sized table, on the kitchen floor, or outside. Some of the most enjoyable art materials are a bit messy and you want to be sure that the space you choose is one that can be cleaned easily.
- Encourage your child to take out the art materials and use them independently at any time.
- Find places to display your child’s art—on the refrigerator, on a wall in the child’s room, or in a hallway. Displaying children’s art lets them know you think it’s important and attractive.

Children’s natural love for art is something we can support together!