
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

May 2024



Leviticus 16:7-22 describes how, on the day of Atonement, the high priest was to take two goats and present them before the LORD. One goat was killed as a sin offering, making atonement for the people's sin. The priest then laid hands on the live goat, the scapegoat, and sent it into the wilderness, carrying the people's sins away.

In Isaiah 53:5, is a prophecy concerning Jesus describing him as one pierced for our transgressions and crushed for our iniquities. Yet Isaiah's prophecy also depicts him as the scapegoat. In Isaiah 53:4 Jesus is described as bearing our griefs and carrying our sorrows; in 53:3, Jesus as despised and rejected by men.

John the Baptist said of Jesus at his baptism, "Behold the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world. Thomas Torrance describes this event as Jesus "vicariously baptized into repentance and consecrated as the Lamb of God to bear away the sin of the world." For after this, Jesus was led by the Spirit alone into the desert, "under the burden of our sin."

Going back to Leviticus 16:16, atonement was made for the Holy Place, because of the sin of the people. This was so the people could enter the tent of meeting where the LORD would dwell. From the fall in Genesis 3 onward, God began his plan to redeem mankind to himself, so he could be present with us.

In 1 Corinthians 6:19, our bodies are described as temples of the Holy Spirit and in 3:9 that the believers together are God's building. Duvall and Hays say that God's people "are not simply allowed to enter the holy of holies, but they themselves are now the holy of holies. God now dwells among his people."

We are now weeks removed from celebrating Christ's death and resurrection during the Easter season. Yet, the focus of Easter is still the center of our faith. We are still reconciled to God, and we get to be in God's presence every day!

The reconciliation between us and God is not a state of feeling guilty and bad all the time, like the expression "I'm just a sinner saved by grace" implies, all the while being thankful that our sins were paid for. Rather, the reconciliation between us and God is one of being clothed in Christ's righteousness with our identity now as saint, not sinner. Though we still sin and stumble in many ways, our identity as believers is no longer sinner. We can now draw near the throne of grace with confidence. Jesus was both the perfect sacrifice and the Lamb of God who took away the sin of the world.



PRAYER TIME

Join us on the first Wednesday at 7:00 pm and the first Thursday at 11:00 am of each month for a time to pray for: one another; our church family; the mission, purpose, staff, and leaders of Norwin Alliance Church; the church universal; our community; our nation; and the world.

We hope that those who cannot meet on Wednesday night, will be able to join us on Thursday morning.

We pray that this special time of monthly prayer together will help us see what God wants us to do as a church and build unity in and through our church members.

“Again, I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything you ask for, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them.”

- Matthew 18:19-20

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER**Thursday, May 2, 2024****Time of Prayer Together ~
11:00 am in the Sanctuary**

**LIFT UP THE WORD
LIGHT UP THE WORLD**
2 SAMUEL 22:29-31
THE 73rd ANNUAL NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER
THURSDAY, MAY 2, 2024

"For you are my lamp, O Lord, and my God lightens my darkness. For by You I can run against a troop, and by my God I can leap over a wall. This God—his way is perfect; the word of the Lord proves true; He is a shield for all those who take refuge in Him."

2 Samuel 22:29-31

2024 National Prayer

Jesus, we profess our faith in You. You are the Light of the world, and in You there is no darkness. For You are our lamp, O LORD, and our God who lights our darkness. Forgive us for fearing and focusing on the darkness around us instead of being filled with faith and shining like the city on a hill You have called us to be. Forgive us for the times when we have been the absence of light, allowing darkness to dwell in America. Lead us forward to dispel the darkness and bring light throughout the Church, Family, Education, Business, Military, Government, and Arts, Entertainment, and Media.

We are saved by grace through faith, released from the darkness that once held us captive and now free to walk in the newness of life in You. Light dispels darkness and exposes what is hidden and wicked, so we commit to rise and shine! For by You, Lord, we can take courage to run against the enemy, and by our God we can fight the good fight and keep the faith as living lampstands in our communities and country. We fear no evil for You are with us.

Lord, Your way is perfect, You lead us on paths of righteousness for Your name's sake. Your Word is a lamp to our feet and a light to our path. Your Word is Truth, instructing and inspiring us to live in the abundant life You gave when You saved us from the

death and destruction of the enemy. Fill us with Truth as we read, study, and live Your Word.

*God, You are a shield for all those who take refuge in You. As we abide in You and Your Word abides in us, we take up our shield of faith and the sword of the Spirit which is the Word of God and run boldly into the darkness to **Lift Up the Word and Light Up the World!***

In the Mighty name of Jesus we pray, Amen!

Written by NDP Task Force
President, Kathy Branzell

**How to Pray for America**

God is sovereign and nothing comes as a surprise to Him. Whether we face fluctuating economics, threats from abroad, unrest at home, or other troubling circumstances, our Heavenly Father is not caught unaware. Through prayer, we are able to tap into His wisdom, strength, protection, and peace. He stands ready to respond to our needs when we humbly ask for divine intervention in the affairs of men.

As we Pray for America whose pledge of allegiance recounts that we are "one nation under God," and whose currency states that it is "in God we trust," we want Americans to encounter the God who rules over their country. "He who forms the mountains, creates the wind, and reveals His thoughts to man, He who turns dawn to darkness, and treads the high places of the earth—the LORD God Almighty is His name." —Amos 4:13 NIV

He is the One who gave us this promise in 2 Chronicles 7:14: "If my people, who are called by My name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land." As we humbly and diligently seek Him, we'll be changed, and we'll see transformation in America through prayer!

Pray for:

GOVERNMENT (Federal, State, Local): "Pray for your leaders, as well as the judges in our courts. Ask God to grant them wisdom to act with integrity.

MILITARY: Perseverance to endure hardship; Wise leaders who inspire respect from those under their command; Protection and support for the families they have left behind.

MEDIA: The decision makers to realize they can make a profit producing uplifting projects.

EDUCATION: Safe atmosphere conducive to learning; Excellence in educators; Equal opportunities for every student to achieve their full potential.

CHURCH: The church would find a new zeal and commitment to the mission and purpose of Jesus Christ; Unity with and among churches that reveal God's love to the world; Integrity—that God's people look and act differently from the world.

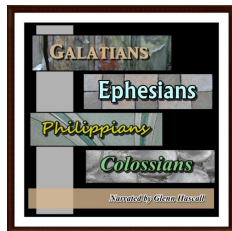
FAMILY: "If a house is divided against itself, that house cannot stand." Mark 3:25. Unity and love in individual families that reach out in hospitality toward others; Establish healthy relationships between parents and children.

BIBLE QUIZ

Our Bible Quizzers have done an outstanding job this season. The regular season ended on April 6th with a closing banquet and awards ceremony at the Allegheny Center Alliance Church. Daniel and Titus were recognized for being in the top ten for their divisions. In addition, four of Norwin's quizzers have qualified to move on to District Finals which will be held in Uniontown at the Cherry Tree Alliance Church on May 3 and 4.

Norwin Alliance had 8 kids quizzing this year on the books of Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, and Colossians. Congratulations Alexis, Caleb, Daniels, Jacob, Matthew, Nehemiah, Titus, and William on a great season!

Many thanks to the parents and coaches (Joe, Becky, Benjamin and Michael) for their time and effort.



A Call to Prayer

I grew up with a Westminster chime clock. The first chiming happened in 1859. The clock rings out every 15 minutes and was intended to encourage prayer. Each chime note has a corresponding word. Who did that? Inspired by Psalm 37. All through this hour, Lord be my guide, that by thy power, no foot shall slide. As with many noises, like living next to the railroad tracks, we get accustomed to the sound and eventually we simply don't hear it. Oh Lord I pray, don't permit our human nature to tune out the promptings of Thy Holy Ghost.

Blessings
Deborah D.



Ladies Tea
"Fill Your Cup"
Saturday, May 18th
11:30 am

Bring your tea cup or mug and join women just like you as we gather together for a time of friendship and fellowship.

Special Speaker: Rachel Wilson

Special Music: Cheryl Dobrowolski

Sponsored by the Ladies Bible Study

All Ladies are Welcome!

Please sign the sheet in the narthex by May 12th.



Hang It On the Cross

*If you have a secret sorrow,
A burden or a loss,
An aching need for healing . . .*

Hang It On the Cross.

*If worry steals your sleep
And makes you turn and toss,
If your heart is feeling heavy . . .*

Hang It On the Cross.

*Every obstacle to faith
Or doubt you come across,
Every prayer unanswered . . .*

Hang It On the Cross.

*For Christ has borne our brokenness
And dearly paid the cost
To turn our trial to triumph . . .*

Hang It On the Cross.

Lisa O. Engelhardt

Operation Christmas Child (OCC) Packing Party!

EVERYONE is invited!
Saturday, July 27, 2024
6:30 pm—8:30 pm



Join us for fun and fellowship as we pack items that have been donated into shoeboxes. Please sign the sheet in the narthex if you will be attending the party.

Our goal is 100 boxes!

Demonstrate God's love in a tangible way to children in need around the world through Operation Christmas Child.

** Please help with this great ministry ~ Sign the sheet in the narthex and donate items to go in the shoeboxes.

All donations may be dropped off at the church office by July 21st.

Boxes will be made available if you want to make individual boxes.



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HELP WANTED

Norma Wood is looking for someone to cut her upper, back yard.

If interested, please contact the church office.

DID YOU KNOW that not only does newspaper media reach



Senior Adult Ministry

KEEN-AGERS

The May meeting of Norwin Alliance Keen-Agers will be on Thursday, May 23rd at **11:00 am**.

The meal will be **HEARTY BREAKFAST for LUNCH**. Please bring a dish to share.

Program: Rachel Slafka from Hospice

** Food Pantry item is: Laundry & Dish Soap

Everyone age 50 and over is invited to join us for lunch and fellowship.

Hope to see you on May 23rd ~ we are looking forward to having a great morning together.

Summer Special Music

I will be putting together some different groups for the summer as the choir takes its annual break. I am looking for vocalists and instrumentalists.

Please see me by mid-May if you think you would be interested in participating.

Thank you!
Vicki Booher



Each month the preschool children collect specific food items for the Irwin Area Food Pantry.

If you would like to contribute, a box is available in the narthex. May's collection item: **Laundry & Dish Soap**.

Thank you so much for any contributions you can make.

