

December, 2019

# Neighborhood News

*The Neighborhood Learning Center's monthly newsletter*

## The Director's Corner

Season's Greetings!

December is a very busy month, filled with parties, shopping, holiday programs, decorating, and wrapping. Friends and families celebrate the birth of Jesus through church services, manger scenes, advent devotions, and Christmas songs. The NLC children will learn about the birth of Jesus in Chapel and in their classrooms. I love that we are a faith-based school where love and acceptance are taught. If you do not have a church home, we would love for you to join us at St. Andrew for one of our Christmas Eve Services.

I can't believe this year has flown by. A new decade is going to begin in just a few weeks. 2019 was a great year for the NLC. We renovated the upstairs classrooms with new paint and flooring. We replaced an air conditioner unit and increased airflow in the upstairs classrooms. We are halfway done with paying off the Basement Renovation from 2018. Summer Camp was at capacity almost every week. And we have established an extensive wait list to get into the NLC. We look forward to what the New Year holds!

We will have a magical start to 2020 with Dean Alan's "A Very Frozen Magic Show" on January 2 at 10 am. Following the magic show, our school agers will have a magic workshop. Don't forget to sign up your school agers for this fun day!

I wish everyone a Very Merry Christmas. And, thanks for being a part of our little Neighborhood.

Blessings,

Jo Anna Rich

Please sign up outside your child's classroom and let us know your plans for attendance over Christmas.

## This Month's Highlights

**December 4**  
St. Andrew's Advent Workshop & Chili Cookoff 4:00-7:15 pm

**December 5**  
Occupational Therapy, Hearing & Speech Screenings (for those who signed up in November)

**December 11**  
St. Andrew Family Night: Pizza Party then Caroling for Shut-Ins. 6:00-7:30 pm. All are welcome!

**December 12**  
Christmas Program—Infants through Owls participate, all are welcome! 4:30 pm

**December 14**  
Milam's Christmas Party 5-10 pm; childcare available at the church

**December 16**  
Visit from Mac Brownell Adult Day Center to Owls Class 11 am

**December 18**  
Polar Express Day—send them to school in PJs!

**December 19**  
Class Birthday Parties for Jesus

**December 21**  
Parents' Night Out 5:30—9:00

**December 23—January 3 (except noted dates)**  
LCPS Closed, School's Out Drop-In Day; sign up with School Age teachers

**December 24-25**  
NLC CLOSED for Christmas

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

### December Staff Birthdays

- 4 Beth Sawyer (Bird Nest)
- 15 Justice Nutter (Float)
- 16 Danya Streichert (Frogs)



## This Month at School...

Learning about Christmas and the birth of Jesus is our focus during December—Emmanuel (God with us)!

- Please join St. Andrew on Wednesday the 4th for their annual **Advent Workshop and Chili Cook-Off!** FREE and open to ALL AGES! Stop in anytime between 4:30 – 6:00, or 6:30 – 7:15 pm to make your family Advent Wreath to help anticipate Christ's birth. Other fun activities, too! And don't miss the Chili Cook-Off at 6:30. All are welcome!
- For those who signed up in November, free **speech, hearing and occupational therapy screenings** will be offered Thursday the 5th starting at 9:00 am by Blue Ridge Speech & Hearing. Parents will receive results of their child's screenings in the following week or two. If Blue Ridge recommends additional screening, it is up to the parents to contact them and schedule.
- St. Andrew's Family Night on Wednesday the 11th will kick off with a **Pizza Party followed by Christmas Caroling** to some of the congregation's shut-ins. All are welcome at this FUN and FESTIVE event!
- The NLC's annual **Christmas Program** will be Thursday the 12th at 4:30 pm. All preschoolers (infants and older) participate, and everyone is welcome to attend this very sweet event.
- Monthly visits with our friends from the **Mac Brownell Adult Day Center** to the Owls class will continue Monday the 16th at 11 am.
- One of our favorite days of the year is **Polar Express Day!** On Wednesday the 18th send them to school in PJs for a day filled with magic and fun!
- **Class birthday parties for Jesus** will be held on Thursday the 19th. Watch for signups.
- **Parents' Night Out** is Saturday the 21st from 5:30—9:00 pm—sign up at the Front Desk. It's the perfect opportunity to get in some last minute "elf work" wrapping, shopping, or just enjoying a "silent night"!
- **School's Out Drop-In Days** will be available for school agers over winter break. Sign up with your child's teacher. Don't miss the Dean Alan Magic Show (for all the school) followed by a **Magic WORKSHOP** for school agers on January 2nd at 10 am. On the 3rd, the school agers will go **skating at Bush Tabernacle** from 1:00-3:00 pm!
- **The NLC will be CLOSED Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. Merry Christmas!**

## LAWS Gift Tree

If you took an ornament from the Christmas tree in the lobby for residents of the Loudoun Abused Women's Shelter, gifts are due back by December 8th. Please return the gifts unwrapped, with the ornament attached. Thank you for your generosity!

## Inclement Weather Policy Reminders

- **The NLC does NOT follow Loudoun County Public Schools for inclement weather-related closings or late openings. This decision is based on the safety of our students, parents, and staff.**
- If Loudoun County Public Schools have an early dismissal, the NLC bus will immediately pick the children up from school who are scheduled to come to us by bus in the afternoon.
- You will receive a text from the NLC and an email no later than 6:00 am should a closure or delay be in effect for the NLC on a particular day. If a decision is made to close early due to inclement weather, parents will be notified via text and email as soon as the decision is made.

## Sick Child Reminders

- ◆ **If your child is feeling unwell, please keep them home for at least 24 hours after their symptoms resolve. This includes cases where their symptoms disappear before drop off in the morning.** We understand it can be inconvenient to stay home with a child who no longer appears to be ill, however, bringing in a child who has had symptoms of illness in the past 24 hours can spread disease.
- ◆ And a reminder—**don't mask a fever with fever reducing medicine.** If your child is ill enough to require medication for a fever, they're ill enough to stay home.
- ◆ **Also, please let us know if your child is diagnosed by a doctor with any disease.** We send exposure notices to families based on this information so other parents and staff can be on the lookout for any similar symptoms.

For a full list of exclusionary symptoms and for more information on when your child can return to care after an illness, check the Important Notices tab on our website.

*Please be considerate of other children and families and—if in doubt—keep your child home!*



**Election Day,  
Book Fair,  
Field Trips,  
PJ Day ,  
Thanksgiving  
Family Feast—  
We are  
thankful for  
our  
Neighborhood  
Learning  
Center family!**



# The Neighborhood Learning Center ~ Menu for December 2019

Whole milk is served to children under 2 and 2% milk to all others. \*May contain eggs ^May contain milk; (T)=Toddler; WG=Whole Grain

		Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Dec 2-6	Breakfas	WG Cereal Fruit Milk	Turkey Sausage Croissant <sup>^*</sup> Fruit Milk	WG Cereal Fruit Milk	Blueberry Mini Muffin* Banana Milk	WG Cereal Fruit Milk
	Lunch	Beef Stroganoff <sup>^</sup> Peas Peaches Milk	WG Breaded Fish Nuggets <sup>^</sup> Green Beans Mixed Fruit Milk	BBQ Chicken on a Bun Corn Pineapple Milk	Chicken Noodle Soup with Carrots Crackers Mandarin Oranges Milk	Cheese Ravioli Bake <sup>^</sup> Salad & Cucumbers with Dressing <sup>^*</sup> Pears Milk
	Snack	Variety Water	Veggie Straws Raisins Water	Yogurt Cup <sup>^</sup> Goldfish Water	Sliced Cheese <sup>^</sup> WG Wheat Thins/Ritz (T) Water	Applesauce Animal Crackers Water
Dec 9-13	Breakfas	WG Cereal Fruit Milk	Waffles <sup>^*</sup> Blueberries Milk	WG Cereal Fruit Milk	Whole Wheat Bagels Cream Cheese <sup>^</sup> Fruit Milk	WG Cereal Fruit Milk
	Lunch	Turkey Meatball Subs <sup>^*</sup> Green Beans Mixed Fruit Milk	Tomato Soup Grilled Cheese <sup>^</sup> with Whole Wheat Bread Orange Slices Milk	Goulash Salad & Cucumbers with Dressing <sup>^*</sup> Peaches Milk	Chicken Alfredo <sup>^</sup> Peas Pears Milk	Open Face Chicken Sandwich with Gravy <sup>^</sup> Mashed Potatoes Pineapple Milk
	Snack	Cheese Sticks Carrots & Dip/ Saltines (T) Water	Goldfish Sliced Apples/ Applesauce (T) Water	Pepperoni Cheese <sup>^</sup> Ritz Crackers Water	Pudding <sup>^</sup> Banana Water	Grapes Cheese-Itz <sup>^</sup> Water
Dec 16-20	Break	WG Cereal Fruit Milk	Pancakes <sup>^*</sup> Strawberries Milk	WG Cereal Fruit Milk	WG Oatmeal Banana Milk	WG Cereal Fruit Milk
	Lunch	Chicken Pot Pie <sup>^</sup> with Potatoes & Corn Peaches Milk	Taco Salad <sup>^</sup> Corn Wheat Roll Milk	Chili Cornbread <sup>^*</sup> Mixed Fruit Milk	Roast Beef & Noodles <sup>^</sup> Broccoli & Cheese <sup>^</sup> Pears Milk	Chicken Nuggets Peas Pineapple Milk
	Snack	100% Apple Juice Nachos & Salsa/ Saltines (T) Water	Graham Crackers Sun Butter Water	Polar Express Train Snack <sup>^</sup> Water	Birthday Party for Jesus Water	Bagels & Cream Cheese <sup>^</sup> Water
Dec 23-27	Breakfas	WG Cereal Fruit Milk	CLOSED in Observance of Christmas Eve	CLOSED in Observance of Christmas Day  <i>Merry Christmas!</i>	Yogurt <sup>^</sup> Granola Blueberries Milk	WG Cereal Fruit Milk
	Lunch	Shepherd's Pie <sup>^</sup> (Chicken, Corn, Mashed Potatoes) Peaches Milk			Ham and Cheese Wraps <sup>^</sup> Corn Pineapple Rings Milk	Pizza <sup>^</sup> Salad & Cucumbers with Dressing <sup>^*</sup> Pears Milk
	Snack	Sautéed Apples Ice Cream <sup>^</sup> Water			Mandarin Oranges Goldfish Water	Jell-O with fruit Cheeze-Itz <sup>^</sup> Water
Dec 30-Jan 3	Breakfas	WG Cereal Fruit Milk	Pancake Wrapped Sausage <sup>^*</sup> Fruit Milk	CLOSED in Observance of New Year's Day  <i>Happy New Year!</i>	Variety: Grain Fruit Milk	WG Cereal Fruit Milk
	Lunch	Beefaroni <sup>^</sup> Salad & Cucumbers with Dressing <sup>^*</sup> Pears Milk	Turkey Mini Corn Dogs <sup>^*</sup> Carrots Pineapple Milk		Mac & Cheese <sup>^</sup> Green Beans Peaches Milk	Variety: Meat/Meat Alternate <sup>^*</sup> Fruit, Vegetable, & Grain Milk
	Snack	Vanilla Wafers Pudding Water	Sliced Cheese <sup>^</sup> WG Triscuits Water		WG Wheat Thins Sliced Apples/ Applesauce & Ritz (T)	Graham Crackers Bananas Water

## **The Pastor's Epistle** **Christmas is a Time for Sharing**

My wife, Bonnie, and I live in the Courts of St. Francis **behind the Purcellville Library at 122 Amalfi Court.** It's a beautiful, walkable neighborhood in the middle of town. As such it's a great place to Trick or Treat on Halloween, leading more than a few children from the Neighborhood Learning Center to our door. What a surprise they get when I open the door and they see where Pastor Dave's house is!

Sharing and generosity to others is a contagious virtue. We value this not just at Halloween but also because it is the Christmas message – God so loved the world that God ***gave*** Jesus to us! I try to get this message across in chapels telling the children that Santa Claus gives gifts to children all around the world “because he is celebrating Jesus' birthday. And isn't that great that when we celebrate Jesus' birthday everyone gets presents!” Bonnie and I have seen how this affected our now adult children. Our regular practices of sharing rubbed off on them, so that they are some of the most gracious people we know. Data shows that the children of generous people become community leaders, professionals who make a difference in the world and carry on that joyous virtue of generosity.

Opening our house at Christmas is one of the ways Bonnie and I extend this generosity every year. If we don't reach having 100 people into our home at our



annual party, we feel let down. Food, drink, great people, and engaging conversation will fill **our house from 5 to 10 pm on Saturday, December 14<sup>th</sup>.** Besides church folks, neighbors, Bonnie's teacher colleagues from Eagle Ridge Middle school, we invite you to join us. The Neighborhood Learning Center is such a joyful part of our lives and to let you know how much, **please come join us.** It's way fun!!! We welcome parents and staff from the NLC.

While the adults are partying at the Milams', there will be complimentary child care available at the church. Again, our house is at 122 Amalfi Court in Purcellville. There are parking spots throughout the neighborhood and also a parking lot at the nearby library. No one needs to RSVP but if you have questions, please give us a call at 540-338-3143.

I also welcome you to join us for one of our Christmas Eve Candlelight Services. The Family Service with a play to involve all of the children is at 5:00 pm. The beautiful, traditional service with our St. Andrew Ringers and Choir is at 8:00 pm. Also, our choir is performing their cantata on Sunday, December 15<sup>th</sup> at our 10:00 am worship service. In all of these things, join in the sharing of God's love that centers around the gift of Jesus Christ whose birth we celebrate at Christmas.

Yours in Christ,

*Pastor Dave*

## **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.

**2nd and 4th Sundays—6:00-8:00 pm—Sunday Night Live Youth Group**—A fun gathering for middle and high school youth! Bring a friend for an evening of

learning and drawing closer to Christ, sharing in his love and grace.

**Advent Workshop—Wednesday, December 4**

**Saturday, December 7—Music with a Cause—Loudoun Chorale “Lessons & Carols” 7:00 pm**—Proceeds to benefit Loudoun Abused Women's Shelter (LAWS). Tickets \$20.

**Alternative Gift Market—December 8, 15, & 17**

**Christmas Cantata—December 15—10:00 am**

**Christmas Eve Services—Family Service at 5:00pm, Candlelight Service at 8:00 pm**

# December 2019

**Theme: Christmas**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b> Worship & Sunday School 10 am	<b>2</b> <b>**Mercier School of Dance</b>	<b>3</b> Chapel	<b>4</b> St. Andrew's Advent Workshop & Chili Cookoff (see below) 4:00 – 7:15 pm	<b>5</b> <b>**AcroKids</b> <b>**Wee Little Arts</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> Music with a Cause – Loudoun Chorale 7 pm
<b>8</b> Alternative Gift Market Worship & Sunday School 10 am	<b>9</b> <b>**Mercier School of Dance</b>	<b>10</b> Chapel	<b>11</b> Family Night – Christmas Caroling for Shut-Ins 6:00 – 7:30 pm	<b>12</b> <b>Christmas Program 4:30</b> <b>Preschool participates, all welcome!</b> <b>**AcroKids</b> <b>**Wee Little Arts</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> Milam's Christmas Party 5 – 10 pm
<b>15</b> Christmas Cantata 10am Alternative Gift Market Worship & Sunday School 10 am	<b>16</b> Mac Brownell Adult Day Center Visit Owls 11 am <b>**Mercier School of Dance</b>	<b>17</b> Chapel	<b>18</b> <b>Polar Express Day – send them in PJ's!</b>	<b>19</b> <b>Class Birthday Parties for Jesus</b> <b>**AcroKids</b> <b>**Wee Little Arts</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> Parents Night Out 5:30 – 9:00
<b>22</b> Worship & Sunday School 10 am	<b>23</b> LCPS Closed; School's Out Drop-In Day for School Agers	<b>24 &amp; 25</b> NLC Closed <b>Christmas Eve Worship 5:00 pm (Family Service) &amp; 8:00 pm (Candlelight)</b>		<b>26</b> LCPS Closed; School's Out Drop-In Day for School Agers	<b>27</b> LCPS Closed; School's Out Drop-In Day for School Agers	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b> Worship & Sunday School 10 am	<b>30</b> LCPS Closed; School's Out Drop-In Day for School Agers	<b>31</b> LCPS Closed; School's Out Drop-In Day for School Agers	<b>Loudoun Hunger Relief</b> <b>Suggested Item of the Month Donation:</b> <b>Canned Beans &amp; Soup</b> <i>Drop off in wooden box in church entry</i>			

## Of Note...

- St. Andrew's Advent Workshop & Chili Cook-Off – FREE and open to ALL AGES! Stop in anytime between 4:30 – 6:00, or 6:30 – 7:15 pm to make your family Advent Wreath to help anticipate Christ's birth. Other fun activities, too! And don't miss the Chili Cook-Off at 6:30. All are welcome!
- St. Andrew's Family Night Christmas Caroling to Shut-Ins – We board the NLC buses and travel to the homes of some of our congregation's shut-ins for some caroling and Christmas cheer! All are welcome!

## **\*\* Designates Registration Required Class (Details & Registration Info at Front Desk)**

- **\*\*Mercier School of Dance** – Enrollment is ongoing. Ages 2 and up. Visit [www.mercierschoolofdance.com](http://www.mercierschoolofdance.com) to register.
- **\*\*Wee Little Arts** - Visit [www.weelittlearts.com](http://www.weelittlearts.com) to register.
- **\*\*AcroKidz** – 8-week session starts November 7, Thursdays at 9:00 am for 2s through pre-K. Visit [www.acrokidz.net](http://www.acrokidz.net) to register.