

Ring in the New Year

Unity worship December 29, 2019



St. John's Lutheran Church, Sweet Air
3911 Sweet Air Road
Phoenix, MD 21131
410.592.6565
www.stjohnssweetair.org

HOW DID ADVENT CONSPIRACY SHOW UP IN YOUR CHRISTMAS?

Folks are invited to share briefly how God blessed your Christmas.

Did you give or get an Advent Conspiracy type of gift?

(After each person shares, we can thank God ringing our bells.)

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

Pastor Lisa Arrington

WELCOME HOME COLLEGE STUDENTS

Did you know the group is 18-24 for young adults and college students. We meet on

Sunday nights at 8pm throughout the summer. Save this contact info for Jeremy

Morelock, Director of Young Discipleship, jeremy@stjohnssweetair.org

SHARING PEACE

Pastor Lisa Arrington

Let us greet one another friends and visitors alike.

Remember some people prefer to share the peace verbally due to flu season or personal space. We are a very loving church but please ask someone if it is okay to share a hug. Hand sanitizer is in the back of the church.

GATHERING CAROL

“The First Noel”

ELW # 300 (vss. 1-4)

Piano/Organ accompaniment by Benjamin Harlan

Susan Liberati, piano

Ring your bells on the word “Noel”

CHILDREN’S SPLASH MESSAGE

Pastor Sarah Wright

The children are invited to gather up front for a message.

After the children’s message, children are invited with Megan McBee to the Fellowship Hall

and return after sermon in time for Holy Communion.

BIBLE READING Mark 1:9-13

Reader

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven, “You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.”

And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. He was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him.

PLEASE PRAY FOR

Lift up in prayer:

John Abendschein

Linda Arrington

Jack Arsenault

Harvey Blevins

Pastor Partee Boliek

James Brunner

Wendy Caffrey

Diane Corkran

Gertrude Fox

Mitchell Greene

The Hobbs family

Anna Koerber

Ray Lawson

Jackie Lober

Jim Marshall

Sandy Matthai

Howard Matthews

Bill Moesinger

Jo Morrison

The Murphy family

Ernie Nuetzel

Claire Sigwart

Katy Stevens’ Family

Wayne Stolins

Warren & Ann Theill

Special needs:

All those devastated by natural disasters
Pastor Sarah & Mychael Wright in this time
of transition to a new sense of call.

This week we pray for:

† Men’s Bible Study

† Prayer Group

† Mutual Ministry Committee

Our mission partners:

Amazing Grace Lutheran Church – Prs.

Gary Dittman & Carol Perlie

Prs. Mercedes & Isaias Nelson (Dom. Rep.)

Pr. Tyrone Smith (New Orleans)

National ELCA Bishop Elizabeth Eaton

Delaware Maryland synod Bishop Bill Gohl

Nicole & Kevin Fuhr, serving Guatemala

Crucified Church in Johnstown, PA

– Pr. Josh Knipple

Freestate ChalleNGe Academy

Members of the week:

Dustin & Stephanie Carroll,

Jack

Kathy Cathell

Gary & Cindy Chandler

Names on the prayer list are printed with permission of the person named. After receiving permission you may place a completed yellow prayer request card in the offering plate or contact the church office to add a name to the prayer list. After four weeks on the list a name will be removed unless the office is notified for an extension of time.

Visitation: *please notify the church office if you anticipate a hospital stay. Thank you!*

BENEDICTION

Pastor Sarah Wright

CHRISTMAS CAROL

“Angels From The Realms of Glory“

ELW # 275

Ring your bells on the refrain!

SENT TO SHARE PEACE

L: Go in peace and serve the Lord

All: Thanks be to God!

Everyone is invited to Fellowship Hall for Potluck Fellowship, to share Thanksgivings for Pastor Sarah’s ministry and for our Christmas Karaoke!

MESSAGE

Pastor Sarah Wright

CONTEMPORARY CHRISTMAS CAROL

“Hark”

arr. Hillsong Worship

led by the Jubilee Singers

DEDICATION PRAYER FOR NEW COUNCIL 2020-21

Assisting Minister

L: The following people have been *elected* by the congregation to positions of leadership. We give thanks for their willingness to serve. In baptism we are welcomed into the body of Christ and sent to share in the mission of God; we rejoice now that these *siblings in Christ* will lead us in our common life and our mutual mission as a congregation. Please come forward as your name is called:

Jim Ritchie	David Bycoffe
John Derwart	Adam Drescher II
Michael Jochen	Susanne Kauffman
Doug Koerber	Gretchen LeKites
Rick Matthai	Gwenn Crupi
Sally Snell	Linda Walsh

And our co-treasurer:

Joyce Essel has been re-appointed awaiting a co-treasurer

L: A reading from First Corinthians: *There are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.*
(1 Corinthians 12:4-7)

PL: You have been elected to positions of leadership and trust in this congregation. The specific duties of those being installed as outlined in the constitution:

- ◆ to lead this congregation in mission, long range planning and goals and evaluate
- ◆ to seek to involve all members of this congregation in worship, learning, witness and service and support
- ◆ to oversee and provide for administration –staff, budget, constitution Bylaws Resolutions
- ◆ to be examples in the grace and compassion of Jesus Christ

PL: On behalf of your siblings in Christ, I ask you: will you accept and faithfully carry out the duties of the offices to which you have been elected?

Council: I will, and I ask God to help me.

PL: People of God, I ask you: will you support these, your elected leaders, and will you share in the mutual ministry that Christ has given to all who are baptized?

All: **We will, and we ask God to help us.**

L: I now declare you installed as officers / council members of this congregation. Almighty God bless you, and direct your days and your deeds in peace, that you may be faithful servants of Christ.

All: **Thanks be to God!**

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Assisting Minister

Please kneel or sit as you are able.

OFFERING SONG

"In The Bleak Midwinter"

ELW # 294

*You are invited to drop into the offering plate a yellow pew card or green e-giving card.
You can also safely text to give, 410 698-6178.
The offering will remain in the back of the church.*

OFFERING PRAYER

Pastor Lisa Arrington

HOLY COMMUNION

(no words just picture of bread/wine)

Pastor Lisa Arrington

THE LORD'S PRAYER

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

*Continuous communion is open for all.
Come forward down the center aisles.
Receive a wafer or gluten-free wafer.
Dip into either red wine or white grape juice.
Return to your seats by side aisles.
Receiving a blessing is also participating in communion.*

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION:

"What Child Is This"

ELW # 296

"O Come All Ye Faithful"

ELW # 283

BLESSING AFTER COMMUNION

Pastor Lisa Arrington

THANKSGIVING AT THE CONCLUSION OF A CALL

President Jim Ritchie: *Pastor Sarah Wright, on March 18th, 2018, we of St. John's Lutheran Church of Sweet Air called you to be pastor and Director of Contemporary Worship and Adult Discipleship in this place: to proclaim God's word, to baptize and teach, to lead worship, engage us in mission and announce God's forgiveness, and to preside at the Lord's table. With the gospel you have comforted us in times of sickness and trouble, and at the death of our loved ones. Sharing our joys and sorrows, you and your family have been important to our life together in the church of Jesus Christ, in our service to this community, and in God's mission to the whole world. As you leave this community of faith, we say farewell, and we pray for God's blessing.*

President Jim Ritchie: People of God, members of *St. John's Lutheran Church of Sweet Air*, do you release *Pastor Sarah* from service as your pastor?

All: **We do, and we give thanks to God for our ministry together.**

President Jim Ritchie: *Pastor Sarah*, do you recognize and accept the completion of your ministry with *St. John's*?

Pastor Sarah: I do, and I give thanks to God for our ministry together.

THANKSGIVING AND SENDING

PL: Let us pray.

Almighty God, through your Son Jesus Christ you gave the holy apostles many gifts and commanded them to feed your flock. You equip your people with abilities that differ according to the grace given to them, and you call them to various avenues of service. We give you thanks for the ministry of *Pastor Sarah* among the people of God in this place.

You watch over our going out and our coming in: bless this time of ending and beginning. You surround your people in every time and place: keep us close in your love. You accompany your people in times of joy and times of trial: prosper all that has been done to your glory in this time together; heal and forgive all that has fallen short of your will for us. Help *Pastor Sarah*, Mychael, and all of us to live with courage and gladness in the future you give to us.

As *they have* been a blessing to us, so now send *them* forth to be a blessing to others; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

NEXT STEPS

Pastor Lisa Arrington