
KOINONIA

"The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship (Koinonia) of the Holy Spirit be with you all."
2 Corinthians 13:14

NORWIN ALLIANCE CHURCH

JANUARY 2017



Picture the Lord seeking you each moment of 2017. As the Good Shepherd, Jesus is guarding, guiding, leading, loving and carrying you if necessary to follow Him well.

C.S. Lewis had this kind of relationship with the Lord. Lewis was a strong intellectual who held academic positions for 40 years, first at Oxford University and then at Cambridge University (1925-1965).

This is some of C.S. Lewis' conversion and daily testimony as he trusted Christ in his everyday life.

"I looked at my character with a serious practical purpose and there I found what shocked me: a zoo of selfishness; a herd of ambition; a host of hatreds; a nursery of fears."

"I became aware of the steady unstoppable approach of Him who I so strongly desired not to meet. What love is this that opens wide the gates of heaven to a kicking convert whose eyes are darting in every direction looking for a chance of escape? Yet I kneel to the Lord and I know God as God and Christ as Savior."

The Lord will be pursuing us like this throughout the New Year. His love and mercy will lead us to many days of happy repentance.

Have a blessed New Year!



The following items were discussed at the Elder Board meeting in December - the Ministry Board meeting was canceled due to inclement weather:

1. Approved using the church for Christian Counseling
2. Approved Deaconesses to serve in 2017
3. Approved the youth to rent a van for "Winter Jam" in January 2017
4. Approved Brian to enter into the "Elder-in-Training" program.
5. Approved Patrick to fulfill Wes' term as Elder.
6. It was approved by e-mail vote to hold the Annual Congregation Meeting on Sunday, January 29, 2017 at 11:30 am.

YEAR END REPORTS

ALL DEPARTMENT HEADS.....from KEEN-AGERS, DMC, LEAD ELDER, LEAD TRUSTEE, TREASURER, ASST. TREASURER, YOUTH...your End-of-Year reports are due to Cindy Barnhart no later than Sunday, January 22nd. Please make sure that your report includes a financial report (if applicable).

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CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

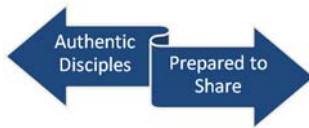
There will be a meeting of the congregation on **SUNDAY**, January 29th at **11:30 AM**.

Even though only members are permitted to vote, everyone is invited to attend the meeting.

Come hear how NAC did in 2016.

Norwin Alliance Youth

***"Teen who are Loving God, One Another, and
Discipling Other Teens"***



Christmas Outreach at Irwin Manor on December 14: We sang carols and played "Nativity Bingo" with the residents. After the presentation of the Gospel, six people requested a Bible of their own! We were truly blessed to bring the joy of Jesus to others!

Christmas Party on December 28: We celebrated Christmas with fun, food, and games from 6:30 pm - Midnight!

Upcoming Event:

Winter Jam 2017 at the Consol Energy Center on January 20th with Crowder, Tenth Avenue North, and others!

Youth Group meets every Wednesday evening beginning at 6:30 pm. It is for youth in grades 6 - 12.

Their fourfold mission is:

1. Provide living examples of disciples in authentic/joyful relationship with God through Jesus by the strength and leading of the Holy Spirit.
2. Encourage passion for the Word of God and a vibrant prayer life through teaching and modeling.
3. Intergrate biblical thinking into all aspects of life, including everyday endeavors.
4. Provide opportunities for young people to begin articulating, defending, and proclaiming their faith.

If you have any questions about the youth group please see one of the youth leaders:

Shelli Prindle, Director of Youth
Bria Craycraft
David Daniels
Justin
Steve & Katie Smith



KEEN-AGERS



HAPPY NEW YEAR!

There will not be a Keen-Ager meeting in January as the weather is too uncertain. Our next meeting will be February 23rd at 11:30 am. Please watch future bulletins and newsletters for the program and menu.

If you are 50 or over, plan to include Keen-Agers in your 2017 calendar. We meet the fourth Thursday of each month, except November and December when we meet the third Thursday for our Thanksgiving and Christmas luncheons.

If you have any questions, please contact Joe/Pat Beyer, Presidents or Ruth Long, Vice-President.

We look forward to seeing you in February.

CONNECTION SERVICE

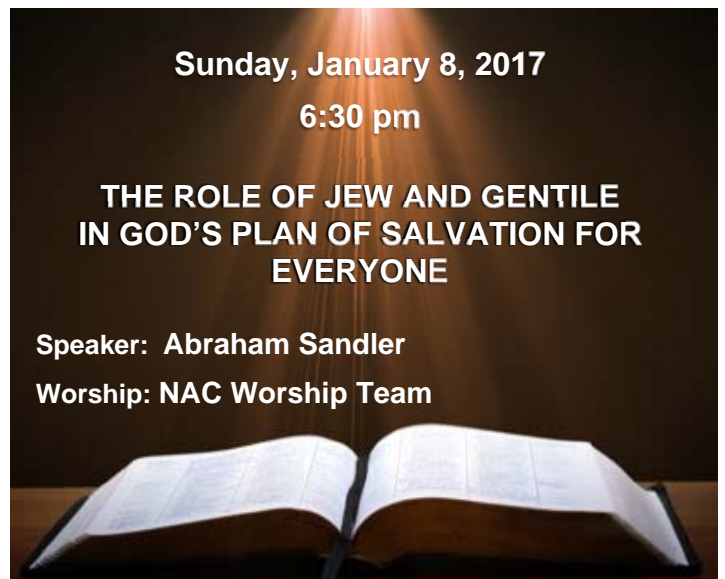
Sunday, January 8, 2017

6:30 pm

**THE ROLE OF JEW AND GENTILE
IN GOD'S PLAN OF SALVATION FOR
EVERYONE**

Speaker: Abraham Sandler

Worship: NAC Worship Team



Vignettes by Virginia

David Jeremiah, of "Turning Point Ministries", wrote a book I Never Thought I'd See the Day! Culture at the Crossroads, (c. 2011). Dr. Jeremiah does not believe the many changes he has witnessed in the United States and the world. Many of the changes can be threatening to us, as to the cultural and spiritual events. He encourages us to live faithfully in the midst of them.

Most people would relate how living in the U.S.A. now is so different than in the previous two or three decades. In the book, nine developments are addresses:

- A. a rise of angry atheists
- B. Spiritual warfare and the closer we are to the ends of the age (Satan is a deceiver)
- C. The dethroning of Jesus; how Jesus is treated with disrespect
- D. The definition of marriage
- E. America's loss of its moral compass
- F. The Bible being 'pushed' from the center of our lives
- G. Irrelevance of the Christian church in the eyes of society
- H. Growing influence of Iran and radical Muslims
- I. Our reduced loyalty to Israel

Dr. Jeremiah's Scriptural references are excellent reminders that even today when we become discouraged, believers of many years ago depended on God and His Word, Jesus and His teaching, to have the faith and hope they needed to live a promising life. (ex: Esther, Paul, the country of Israel, etc., etc.)

Dr. Jeremiah concludes the book with a reminder that the human race is on a collision

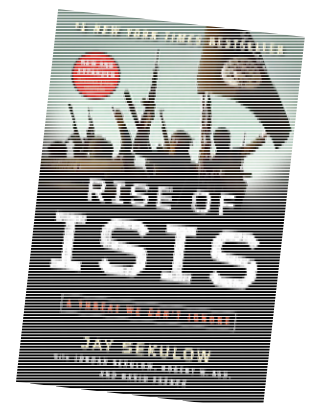
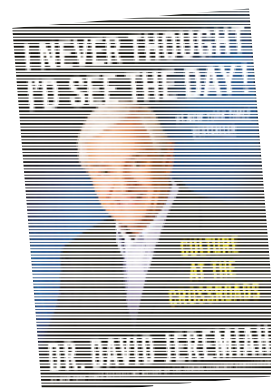
course with calamity (p. 274). Things will get worse before they get better - - and that will probably not be until Jesus returns to earth. In Romans 12:1-2 we read to sacrifice ourselves - - not to be conformed to this world. "Kill your old sin, infested self and open yourself to this new life He offers by His loving mercy."

A quick review of the second book also placed in the library is: Rise of ISIS: A Threat We Can't Ignore by Jay Sekulow, (c. 2014). ISIS is a HORRID threat to many countries (and I also think the United States especially since the 9-11 attack). We are exposed to serious dangers. Christians, Jewish, and liberal Muslims in many places of the world are aware of the insecurities to their lives from the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) and Hamas. Unfortunately President Obama pledged that the USA would continue to provide "hundreds of millions of American taxpayer dollars in aid to this terrorist government" (p. 57)

Please be aware of the thousands of lives that are at stake, including babies and children, teen girls.

PRAY - PRAY - PRAY.

Be ready. Christ will return soon.



The Women's Corner

by Janis Swope

There are many translations and versions of the Bible, but one of the most well-known is the King James Version. This version has been around since its inception in January of 1604 at the Hampton Court Conference. The newly crowned King of England, James I (or if you were Scottish, James VI) called this conference to appease the Puritans. He made few concessions to the Puritans, though. There was a lot of political unrest at the time. Part of that unrest was the result of disagreements among religious factions that had carried over from Queen Elizabeth's reign. She had backed and endorsed the English Reformation begun under Henry VIII, but many pious Englishmen had never been happy with the uneasy state of equilibrium she had crafted to hold off a religiously motivated civil war. Puritans within the Church of England insisted that the Reformation had not gone far enough. They believed it retained too many Catholic elements. Eager to have the Reformation completed, the Puritans thought that James might finally be their champion. Sadly, for them, it was not what happened. James really didn't like the Puritans or their theology. But because they made up a sizeable minority, were well educated and highly motivated, James thought he could work with them. He wanted unity and stability for the state and for the church. In addition to the civil unrest between the Roman Catholics, who wanted the English church to return to Roman Catholicism, the Puritans and a number of other groups, all with their needs and demands to be navigated by the new king, the Plague broke out in London the same year James became king. Thirty thousand deaths were reported in and around London. All this turmoil and more to come were facing James. The conference at Hampton Court was called because the Puritans had petitioned James giving him a list of changes the Puritans wanted to see in the Church of England. So in January of 1604 the conference came about in the private chambers of King James I. In attendance were his Privy Council of advisors, nine bishops and deans, and four representatives of the Puritan cause. No official transcripts of the meeting were permitted so results had to be pieced together from various reports. In the end, the Puritans found the deck stacked against them, but

James did like the suggestion of one of the Puritans that a new translation of the Bible be made because the earlier translations used during the reign of Henry the Eighth were "corrupt and not answerable to the truth of the original." The Bishop of London tried to talk James out of this idea and was quickly rewarded by James with the chairmanship of the project. Thus began the process that brought us the 1611 Authorized King James Version of the Bible. This dearly loved Bible was the only version used for centuries. People still love it today for its beautiful language. Many of us have learned memory verses in the King James Version that have stuck with us. Quite a large number of people still like the King James Version of the Lord's Prayer and can only recite the 23rd Psalm in the language of the KJV. If you are not familiar with this version, I would like to suggest that you give it a try sometime. The old English can be tricky, but I think you will find it a quite satisfying experience to read some of your favorite passages in this respected and loved format. (Thanks to Christian History Magazine, Issue 100, 2011, for information I used in this article.)

Did you know that the Book of James has been called the ABC's of the Christian life as well as the Proverbs of the New Testament? The Women's Sunday School Class is learning what James us to know about living as a Christian. If you are interested, please join me and others in the Craft Room at 9:45 a.m. The Ladies Bible Study is finding out that being Moses wasn't the easiest job in the world. He got a lot of flack leading the Hebrews through the wilderness! Consider this an invitation to join us as we journey through the book of Exodus. We meet Monday mornings at 10:30 a.m. in the craft room and end at noon. And as usual, we'll have the coffee on!

The Last Word

"When God speaks to you, you must not make believe to yourself that it is the wind blowing or the torrent falling from the hill. You must know that it is God. . . You must listen as if listening were your life. And then, then only, can come peace. All other sounds will be caught up into the prevailing richness of that voice of God." – Phillips Brooks (1835 – 1893) American Bishop of the Episcopal Church who was known throughout the United States and England for his preaching. He is also remembered as the composer of the beloved Christmas hymn "O Little Town of Bethlehem. "

*Happy
New Year*

*"Look not back on yesterday
So full of failure and regret;
Look ahead and seek God's way
All sin confessed you must forget"*

Dennis DeHaan

DIRECTORY INFORMATION

We would like to print an updated Norwin Alliance Church directory and need your help. Please fill out the form below and return to the church by Sunday, January 25th. Please be sure to include your name, birth date and birth year to aid in keeping track of the age-groups of our church family.

Whether you have been here 30 years or have just begun to attend, we would like you to fill out one of these forms. Please feel free to contact the church if you have any questions.

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Home phone number _____

E-mail address _____

Birthday (mo/dd/yr) _____

(please include name **AND** year)

Spouse's birthday _____

(please include name **AND** year)

Anniversary _____

Child/Children's Names

Birthdate

Thank you for your help!



WHAT IS YOUR MISSION?

Please check the ministries that you believe could be yours and return to the office.

- Choir ☐
- Disciplemaking Ministries ☐
- Greeter ☐
- Instrumental ☐
- Organ ☐
- Piano ☐
- Other (please list type) _____
- Kitchen ☐
- Landscaping ☐
- Maintenance ☐
- Sound Technician ☐
- Usher ☐
- Other _____



DISCIPLEMAKING MINISTRIES

Nursery (newborn – age 2)

- First Service ☐ Sunday School ☐
Second Service ☐

Sunday School ~ All ages

- Children (ages 2-3) ☐
Primary (ages 4 – grade 1) ☐
Junior (grades 2 – 5) ☐
Youth (grades 6 – 12) ☐
Adult Teacher ☐ Sub. ☐

Wednesday Evening for Children and Youth

- Youth (grades 6 – 12)
Teacher ☐ Sub ☐ Assistant ☐

AWANA (age 2 – grade 5)

- Puggles* (age 2 and early 3)
Teacher ☐ Sub ☐ Assistant ☐

- Cubbies* (ages late 3, 4, 5 [not in Kindergarten])
Teacher ☐ Sub ☐ Assistant ☐

- Sparks* (Kindergarten – grade 2)
Teacher ☐ Sub ☐ Assistant ☐

- Truth and Training - TNT* (grades 3 - 5)
Teacher ☐ Sub ☐ Assistant ☐

- Game Leader* ☐

Name _____

E-Mail _____

Phone # _____

* * All teachers and helpers must have current clearances on file at the church. Please contact Carole Sarber if you are interested in helping with our DMC Department.