



ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN SCHOOL  
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# WILDCATS WEEKLY

November 14, 2019

## Principally Speaking

*Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good. His love endures forever. Psalm 136:1*

The month of November has traditionally been a month of Thanksgiving celebrations. During this festive month we remember the countless blessings and gifts which our Heavenly Father has given to us. As we approach the Thanksgiving holiday, let us be mindful of all that God has given us ... not only the blessings of family, food, clothing, health and shelter, but also the spiritual blessings of faith and eternal life.

Please join us in giving thanks for:

- a country where we can have Christ-centered schools
- students who daily grow stronger in their faith as they flourish in a school of Christian love
- parents who sacrifice greatly for their children
- teachers who give so much of themselves in their ministry to children and families
- a church that acknowledges Christian education through its support and prayers
- and, most importantly, for a Savior who paid the price for our sins, allowing us to be His saints daily growing in His love.

Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good. His love endures forever.

**Happy Thanksgiving!**



We are collecting items to fill our shoeboxes ... shoeboxes to send to boys and girls to reach God's world with gifts and the love of Jesus. Bring your items to the lobby or classroom; see page 3 or [www.stjohnsarnold.org/info](http://www.stjohnsarnold.org/info) for details.



We have our "packing party" on **Wednesday, November 20 from 9:30-10:30am**. Students will pack shoeboxes and enjoy special activities. Please join us for this event.

## Thank You

We raised over **\$4,600** through the Show Me Dough Fundraiser. Our PTL will use these funds for PTL events and to purchase items for classrooms and teachers. Thanks for all you do to support our school.



## School Christmas Programs

Our schedule for student-led Christmas programs is a little different this year:

**K-8 Christmas Concert is on Wednesday, December 4 at 8:30am and 6:30pm.** Students in K-4 Choir and Grades 5-8 Choir will lead us in music and song for the Christmas season.

**Preschool Christmas Program is on Wednesday, December 18 at 8:30am and 6:30pm.** Come and join us for Christmas music, songs, and fun.

## Credit and Debit Cards

You can now use credit and debit cards to purchase Scrip and make other point of sale payments in the school office (and you can still pay by cash or check). We are using the Square software so you can get an email receipt for all your purchases and payments.



NOTE: There is a card convenience fee charge for each \$25 increment.

## School Entry Project

Our school entry project continues; we expect completion in mid-November. This project will provide better entry shelter during inclement weather and greater visibility for the main school entrance.

Thanks for your cooperation and understanding as we continue utilizing temporary parking, traffic, and school entry procedures.



## Drop Off and Pick Up Procedures

With the new school entry to open soon, we will return to our "normal" drop off and pick up procedures at the main entry ... **with a few changes.**

Children and parents will enter and exit school through the main entrance ... for drive thru and walking children to/from parked cars (as in past years).

Morning drive thru drop off and afternoon drive thru pick up will be in the driveway between the church and school (as in past years).

Parents may park in both Jeffco Blvd and Church Rd parking lots and walk children to/from school and parked cars; children may not cross traffic lanes without parent supervision.



**We will restrict some of the parking spaces between the church and school during morning drop off and afternoon pickup times.** This will allow for safer pedestrian traffic to/from the school main entry and parked cars.

## Student Absences

Call the office @ 636-464-7303 (select option 1) or send a message to the teacher on days when your child is absent from school. This will help us prepare for the day and monitor attendance, lunch count, etc.

## SCHOOL CALENDAR and ACTIVITIES

Thu	Nov 14	Boys BB Home	5:30pm
		5-8 Band Concert at LHSS	7:30pm
Fri	Nov 15	Grade 4 Trip	8:00am
Sat	Nov 16	Academic Team Home	2:00pm
Mon	Nov 18	Academic Team Home	4:15pm
Tue	Nov 19	Boys BB Home	5:30pm
		School Board	7:00pm
Wed	Nov 20	Chapel	8:30am
		November Baptism Celebration	
		Christmas Shoebox Packing Party (after chapel)	
Fri	Nov 22	Mid-Quarter 2	
Fri-Sat	Nov 22-23	Girls BB Tournament Home	

## Cold Weather Recess



When colder temperatures and wind chill come, our teachers use their best judgment in determining whether the class has outside or inside recess.

Please send your child with a coat, hat, gloves and mittens suitable for outdoor play each day in the coming weeks.

## School Closing: Weather

When snow or ice comes, we announce any school delay or closing by:

- **EDUCATE:** Email and text message
- **TV:** KTVI 2, KMOV 4, KSDK 5



We try to make our announcements as early as possible (by 6:00am) or the night before. If you do not see or hear an announcement, school starts at our regular time at 8:15am.

NOTE: We do not always follow the area public school closings or delays; listen and watch for our school.

Even if school is in session, parents should use good judgment about driving to school based on road conditions. Parents can pick up a child early if road conditions worsen during the day.

## School Newsletter Info

Submit newsletter info to the school office by Tuesday to be included in the next publication.

## Mid-Quarter 2: Fri, Nov 22

Grades 4-8: Check EDUCATE to see your child's academic progress; ask your child and teacher about any missing assignments or make-up work and tests.

## Upcoming Dates

Nov 27-29	NO SCHOOL: Thanksgiving
Dec 4	K-8 Christmas Concert
Dec 13-15	Church Christmas Musical
Dec 18	PS Christmas Program
Dec 20	Dismissal @ 12noon
Dec 23-Jan 3	NO SCHOOL: Christmas Break
Jan 6	School Resumes

## AUCTION 2020 Friday, November 13



Remember the fun and excitement at our 2018 auction? We raised over **\$105,000** in support for our school.

We need people to help organize and plan for our next auction on Friday, November 13, 2020. Contact David Florine at [dflorine@sjlarnold.org](mailto:dflorine@sjlarnold.org) if you'd like to help.

## OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

St. John's Lutheran Church and School are joining together to pack shoeboxes to reach God's world with the love of Jesus. Our goal is to pack over 200 shoeboxes. Here's how you can help:

### 1 Bring a simple gift.

We ask children to bring in "simple" gifts. Our goal is to collect 200+ of each item:

Preschool	Toothbrushes, bar soap, washcloths, picture books, earrings, necklaces, stickers, small coloring books
KDG, Grades 1-4	Socks, brushes, combs, hair clips, sunglasses, bracelets, lip balm, markers, highlighters, crayons, colored pencils
Grades 5-8	Hats, t-shirts, flip flops, pens, pencils, small notebooks, plastic cups, glue sticks, "fun" adhesive bandages

### 2 Give a WOW gift.

Give a quality "wow" gift such as a small doll, deflated ball with pump, stuffed animal, watch, puzzle, jump rope, shoes, musical instrument, or fun toy. Just remember ... the wow gift must fit in a shoebox (with other gifts).



### 3 Pray.

Pray for the child who will receive your gift(s).

### 4 Include a \$9 donation.

This donation will cover the shipping costs for one shoebox.

Our "packing day" is **Wednesday, November 20**.

Please bring your gifts and donations to school by **Monday, November 18** so we can plan our packing activities.

**THANKS FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!**

NOTE: We have shoeboxes and shipping labels for this project

## Chess Club



Our school sponsors a Chess Club in the CYC program. Our team is comprised of 3rd-8th graders who compete against children (at same age levels) from other CYC chess teams. Our team practices during the week; contests are held on selected Saturdays in December-March. Info: Dan Hanson, [dhanson@sjlarnold.org](mailto:dhanson@sjlarnold.org).

## Scrip Program

All families (PS-8) must participate in the Scrip program; profits are used to offset school budget expenses.

**Scriptips** **Christmas is coming!** Remember us when shopping for gift cards to give your friends, family, or child's teacher. We have a teacher wish list, available where Scrip is sold, to help you pick out that perfect card. Check out the special order cards at [www.shopwithscrip.com](http://www.shopwithscrip.com).

## SCHOOL OPERATIONAL PLAN

As part of the St. John's 2-year ARISE vision, we are developing an operational plan for ongoing school improvement. Our school plan will focus primarily on these five areas:

- **Family Ministry.** We want our school families to be engaged in church and school activities that cultivate positive relationships.
- **School Enrollment.** We want to use creative marketing strategies to recruit and retain an increasing number of students.
- **School Finances.** We will evaluate and revise (as needed) the current school funding model and seek additional funding sources to achieve school operational strength and long-term financial sustainability.
- **Academics.** We will enhance teaching and learning so that every student maximizes his/her academic potential.
- **Well-Rounded Education.** We will provide school experiences to help children discover and develop their God-given talents and abilities.

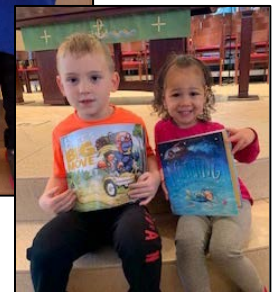


We need parent support to help us work on our school improvement plans. If you have an interest in any of the above areas, please contact David Florine at [dflorine@sjlarnold.org](mailto:dflorine@sjlarnold.org).

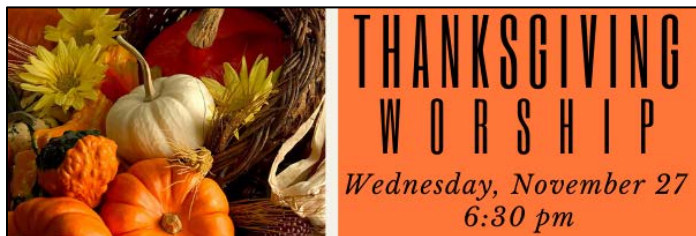


Celebrate your child's special day by donating a book in their honor to the school library. Find the Birthday Book Club form at [www.stjohnsarnold.org/info](http://www.stjohnsarnold.org/info).

Welcome to our BBC: Jayden Zinkl (1), Mason Meyer (4), Jackson Byerly (4), Joshua Byerly (K), Blaine Boerner (PS), and Rylie Lakes (PS)







## Lost and Found

Left a sweatshirt or jacket at school? Can't find a lunch bag? Check the "lost and found" in school lobby; unclaimed items will be given to a charity.

**Names on Clothing.** With school logo shirts, fleece jackets, and PE uniforms, please identify your child's clothing with their name on the label or tag. Write name on outside of their lunch bag too.



Our theme reminds us of God's love on our good days and bad days, that He is faithful to His promises, and that our greatest joy is in Jesus, our Savior.

## Chapel: Wednesday

Join us for our weekly "kid-friendly" school chapel services on Wednesdays at 8:30am throughout the school year. Celebrate the blessings of Christian education with our school family.

**Chapel Offerings.** Our November and December chapel offerings support the Christmas shoebox project.

## BLOOD DRIVE

**Sunday, November 24  
9:30am-1:30pm**

Join our blood drive on **Sunday, November 24 from 9:30am-1:30pm in Room 102** (church lower level). Donors will receive a voucher for a free T-shirt. Call Doug Bay at 314-378-6508 to schedule an appointment or register [here](#) and use sponsor code 10504.



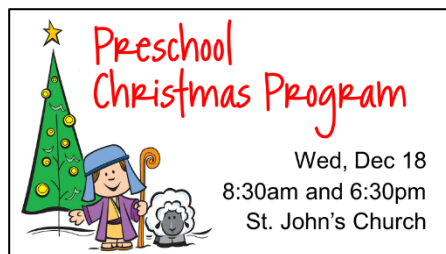
An Unexpected Christmas is a heartfelt musical that brings people from different paths of life together in an airport terminal on Christmas Eve when, due to inclement weather, their flight is grounded overnight. Together, they realize that the crossing of their paths is anything but random as unexpected events turn their hearts to discover the real meaning of Christmas. Performances will be held on December 13 at 7:00pm, December 14 at 7:00pm, and December 15 at 4:00pm. Admission is free and no tickets are required.



Amazon Smile is a free and easy way for you to support St. John's! Simply visit [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) every time you shop at Amazon. You'll still find the same low prices, vast selection, and convenient shopping experience as Amazon, but by logging into Amazon Smile instead, a portion of your purchase will be donated to St. John's!

How do I sign up for Amazon Smile?

1. Go to [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) and log in to your Amazon account.
2. Search for "St. John's Lutheran Arnold" in the search bar.
3. Select "St. John's Lutheran Arnold."
4. Check "Yes, I understand that I must always start at Amazon Smile to support St. John's Lutheran Arnold." Then click "Start Shopping."
5. You are now signed up for Amazon Smile! Amazon will donate 0.5% of every purchase back to us!



# GIVE THANKS

*Age-specific ways to help your kids experience the meaning behind the celebration on Thanksgiving Day.*

Sometimes it's a challenge to convince children that Thanksgiving Day is really not all about the food. Sure there's turkey, stuffing, gravy, cranberries, and pie. Oh yeah, don't forget the pie! But hidden inside this palate-driven holiday is an opportunity to teach the meaning behind the celebration. It is, after all, a day to remember God and give thanks.

The scriptures are filled with passages calling us to maintain a thankful heart. From Psalm 106:1, "Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good," to Paul's letter to the Thessalonians urging them to "give thanks in all circumstances" (5:18). It was this latter verse that sustained the Pilgrims, venturing to the New World, who ushered in the Thanksgiving Day celebration.



In the winter of 1620, Pilgrims, traveling by sea, settled at Plymouth, Massachusetts. They came for religious freedom — a desire to worship God and live according to Holy Scripture. But the country they found was bleak and uninviting, with several inches of snow already on the ground. Of the 102 passengers aboard the ship, the *Mayflower*, nearly half died during the first winter of the "great sickness." Yet, according to settler Edward Winslow, they were grateful to God for his provision in their lives. A year later, the group celebrated with a feast of thanksgiving.

So, this year as the guests arrive, in addition to a bountiful meal, try these fun-filled age-appropriate activities that will direct children, and adults, back to the true meaning of the holiday, and also create Thanksgiving Day memories that will last a lifetime.

## Ages 0-3

For the very young, holidays are about the nurturing and extra attention received from grandparents and other close family and friends. Try to provide time for fun interaction, with songs and hymns that celebrate the season. Provide toddlers with some crayons and color books, and invite grandparents to color along. Be sure to include *The Pumpkin Patch Parable*, a picture book by Liz Curtis Higgs, for an after supper story time.

## Ages 4-7

Make your young guests feel special when Thanksgiving dinner is served atop a custom-made tablecloth they designed. Break out the color crayons, or markers, and allow each child to draw their own artwork depicting a thankful day. Later, play a game of "Alphabet Thanks," where children draw from a bowl of letters, and then tell God thanks for something that begins with the letter they picked.

## Ages 8-12

This age group is ready to put the spirit of thanksgiving into practice by canvassing their neighborhood, collecting canned food items for those in need. For fun on Thanksgiving Day, have this age group use a video camera to film their own home movie about giving thanks. Guests can be entertained as they view the finished work on the TV during dessert. Or, for the more musically minded, have the kids borrow the tune from their favorite pop or rap song and replace the lyrics with a seasonal message.

## Age 13-18

This age is perfect for hands-on community service. Visit the local rescue mission or nearby retirement home and have them pitch in by serving the holiday meal. Another fun idea is to invite these teens to compete in a pie-baking contest, with Gram and Gramps deciding the winning recipe.

## All Ages

Ice Breakers are a fun way to get everyone talking. Write something to be thankful for on a small sheet of paper and tape it to the back of everyone who comes in the door. They must ask yes or no questions from other guests to guess what is written on the paper.

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Reprinted from Focus on the Family  
November 2007