

Neighborhood News

The Neighborhood Learning Center's monthly newsletter

The Director's Corner

Hi!

November was a busy fun-filled month with the Thanksgiving Family Chapel and Feast, Cody and BJ's "Let's Give Thanks Rock and Roll Show", the School's Out Day Camps, the Advent Workshop and Chili Cook-Off! Our NLC Board Chair, Chris Butkus, was the winner of the Chili Cook-Off! We were also busy helping others with the 25 Thanksgiving Dinner Bags we donated to Loudoun Hunger Relief, and the Coat/Blanket Drive for the refugees in Lebanon. Thank you to all of you for your gifts of time and treasure throughout this month of gratitude.

December will be filled with our NLC Christmas Program, Polar Express PJ Party, two weeks of Winter Camp Fun, Parents' Night Out (Extended Hours), and lots of Christmas activities. We are also helping others this month through Christmas Gift Donations for the Loudoun Abused Women's Shelter. Every year St. Andrew and the NLC "adopt" several families from LAWS - the Loudoun Abused Women's Shelter, and the ornaments on this tree represent gifts these family members have requested. Included in this year's families are several children and parents, and these might be the only gifts they receive this year. Requested items range from snow boots, men's work socks, to children's books and toys. Please consider taking an ornament (or more) off the tree and then returning the item (unwrapped) with the tag attached by Friday, December 8th. Thank you for your generosity!!

Blessings,

Jo Anna Rich



December Highlights

- December 11:**
Christmas Carol Day
- December 14:**
Christmas Program for preschool students
4:30 pm
- December 15:**
Polar Express PJ Party
- December 16:**
Parents' Night Out
Extended Hours
3:30—8:30 pm
- December 18:**
Gingerbread Day
- December 20:**
Ugly Sweater Day
NO WAC
- December 21:**
Christmas Class Parties
4:30 pm
- December 22:**
"Happy Birthday Jesus"
Cake at lunch
NLC Closes at 2:00 pm
- December 25:**
NLC Closed
- December 26:**
Pizza Party & PJ Day
- December 27:**
NO WAC
- December 29:**
New Year's Party

Sunday worship and
Sunday School every
Sunday at 10:00 am

This Month at School...

The month of December is a time to CELEBRATE! Christmas fun abounds every week as we prepare for the birth of Jesus. Of special note this month:

- The annual **Christmas Program** presented by Butterflies, Ducks, Frogs, Hummingbirds, Bees, Birds, and Owls will be held on Thursday the 14th at 4:30 pm. Our amazing Music & Movement teacher, Ms. Rachel Wolfe, has been teaching the children songs and the children are so excited to share what they've learned! Please be in the Sanctuary by 4:30. Parents of Ducks, Frogs, and Butterflies are encouraged to come up to the "stage" for a jingle and sing along during their child's time to sing.
- Our third annual **Polar Express PJ Party** will be on Friday the 15th this year. Send the kids to school in PJs so they can get comfy while watching this new holiday classic. Pastor Dave will play the role of Conductor, punching each child's ticket as they get aboard, and the kids will enjoy hot chocolate and will ring their bells to show that they believe. Not to be missed for our preschoolers!
- We are offering an **Extended Hours Parents' Night Out** on Saturday the 16th from 3:30-8:30 pm that will be hosted by Ms. Lee and Ms. Anne (Frog Hollow). This is the perfect time to get some shopping done, wrap some presents, or just sit in front of the fire with a cup of cocoa and enjoy a Silent Night!
- Our staff always set the bar high for **Ugly Sweater Day** (just check out last year's photos on Facebook!), and we love to see how the kids come in with their craziest Christmas duds! December 20th this year.
- **WAC (Wednesday Afterschool Café)** is ongoing, but there is **NO WAC** on the 20th or the 27th. Please note that EVERYONE is welcome at Wednesday evening dinner, whether you're a parent, a child, have a child who participates in WAC or not. Please join us!
- The NLC will **CLOSE AT 2:00 PM** on December 22nd. The NLC will be **CLOSED** on December 25th.

Camp Days for School Ageds—DEADLINE December 8th

LCPS will be CLOSED for Winter Break from December 18th through the 29th, but the After School staff have an AWESOME two weeks of Winter Camps planned! There will be two field trips each week (bowling, Monkey Joes, and more), in addition to lots of in-house fun. The week prior to Christmas will include a Santa Workshop Day complete with baking Christmas cookies and making Christmas crafts as we count down the final days before the birth of Christ. The week before New Year's includes a PJ and Pizza Party Day, as well as a New Year's party. Kids can bring their electronics as well as something from home to play with every day.

RATES:

- * 3 or more days per week—\$200 per week
- * Fewer than 3 days per week—regular weekly tuition plus daily School's Out drop-in fee
- * Drop-in students—\$55 per day drop-in fee
- * Sibling discounts will be applied



Don't throw away that Advent wreath form! Please bring it back after Christmas and return it to the box in the entry.

If your school aged child will be joining us, be sure to sign up with their teacher.

Reminders...

- ⇒ Please be sure your child has a change of seasonal clothes in their cubby for those necessary wardrobe changes!
- ⇒ Label, label, label....everything that comes to school

with your child should have his/her name on it.

- ⇒ Winter weather is (hopefully?) coming! Notice of delays/closures will be sent via email and text message by 6:00 am. We generally follow the Federal Government closures, but reserve the right to stay open/close based on local weather conditions.

Hello Parents of the Neighborhood Learning Center!

My name is Malloch Henderson and I am currently a Life Scout and a member of Boy Scout Troop 969. I have been an active member of St. Andrew Church for many years, so I felt it was only right to dedicate my Eagle Scout project to the Church.

I spoke with Session and the NLC Director about project ideas and they tasked me with finding a solution to help prevent children from tripping over the exposed tree roots in the playground. These exposed roots have caused many accidents like cuts and bruises on kid's arms and legs. My plan for the NLC playground (shown below) is to redo the current mulch area to make a larger play area for the kids. With that, I will also be constructing a wooden ark -shaped playground set for the kids to play on. There is an additional benefit to this project in that if you have been to the Church while it was raining, you know about the run-off and erosion problem that happens in the playground. With the proposed new mulch and ark playground area, I will be able to install a French drainage system underneath the mulch that will transport the water without eroding the land.

I need YOUR help!

This project will make a big difference for your children and the NLC, however, I can't do it without you. The fundraising for this project is very important. The estimated cost for this project is approximately \$7,500.00. I really need monetary donations but donations of materials as any help fundraising would also be welcomed as well. I am grateful for any assistance I can get and I bet your kids will be, too!

If you would like to discuss a personal donation, or need a letter to submit for a corporate sponsorship, please let me know. You may contact me by email at: mallochh900@yahoo.com or call me at 703-999-2276.

Thank you!

Before:

After:



Some of our favorite moments from November! There are lots more are posted on our Facebook page, so don't forget to give us a



The musical stylings of Cody and BJ's "Let's Give Thanks Rock and Roll Show" got everyone up and dancing!



Our inaugural Family Thanksgiving Feast was truly something to be thankful for! Blessings abounded—from Ms. Nicole's delicious food to the beautiful table décor provided by loving parents. Smiles were abundant!

The school agers were joyful as they enjoyed the Thanksgiving Break camp!



The Pastor's Epistle:

Jesus' Birthday

I'm having a wonderful time talking about Advent in chapels. I can tell that your children had an enjoyable time for Thanksgiving. Many talked of visiting grandparents, which made my heart glad – since Bonnie and I were blessed to have our four Texas grandchildren visit for Thanksgiving. So, we began a four part series of chapels on Advent, shifting from Thanksgiving towards Christmas.

Of course, there is a lot of excitement about Christmas. The children are ready for the countdown and full of anticipation.

Within the church, I want to shift the focus just a bit, however. I've been emphasizing that the reason we celebrate Christmas is because it's Jesus' birthday. In our day that's crowded out by the presents, the excitement, the stores and the like. But the Babe born in Bethlehem is the best gift that we can receive as Christmas draws near.

I've asked the kids a question that leaves them a bit confused. I ask if they receive presents on their birthdays, and they give me an enthusiastic "Yes!" But then I ask them what presents they receive on their mom or dad's birthdays, or the birthday of an older brother or sister. Some of them tell me that they were given presents when a younger sibling was born. (Great idea, parents! It's how they make room in their families for the new little one!) But mostly, they are confused. "No, I didn't get a present on my brother's

birthday, or my mom's."

That's how I try to tell them how special Jesus' birthday is. He not only received presents, but he also wants all of us to receive the gifts of God's love and graciousness – he especially wants gifts for children. That was the original idea of St. Nicholas who went on to become famous as Old Saint Nick and then, Santa Claus. In honor of the birth of Jesus, he gave gifts to the children of his town.

Family Service CHRISTMAS EVE Oh Come Let's Adore Him!



DECEMBER 24 @ 5PM

Join us for a family friendly candle light service. There will be singing and drama.

TRADITIONAL SERVICE @ 8PM

Please join with me in telling these children about Jesus, about Christmas being a celebration of Jesus' birthday. The story of his birth in a manger with no room in the Bethlehem inn tells us how close God comes to us. God comes to the least of these. Angels sing the glad tidings of Christ's birth to lowly shepherds in the field with news that no matter how lowly or great you are, no matter if you are famous or forgotten, no matter if you are the smallest child, God's brings love to us all at Christmas.

Please join us for our special Family Christmas Eve Service here at St.

Andrew on December 24 at 5:00 pm. It's always very "kid friendly." The message will be shared in an interactive drama, plus we will sing the season's meaningful carols and share the light of Christ with candles lighting up the evening as we end the service with "Silent Night." We welcome our NLC families to join us in celebrating Jesus' birthday!

Yours in Christ's love,

Pastor Dave Milam

Coming Up at St. Andrew...

Weekly Worship: Sundays 10am

NOTE: Child care is available for the littlest ones during worship. For children age preschool and up, Sunday School is provided during Sunday worship services—your child starts the service sitting with you, will leave for Sunday School and then will return to you before the service concludes.

December 9th—Music with a Cause Concert—Loudoun Chorale: "A Holiday Time Machine" 7:00 pm: The concert will benefit Loudoun Families for Children, a non-profit that provides services to at-risk children living in Loudoun County who are in need of emergency removal, respite

care, or mentoring. Tickets \$20 at the door, \$15 online. Kids under 12 are free.

December 17th—Christmas Cantata: Enjoy the musical talents of St. Andrew's various musical groups as they come together to present Celtic Christmas music during the 10 am service.

December 24th—Christmas Eve Services—A very family friendly service will be held at 5:00 pm, with a more traditional service at 8:00 pm. Both services end with a candlelight rendition of "Silent Night."

December 2017

Monthly Theme: *Celebrate!*

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					Music & Movement 1	2
3 Worship & Sunday School 10am	4	5 Chapel	6 WAC Dinner: Old Fashioned Grandma's Soup at 5:45	7	8 Music & Movement SA—Last Day to Sign Up for Winter Camp	9 Music with a Cause – Loudoun Chorale: "A Holiday Time Machine" 7:00 pm
10 Worship & Sunday School 10 am	11 Christmas Carol Day	12 Chapel	13 WAC Dinner: Inside Picnic Night at 5:45	14 Christmas Program 4:30 pm for preschool students	15 Music & Movement Polar Express PJ Party	16 Parents' Night Out EXTENDED HOURS 3:30 - 8:30
17 Worship at 10 am Christmas Cantata 10am	18 Gingerbread Day	19 SA – Santa's Workshop	20 Ugly Sweater Day FT – Monkey Joe's NO WAC	21 FT – Bowling Christmas Class Parties 4:30 pm	22 "Happy Birthday Jesus" Cake at lunch NLC CLOSES at 2 pm for Christmas Eve	23
← School Age Winter Break Camp Week 1 →						
24 Worship at 10 am Christmas Eve Services 5:00 & 8:00 pm	25 NLC CLOSED for Christmas	26 Pizza Party & PJ Day	27 FT – Sport Bounce of Loudoun NO WAC	28 FT – Jumping Jack Sports	29 New Year's Party	30
← School Age Winter Break Camp Week 2 →						
31 Worship & Sunday School 10 am						

Sunday, December 17th - Christmas Cantata - Join us during worship for this beautiful musical program by our talented church singing groups! FT - Field Trip for School Agers; SA - School Agers