
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 2011



Happy Birthday Jesus. You are the Savior born for us. Only You save us from the penalty of sin. Only You are saving us from the power of sin. Only You will save us from the presence of sin.

Thank-you Savior for bringing peace on earth and good will to men. We are never more free than when we are forgiven by You.

Thank-you Lord for being Lord of all. Every inch in the universe belongs to You. Our will, our soul, our emotions, and our bodies belong to You. Every thought, every relationship, every moment, every penny is created to serve You. Thank-you for setting right what we made wrong. Jesus is Lord and our God reigns.

Thank-you Lord for being God with us. Because of You we are not alone, not rejected, not condemned, not abandoned. Jesus, You are always faithful, always near, always present. An old poem says about You:

It's paradise, if You are here.

If You depart, it's hell.

We love You, Jesus. Glory to God in the highest!

CHRISTMAS EVENTS



- Nov. 27 First Sunday of Advent
- Dec. 4 Second Sunday of Advent
All Gifts for Operation Christmas Joy are due to the church
- Dec. 10 Toy Give-Away ~ 10:30—12:30 pm
- Dec. 11 Third Sunday of Advent
Christmas Cantata ~ 10:45 am
"Connection" Service ~ 7:00 pm
- Dec. 15 Keen-Agers' Christmas Dinner
- Dec. 19 Fourth Sunday of Advent
Children's Christmas Program ~ 10:45 am
Advent Festival Celebration ~ Noon
- Dec. 24 Christmas Eve Candlelight Service ~ 7:00 pm
- Dec. 25 HAVE A VERY BLESSED CHRISTMAS!
- Dec. 26 Church Office Closed



Wise Men and Women Still Seek Him



The following items were approved at the Elder's meeting in November:

1. Discussed the Turkey and Toy Give-Away ministries
2. Approved DMC recommendations

The following items were discussed at the Ministry Board meeting in November:

1. It was approved to use money from the regular Outreach line item to cover any extra cost from the Turkey Give-Away.
2. It was approved to purchase an additional 100 turkeys for the Give-Away.
3. The Toy Give-Away
4. It was approved not to use the current Nativity Set in 2011 and to give it to a donation center. We are looking into the purchase of a new Nativity Set.

If you ever have any questions or concerns about what is happening at the church, please contact Pastor Bob or one of the Board Members:

Elders (Jeff Ewing - Lead, Kevin Craycraft, Ron Dornin, Jim Himler, Wes Hughes, Denny Irwin, Charlie Metzger, Bill Sarber, Jim Worley, Frank Kolar - Elder-in-Training)

Ministry Board members (Cindy Barnhart, Jeff Ewing, Roy Koch, Charlie Metzger, Justin Metzger, Mardy Rogers, Carole Sarber, Ken Simmons, Bob Tierney, Jim Worley)

Christmas gift suggestions:

To your enemy ~ forgiveness.

To an opponent ~ tolerance.

To a friend ~ your heart.

To a customer ~ service.

To all ~ charity.

To every child ~ a good example.

To yourself ~ respect.

Oren Arnold

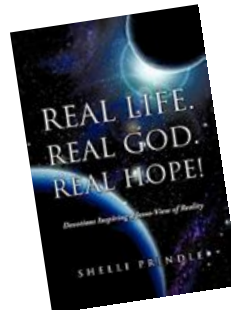
Christmas Cantata

Sunday,
December 10th

10:45 am

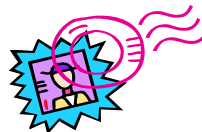


NEW DEVOTIONAL BOOK



Copies of Shelli Prindle's (our Director of Youth and Young Adults) recently published devotional book are now available in the church office. The cost is \$13.00 (which includes tax).

"*Real Life. Real God. Real Hope!* is a must-have and deeply insightful word from the Lord. Each of the 146 pages gives a fresh reflection of a Scripture passage. You will read it over and over. Consider, also, giving a copy to ones you love.



SAVE YOUR CANCELLED POSTAGE STAMPS

Used, canceled stamps (trimmed with a 1/4" border, please) are collected and sold to help fund Christian literature into Spanish for Central and South America. Half-a-million dollars has been raised since the project began with the Alliance in Florida.

Please save your stamps and deposit them in the box located in the narthex (on shelf above the coat rack).

OPERATION CHRISTMAS JOY

Thank you to all who participated in buying gifts for one of our District Pastors. ALL tags have been taken!

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 (along with the description of the gift) to the wrapped gift. All money 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 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 money need to be returned to the church by **Sunday, December 4th** 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 have always been greatly encouraged by your generosity!



CHRISTMAS CARDS



The window in the small narthex will be covered with paper so you can display Christmas cards to the congregation. You may sign one card to the entire church family and tape it to the "window".

KEEN-AGERS

All adults 50 years and over



The Norwin Alliance KEEN-AGERS will meet on Thursday, December 16th 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 chops, Swiss steak, mashed potatoes, broccoli Normandy, tossed 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 Ruth Long, or Betty Kunkle by **Sunday, December 4th**.

The program will be "All About Christmas Carols". Becky Ewing will lead us in singing. The business portion of the meeting will be the installation of the 2012 officers.

All adults 50 years of age or older ~ this is YOUR invitation to attend the last meeting of 2011. Don't delay, get your reservation in soon. Anyone who has not paid by **December 4th** 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 Betty Kunkle (724-446-7605) or Ruth Long (724-863-2761).

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Officers for 2012 were elected at our November meeting and will be installed at our December meeting. The 2012 Officers are as follows:

- | | |
|-----------------|---------------------------|
| Co-Presidents | Betty Kunkle
Ruth Long |
| Vice President | Caroline Tinz |
| Secretary | Norma Wood |
| Asst. Secretary | Paula Bittner |
| Treasurer | Georgia Conley |
| Asst. Treasurer | Paula Bittner |

VIGNETTES by VIRGINIA

Most of us appreciate the advantage of technology. However there are still a few things that are best handled by pen and paper. For example: sending Christmas cards. Even though it takes time, energy, and money, sending a personal greeting adds a special touch to the oft fast-paced holiday activities. Case in point - - here is a sampling of some verses/greetings from Christmas card that hold a favored place in this writer's heart because they are from friends she has known from childhood, or family/friends that moved away from the area and sending Christmas cards are a way to update our lives and stay in touch.

1. "Praying the simple blessings of the season will bring God's peace to your heart and joy to your celebration. Merry Christmas."
2. "On the day He was born, no certificate was written . . . yet the angels did sing. No flowers were delivered for the birth of this King. But here in the stable on the first Christmas morn, the hope of all the world was born!! May the blessings of Christmas be yours. Merry Christmas."
3. "As you listen again to the story of Christmas this year, may you hear the glory and know the love."
4. "What we find in Jesus - - We find peace, and the PRINCE OF PEACE; We find righteousness, and the RIGHTEOUS ONE; We find counsel, and the COUNSELOR; We find wonders, and the WONDERFUL ONE; We find salvation, and the SAVIOUR; We find the Kingdom, and the KING. In Jesus, we find more gifts than our hearts can ever imagine. Wishing you a blessed Christmas."
5. "Lord, bless the families of the earth as Christmas comes this year, bring hope to all your children. Raise their spirits, bring them cheer. Remind us that we're not alone no matter what we do, for You brought Baby Jesus to connect our hearts to you. AMEN."

PS ~ this writer also sends e-cards; BUT still loves to send and receive Christmas cards from many places around the world.



Children's Program Practices

The Children's Christmas Program will be held on Sunday, December 18th during the 10:45 service. The choir has been working hard preparing this musical to present to the congregation. The Toddler class has been preparing a special song, also. They are all very excited to perform and share a special message for Christmas.

PARENTS ~ some special dates to remember are:

Saturday, December 3rd ~ Tentative practice if needed

Saturday, December 10th ~ Music Rehearsal in the Craft Room ~ 10:00 AM to 11:30 PM.

Sunday, December 11 ~ Adult Cantata - children are to sit in the Sanctuary with their parents unless stated otherwise in the bulletin ~ 10:45 AM

Friday, December 16th ~ Stage Set-Up 7:00—8:00 PM.

Saturday, December 17th ~ Dress Rehearsal in the Sanctuary ~ 10:00 AM. Toddlers will practice at 11:30 AM. A Christmas Lunch will follow. Special thanks to Betty Kunkle and her family who will be serving lunch. Please pick your child up by 12:30 PM.

Sunday, December 18th ~ PROGRAM

Please have children (age 5 & up) report to choir room promptly at 10:30 AM to prepare for service.

Toddler class: Please meet in the Toddler room at 10:30 AM. Following the Toddler part in the program, they can either go back to their classroom or sit with their parents. Please decide that ahead of time and let the teachers know.

We appreciate everyone's participation and hard work. If you have any questions, they can be directed to any one of the persons listed below.

Chris LoChiatto (chrissymomof4@gmail.com)

Shelly Denney (shelly_denney@msn.com)

April Meyer (gwagirl@yahoo.com)

Please invite your family and friends and plan to attend our Children's Program at 10:45 AM and then join us for our Annual **ADVENT LUNCHEON** at Noon.

Merry Christmas!



What is Advent?

Advent is a period of spiritual preparation in which many Christians make themselves ready for the coming, or birth of the Lord Jesus Christ. The season of Advent begins on the fourth Sunday prior to Christmas Day, or the Sunday which falls closest to November 30th, and lasts through Christmas Eve. During this time, Christians observe a season of prayer, fasting, and repentance, followed by anticipation, hope, and joy.

Many Christians celebrate Advent not only by thanking God for Christ's first coming to Earth as a baby, but also for his presence among us today through the Holy Spirit, and in preparation and anticipation of his final coming at the end of time.

Advent Symbols and Customs

Advent Colors ~

Purple has traditionally been the primary color of Advent, symbolizing repentance and fasting. Purple is also the color of royalty, demonstrating the anticipation and reception of the coming King.

Pink is also one of the colors of Advent used during the third Sunday. It represents joy or rejoicing and reveals a shift in the season away from repentance and toward celebration

White is the color of the center Advent candle representing purity. Christ is the sinless, spotless pure Savior. Also, those who receive Christ as Savior are washed of their sins and made "whiter than snow."

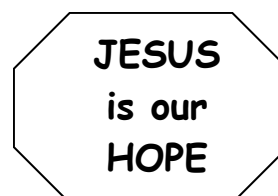
Advent Wreath ~

The **circle of the wreath** reminds us of God Himself, His eternity and endless mercy, which has no beginning or end. **Green of the wreath** speaks of the hope that we have in

God, the hope of newness, of renewal, of eternal life.

Advent Candles ~

Candles symbolize the light of God coming into the world through the birth of His son. The **four outer candles** represent the period of waiting during the four Sundays of Advent, which themselves symbolize the four centuries of waiting between the prophet Malachi and the birth of Christ. The **light of the candles** itself becomes an important symbol of the season. The light reminds us that Jesus is the light of the world that comes into the darkness of our lives to bring newness, life, and hope. It also reminds us that we are called to be a light to the world as we reflect the light of God's grace to others (Isa 42:6). The progression in the lighting of the candles symbolizes the various aspects of our waiting experience. As the candles are lit over the four week period, it also symbolizes the darkness of fear and hopelessness receding and the shadows of sin falling away as more and more light is shed into the world. The flame of each new candle reminds us that something is happening, and that more is yet to come. The **center candle** is white and is called the **Christ Candle**. Finally, the light that has come into the world is plainly visible as the Christ candle is lit at Christmas, and we rejoice over the fact that the promise of long ago has been realized. The **central location of the Christ Candle** reminds us that the incarnation is the heart of the season, giving light to the world.





PRAISE PARTNERS

visit

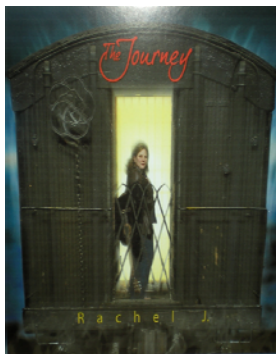
Baldock Health Care Center



The "Praise Partners" were on the road again Sunday, November 20th after church. Mark Lazzaro was behind the wheel of the church van and we all headed for nourishment at Burger King prior to our ministry at Baldock. Ashley and Alyssa Tomko were away with their parents and we lost another twin at Burger King who didn't feel well {Jessica go sick BEFORE eating}. But the show did go on with Shaylin and Keilah Craycraft, Dana Ewing and first time "Praise Partner" Mikayla Peles. When we arrived at Baldock, Cindy Barnhart was there to greet us and the girls sang and recited Bible verses to several residents out and about in the halls including Karen Freise's dad, Mr. Fox. We then went into the dining room and 26 residents came to see and hear the "Praise Partners". The girls recited the verses again, sang several songs and then handed out fall color crosses about God's love that the Sunday School class made last week. The residents were very receptive and gave the "Praise Partners" applause and blessings. Mark closed the event with a blessing from Numbers 6:22-27. Mark, Janice, and I, along with the "Praise Partners" enjoy this ministry and look forward to another road trip in the future.

In His service, Beth Buchanan

A great big THANKS to Mark, Janice, Beth and the "Praise Partner" team for ministering in God's love!!



Copies of Rachel Wilson's CD are available in the church office for a cost of \$15.00.

All check should be made payable to SIM USA. Please put "Rachel Wilson ministry fund #021165" in the memo.

All profits from the CDs go toward Rachel's ministry to Ethiopia.

inward.
outward.
upward.

CONNECTION Service

Sunday, November 13
7:00 pm

"JAW-DROPPING THEOLOGY"
Shelli Prindle

••• connection
2nd Sunday each month
7pm