

Advent 2018

St. John's Lutheran Church Sweet Air invites you to Advent Conspiracy 2018!



ADVENT is a season of preparation. Our Advent mission is based on the book "Advent Conspiracy", helping us substitute consumption with creative thanksgiving & caring compassion. Instead of shopping for stuff, there are gifts that help people live in this world. This is a positive Advent conspiracy!

VISIT THE FELLOWSHIP HALL

You will see an ADVENT Tree and a blue ADVENT Table.
Take an ornament from the tree. Take one or take many!

MAKE A DONATION AT THE TABLE FOR THE ORNAMENT.

On the back of each ornament is a Christmas present people really need.

- Ornaments for SEWING MACHINES and CHICKENS for Dominican Republic Team
- Ornaments for NOLA Home (for New Orleans Mission Team Feb. 16-23)
- Ornaments for MEALS or WARMTH at Amazing Grace Mission Partnership

You can give this ornament to a loved one...that a gift has been made in their honor.
As ADVENT ornaments disappear, mittens and coats will appear to benefit Amazing Grace.
You can move an ornament in memory of someone to the worship center Christmas tree.

OTHER MISSION GIFT IDEAS:

- ⇒ \$10 Cookie Dough Orders by end of November to benefit annual mission trip to NOLA
- ⇒ \$12.50 Guatemala Coffee available every Sunday in Fellowship Hall Sweet Air Café
- ⇒ Store gift cards can be ordered by 2nd week of December offered by Dominican Republic Team
- ⇒ Order a \$8 poinsettia for Christmas Eve in honor or memory of a loved one by 12/16.
- ⇒ Smile.Amazon.com to benefit youth trip scholarships "St. John's Lutheran of Sweet Air."
- ⇒ Coffee to help our Guatemala Mission
Nicole Fuhr, a daughter of St. John's, and her husband, Kevin, answered the call to start a mission in Guatemala. They are working with a local coffee farmer and a woman who makes special bags. Sharing Christ is life giving. Contact: Nicole nchandler777@gmail.com

ADVENT E-Devotions

Reflections from various Mission Team volunteers will be sent on weekdays Nov. 26-Dec. 21st by email and posted on Facebook.

WORSHIP CENTER

Check out our Christmas tree with Chrismon ornaments about Christ and an Advent wreath with four blue candles.

Advent Books available at the welcome center for donation that shares the vision.

Weather or Not Snow Policy...



During the week, when Baltimore County Schools close, the office will be closed and ministries are cancelled at St. John's. If the county closes early, evening events are cancelled.

For Sundays, we want everyone to be safe. We will announce as soon as we can any changes via our Facebook page, web and email.

Welcome All Expansion Project

Exploratory Committee presented Concept Drawings to Council 11/12

Since April, this group has been developing updated drawings and budgets for entrance renovations. In August, Council passed a Motion for \$7,000 for the Exploratory Committee to continue to get phase approach drawings for "Welcome All Expansion Project." Council received a draft of priorities moving forward:

WHY?

To address critical maintenance issues with our main entrance that is now 32 years old & crumbling

WHAT ARE THE OBJECTIVES & PRIORITIES?

#1 – Install main ramp entrance which is ADA compliant.

- Current ramp is disintegrating and does not conform to ADA requirements
- Provide roof that screens the sun light that has been reported to be blinding in the morning.
- Improve entrance signage.
- Make a temporary entrance plan that includes a temporary ramp.

#2 – Enlarge the Narthex Area (Lobby) to allow for better traffic flow.

- Close in part of stairwell opening, remove the atrium skylight, raise (drop) ceiling for more headroom
- Enlarge the narthex in the direction of the entrance ramp, (no sprinkler req'd), provide AC (Narthex)
- Improve hospitality and welcome set up (a mobile station for flexibility during events)
- Create a side entrance into the Fellowship Hall from the enlarged entrance (optional)

#3—Improve the accessibility of lobby restrooms and install new AC system

- Enlarge and reconfigure restrooms to optimize internal flow and provide ADA compatibility
- Replace the 23-year-old AC unit on top of narthex (AC to the Sanctuary)

Participants in Exploratory Process: C.Bitner, B. Rayme, G.Crupi, S. Crupi, R. Mann, R. Smith, E. Nuetzel, A. Drescher Jr., B. Shaff, T. Walton, G. Blauvelt, S. Matthai, D. Waire, L. Rettew, Pr. Arrington
Stephen Burdette (Architect)

Update from Children's Ministry Coordinator—Megan McBee

December is such a magical time of year! Children's Ministry is looking forward to ending 2018 with continued momentum of participation in Voyagers and PIER456. October saw an average attendance of 43 participants (both children and leaders).

This Christmas, Children's Ministry will be retelling the story of "The Star" through narration, hand chimes and costumes. We are so grateful for Louisa Rettew who is composing an original piece for this presentation. Gail Jothen is helping us include a Children's processional with song.

Christmas Eve Rehearsal will be offered twice:

- The first practice will be offered with a pizza and movie party on 5 pm Saturday, December 22nd.
- The second practice will be during 9:38 service on Sunday, December 23rd.

-Megan McBee

Community News...



Anytime Fitness in Jacksonville will be collecting canned food this holiday season for our Food Pantry Baskets!