
KOINONIA

“That the communication (Koinonia)(pronounced:coy no nee a) of thy faith may become effectual by the acknowledging of every good thing which is in you in Christ Jesus.” Philemon 1:6

NORWIN ALLIANCE CHURCH

DECEMBER 2009



We need Jesus at Christmas. The world and our hearts are as desperate today as when the Lord came to the sin ridden world of Israel. People still urgently need good news. Christ is the only gospel capable of changing us. Consider what Jesus means to you at Christmas.

Seek Him with all your heart during this Christmas season. Seek Him for the health of your own soul and for the blessing of those around you. The Lord will make you a credible witness. Pray, worship, love, serve, and tell. Share Christ at the celebration of His birth, and invite others to worship Christ with you each Sunday.



- ~ Jesus gives you the forgiveness of sins. *“Give Him the name Jesus, because He will save His people from their sin”*. (Matthew 1:21) You are a forgiven and forgiving person because of Christ.
- ~ Jesus gives you eternal life *“that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but shall have eternal life”* (John 3:16). You have life with God now. You don’t have to wait until heaven to worship, serve, and have fellowship with the Lord. Be as excited about His first coming as you are His second coming. And still pray, “come soon Lord Jesus”.
- ~ Jesus gives you grace and truth; *“The Word became flesh . . . full of grace and truth”* (John 1:14). Only Jesus as the truth can set you free. And He tells you the absolute truth concerning God, yourself, purpose, and all of life’s challenges. And His grace remains amazing.
- ~ Jesus gives you joy; What a relief for troubled hearts in a troubled world *“I bring you good news of great joy”* (Luke 2:10). A good acrostic for joy is: **J**esus is glorified; **O**thers are edified; **Y**ou are sanctified.
- ~ Jesus gives you one blessing after another (John 1:16). Learn the new math of counting your blessings in Christ.
- ~ Jesus gives you Himself *“that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ”* (John 17:3).

CHRISTMAS ACTIVITIES

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| Nov. 29 | First Sunday of Advent |
| Dec. 4 | Drama/Choir Rehearsal ~ 6:00 pm |
| Dec. 6 | Second Sunday of Advent
All Gifts for Operation Christmas Joy are due to the church
Drama/Choir Family Banquet ~ Noon
Drama/Choir Dress Rehearsal ~ 2:00 pm |
| Dec. 11 | Drama/Choir Rehearsal ~ 6:00 pm |
| Dec. 13 | Third Sunday of Advent
Dramatic Musical “A Baby Changes Everything” ~ 10:45 am |
| Dec. 17 | Keen-Agers’ Christmas Dinner |
| Dec. 20 | Fourth Sunday of Advent
Children’s Christmas Program ~ 10:45 am
Advent Festival Celebration ~ Noon |
| Dec. 24 | Church Office closed at 12:30 pm
Christmas Eve Candlelight Service ~ 7:00 pm |
| Dec. 25 | HAVE A VERY BLESSED CHRISTMAS! |

OPERATION CHRISTMAS JOY

It is time to rejoice the birth of our Lord. Norwin Alliance Church is participating in Operation Christmas Joy by providing Christmas gifts to a District Pastor and his family.

Gift tags are still available on the tree in the narthex. There are several tags for donations of money. This money will be put together for a gift the child requested.

When the gift wrapped item or cash contribution is presented back to the Christmas tree, two things are requested: 1) Attach the tag taken from the Christmas tree to the wrapped gift. This will help us know which gift goes to which family. Money and gift card should be put in an envelope and placed in the basket on the table; **AND** 2) fill out the information sheet located on the same table where the Christmas tree is. Remember to fill out the approximate cost of each gift. This will help us in reporting the approximate cost spent for each family to the District Office. Do not put any reference to our church on any of the gifts or tags. All gifts are to be anonymous.

All gifts and gift cards need to be returned to the church by **Sunday, December 6th** so we can have them to the District Office in time for the family to receive them for Christmas.

THANK YOU for helping out our District family whom is *greatly* encouraged by your generosity!



Walk in the SPIRIT
Be filled with the SPIRIT
Pray in the SPIRIT

KEEN-AGERS

**All adults 50 years
and over**



The Norwin Alliance KEEN-AGERS will meet on Thursday, December 17th at 11:30 am for our Christmas luncheon (one week earlier than usual because of Christmas).

The Christmas Dinner will be catered by K-Vays Restaurant . The menu will be *pork, Swiss steak, parsley potatoes, broccoli Normandy, fruit salad, and peach and coconut cream pies for dessert.* Everyone will receive both entrees. Price per person is \$10.00. All checks should be made payable to "Norwin Alliance Keen-Agers" and given to Muriel, Paula, Ruth, or Betty by **Sunday, December 6th**.

The program for the day will be a "Jewish Christmas Concert" by Abraham Sandler.

All adults 50 years of age or older ~ this is YOUR invitation to attend the last meeting of 2008. Don't delay, get your reservation in soon. Anyone who has not paid by **December 6th** will not be included in the meal but are welcome to come for the program after lunch.

If you would like more information, please call the church office 724-864-1570.

Officers for 2010 were elected at our November meeting and will be installed at our December meeting. The 2010 Officers are as follows:

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|-----------------|---------------|
| Co-Presidents | Betty
Ruth |
| Vice President | Caroline |
| Secretary | Norma |
| Asst. Secretary | Paula |
| Treasurer | Muriel |
| Asst. Treasurer | Paula |

VIGNETTES by VIRGINIA

To celebrate the wondrous Christmas season, this writer is copying a few poems for your edification and reflection:

Bless the Blessed Morn

Lo, God, our God, has come!
 To us a Child is born.
 To us a Son is given;
 Bless, bless the blessed morn,
 O happy, lowly, lofty birth,
 Now God, our God has come to earth.
 Rejoice, our God has come!
 In love and lowliness.
 The Son of God has come,
 The sons of men to bless.
 God with us now descends to dwell,
 God in our flesh, Immanuel.
 Praise ye the Word made flesh!
 True God, true man is He.
 Praise ye the Christ of God!
 To Him all glory be.
 Praise ye the Lamb that once was slain,
 Praise ye the King that comes to reign.
 Horatius Bonar (1808—1889)

The Stranger

A Stranger came to Bethlehem,
 With great gifts in His hands.
 But many people only saw
 A babe in swaddling bands.
 A Stranger lived in Nazareth,
 And in His heart was Truth.
 But many thought Him Joseph's son,
 An ordinary youth.
 A Stranger taught in Galilee,
 With wisdom from on high.
 To many He was just a man.
 And so they passed Him by.
 That Stranger walks the world today,
 In hearts that have received
 The Son of God. No Stranger, He,
 To those who have believed!
 Helen Frazee-Bower (1896—1960)

TEN COMMANDMENTS of CHRISTMAS

1. Thou shalt not put any other holiday traditions or celebrations above the celebrating of our Savior's birth and the deep meaning of His life, teachings, and sacrifices.
2. Thou shalt look at thy life and make at least one positive change as your gift to the Savior at His birthday celebration.
3. Thou shalt have many traditions, especially those types of traditions that remind you of the Savior, give service to others, and bring your family closer together.
4. Thou shalt remember those who are alone and help them to have a "Merry Christmas" also.
5. Thou shalt give gifts of worth and not merely add to another's collection of clutter simply for the sake of "giving a gift".
6. Thou shalt value the effort and thought put into gifts received. Just as with the widow's mite, it is the meaning that gives a gift value not the dollar amount paid.
7. Thou shalt give no gift grudgingly or because you have to. This does not mean to not give the gift to someone, but work until you have changed your own attitude.
8. Thou shalt not become so busy that you don't have time to really enjoy the season.
9. Thou shalt remember that of all the beautiful and expensive gifts, what children want and need most is honor, respect, love, and your time.
10. Above all, Thou shalt find a way to keep the spirit of the Christmas season and of giving all through the year.



Wise Men and Women Still Seek Him



We are in need of someone to assist in the Nursery on **Sunday, December 13th** during the Christmas Cantata.

We also need volunteers to staff the Nursery during the **Christmas Eve** Service.

If you are able to help either of these days, please contact the church office.

House-cleaner Available

Are you looking for someone to come clean your house whether on a regular basis or just for the holidays?

If so, please contact the church at 724-864-1570.



Every three years the Alliance has a National Student Conference called *LIFE*. *LIFE 2010* is coming next summer and will be held in Louisville, Kentucky from July 6 - 10. We are very excited to begin our preparations for *LIFE*. This conference is a once in a lifetime experience. Please pray for our students as they prepare for this event.



The Nativity on display by the Nursery was made and donated by Betty.

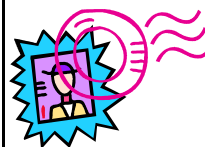
Thank You Betty!!

It was approved to donate the two pews in the Fellowship Hall to anyone who would like them. This was opened to Alliance Churches and now to the congregation. If you would like to have one or both pews, please contact the church office before the end of the year.

CHRISTMAS CARDS



We will once again use one board to display Christmas cards to the congregation. You may sign one card to the entire church family and place it on the board.



SAVE YOUR CANCELLED POSTAGE STAMPS

Used, canceled stamps of all descriptions are collected, trimmed, and sent to Shell Point (a south Florida Alliance Retirement Center) where they are processed and sold to stamp collectors for monies to print Sunday School materials in Spanish for Center and South America.

Since the inception of the project, more than half a million dollars has funded printing Spanish Christian literature.

As Christmas Greetings arrive at your home; please remember to save your postage stamps. Bring them to the church and deposit in the box on the shelf in the small narthex.