
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

March 2009



Easter approaches ~

“Amazing love how can it be
That You my God should die for me . . .
Death in vain forbids Him rise
Christ has opened Paradise.”

Near the celebration of Jesus' resurrection, I've been reading the book "The Prodigal God" by Timothy Keller. The book proclaims the essentials of the Gospel in Luke 15. A secondary meaning of the word "prodigal" is "recklessly spend thrift or extremely generous." This is the way the Father is towards both sons in Luke 15. The Father loves the sinfully wayward younger brother. The Father loves the hardened religious older brother. Most often we are one or the other, the younger or older brother.

"Jesus is showing us the God of the Great Expenditure (the cross) who is prodigal towards us. God's reckless grace is our greatest hope . . . The Father's lavish affection makes the younger brother's repentance more genuine. The Father is not self-righteous about the self-righteous older brother. All the Father has is the older brother's to enjoy."

Whether you and I are sinfully wayward or hardened by religion, Jesus is for us. He will meet us at the cross and the empty tomb.

Robert Frost wrote, "Home is where, when you have to go there, they have to let you in."

Thank you Lord, for being our home and a prodigal God towards us.

Sr. Youth Retreat

April 17—19, 2009

Family First Sports Park in Erie, PA



All registration forms and \$20.00 deposits are due to Mike or Sandra Salvi no later than Wednesday, March 11th. The remaining \$30.00 is due when you leave.

T-shirts will be given out this year ~ please include your shirt size with the registration.

Worship Leaders:

"My Book Your Sandwich"



Guest Speaker to be announced at a later date.



Daylight Savings Time

Please be sure to turn your clocks **AHEAD** one hour before retiring for the night on Saturday, **March 7th**. Daylight Savings will begin at 2:00 am Sunday, **March 8th**.

VIGNETTES by VIRGINIA

Singer and author Michael Card has been criticized for his focus on the cross of Christ. The emphasis of his first ten years of ministry was 1 Corinthians 2:2 ~ *"I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ and him crucified."* Michael moved away from the "somewhat objectionable" theme for awhile, but recently returned to the main focus on the cross because he realized anew that the cross was not glamorous and not a hot topic of conversation. But without the cross—and Jesus' death for our sins—where would we be?? In Michael's book, *"A Violent Grace"*, we are reminded of the necessity of the cross as the source of God's grace to us. Michael refers to Dietrich Bonhoeffer, a twentieth century martyr, with this quote; "How could something become cheap which cost God everything?"

A few other quotes from *"A Violent Grace"* follow:

"Jesus was born to die so that I could be born again to new life (Isaiah 53:1-12); Without the sorrows of Gethsemane there will be no salvation at Golgotha; Jesus LOST all so we can WIN all; Seven perfect words are 'Not My will, but Thine be done'; Jesus embraced weakness in order to expose the impotence of worldly injustice; Jesus endured the scorn for joy (Hebrews 12:2); Jesus bled and died like any other man, but HOW He died proved He was more than a man. He turned every experience of violence into a demonstration of divine power. Grace triumphed; With time the disciples would realize that Jesus never called them to do anything He had not already done, including the laying down of His life; Are we working a complete and radical faith in Him into every moment, every priority of our day?; 'Sacrifice' is the only word that conveys both the horror and the glory of Calvary; Christianity began on the altar of the Lamb of God; Jesus used death to conquer death; Do you hunger to encounter the awesome glory of Jesus?; If you have let His blood stain you, you will be white as snow; Jesus rose for each of us and calls us by name. The promise is for everyone, but the experience of Easter is only for those who believe and have longed for His appearing; At the heart of His glory is servanthood, the true mark of the crucified life; ALLOW YOURSELF TO BE EMBRACED BY GRACE."

As you observe the season of Lent, repeat these prayers that Michael has written: "Make my heart glad as I submit to Your easy yoke, so that I may exult in the freedom of serving You forever." "Jesus, transform my fearfulness and fickleness into faithfulness."

Disciplemaking Ministries
Upcoming Events**April 26 ~ Teacher Appreciation**

10:45 am ~ The children will present a special program entitled *"GPS - God's Plan for Salvation"* which was created by Celeste Clydesdale and arranged by David Clydesdale. Celeste writes, "My prayer is that our children will learn at an early age that because of God's great love for us, He has given us a Plan of Salvation through His Son Jesus! We truly are His treasured possession and every day there is joy in the journey!"

Noon ~ All teachers and assistants for Disciplemaking Ministries will be honored with a special luncheon after the 10:45 service.

Everyone is invited to attend this special program and the luncheon afterward to honor all our Disciplemaking Ministries teachers and assistants.

June 14 ~ Youth Sunday/Graduate Sunday

The youth of NAC will be in charge of the services this day. All high school graduates will be honored as well.

Noon ~ Luncheon hosted by the DMC.

June 22—26 ~ VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

If you can help in any way, please contact Renee Himler.

**ATTENTION
SENIOR FRIENDS!**

The Norwin Alliance Keen-Agers will meet on Thursday, March 26th at 11:30 am. The lunch will consist of: meatloaf, macaroni and cheese and salads. Rev. George Van Riper and his wife Nadine will minister to you with music.

If you are unable to attend the luncheon but would like to hear the Van Ripers, you may join us at 1:00 pm.

Everyone age 50 and over is cordially invited to attend this and all Keen-Agers meetings. First time attendees are not asked to bring a dish, just come and enjoy the food and fellowship.

If you would like to learn more about our Keen-Agers, please contact the co-presidents Ruth Long or Betty Kunkle.