
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



In Matthew 16:13, Jesus asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" They responded: "Some say John the Baptist, others say Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." Then Jesus asked them directly: "But who do you say that I am?" Simon Peter, replied, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." A timeless application of this passage is that this is a question that each of us must answer ourselves: who do we say that Jesus is?

However, we must remember that Jesus' identity—who he is—isn't dependent on what you and I think of him. Some people think he is myth; others say he was just a good and influential teacher. That may be all he is to them, but his identity as the Christ, the Son of the Living God, doesn't change. He will return to reign on earth and one day every knee will bow, and every tongue will confess that he is Lord.

We rightly highlight Jesus was more than just a good man and even miracle worker. He was and is the Son of God, God with us, the second person of the Trinity, that to see Him is to see the Father. This aspect connects with his substitutionary death, that only one who is fully God and fully man could pay for our sins. Yet, we can easily overlook his title of Christ or Messiah.

You cannot study the background of the New Testament without reading about the Jewish expectation for the coming Messiah—often limited to restoring the nation of Israel and overthrowing the Romans and solving a temporal issue of injustice. However, when correcting for this misunderstanding we cannot reduce Jesus' kingship to just a defensive action in payment of sins. Jesus' response to Peter is telling: "Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven. And I tell you, you are Peter, and on

this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it."

The discussion of this verse is often the debate on the significance of Peter. It is of interest that the Greek for Peter means stone, while the rock (on this rock I will build my church) is a related Greek word that means bedrock or massive rock. It is therefore a legit interpretation that this rock wasn't referring to Peter, but to his profession that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God. Whether the rock refers to Peter himself, his confession, or Christ as the foundation, what is clear is that the church is built upon Jesus' identity.

What is easy to overlook is that the "gates of hell" are the enemy's defenses. Too often the church views itself as trapped inside a fortress, trying to keep the enemy from breaching OUR walls. Instead, the church here is described as the invading army. Christ's church is called to breach the gates of hell and reclaim the territory of the true King. The church is to wage war.

Yet the war we wage isn't to reclaim "Christendom" or gain temporal control over societal institutions. Christ's church reclaims the territory of the King one soul at a time. This happens as people respond to the gospel and receive Jesus as Lord. It happens as strongholds are broken, and as Jesus reigns in our lives and in the lives of others.

The church must not forget that Jesus is the Reigning Messiah. While his ultimate reign is to come when he returns to reign on earth, his Kingdom is a present reality as well. He is not calling his church to hunker down in its fortress—trying to not lose any more ground before he returns. The humility Jesus modeled—and now calls us to—is not at odds with living in humility before the Commander of the armies of Heaven. As our commander, He is calling us to follow Him as He leads the charge into the world, to push back the gates of hell and reclaim the territory that belongs to Him.

MISSION & VISION



Norwin Alliance's Mission:

Making disciples who grow, serve, and witness through word and action.

Our Vision:

To see a Spirit-empowered church of all generations making disciples who make disciples.



Keen-Agers

Keen-Agers is for everyone age 50 and over.

Our August meeting will be Thursday, August 28 at 11:00 am.

Menu: Hot Dogs and Hamburgers on the grill with sides

Program: LuAnne Baker ~ Biblical Portrayals

Food Pantry Item: Canned Meats (tuna, chicken, spam, etc)

Hope to see you on August 28th for a great day together.

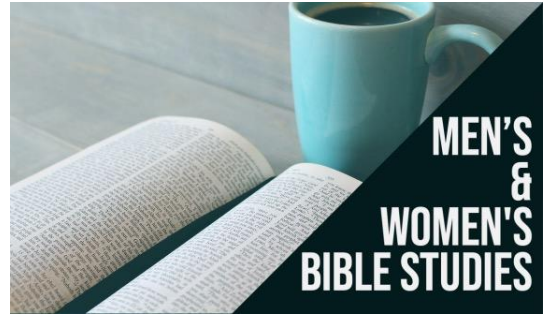


The Prayer Shawl group will begin meeting again on Monday, September 8th at 7:00 pm in the back Youth Area. We meet once a month. There will be a short devotion before working on any project you might bring.

All crocheters and knitters are welcome to attend. If anyone is interested in learning to crochet or knit, please attend and we can make plans for a workshop.

Looking forward to meeting again.

Mardy Rogers



NO Bible studies in August

The Men's and Women's Bible studies will continue their break the month of August.

Bible studies will resume September 8th at 10:30 am.



AUGUST PRAYER TIMES

Wednesday, August 6

7:00 pm
and

Thursday, August 7

11:00 am

Dartball Fun Days

Mondays, August 11, 25

The Dartball Team is inviting anyone interested in Dartball to come and try it out this summer.

This is a great time of instruction, fellowship, and fun with the pressure of league play.

League play will resume in the fall.

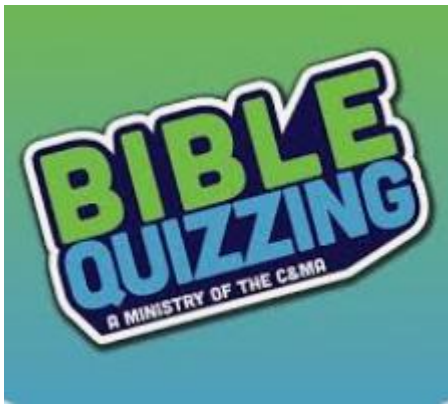
Come and join the fun!



Do you have old magazines you do not read anymore? A nursing home aide is looking for magazines for her residents to look at to calm them down. Birds, Flowers, Cars, etc . . .

If you have magazines you would be willing to donate, please place them in the basket outside the Secretary's office. THANK YOU!





International Bible Quizzing

Nineteen teams from twelve districts across the US and Canada met at Crown College in St Bonifacius, Minnesota from July 15 - 19 to compete in this year's International Bible Quizzing tournament. These 7th - 12th graders were studying and memorizing the book of Luke this year. Each team competed in 12 rounds of quizzing during the two and a half days of preliminary quizzing. The top 9 teams moved on to the championship brackets.

The Western PA district sent two teams to the competition. One of our WPA teams, led by Daniel Cox, ended up in 3rd place after the preliminary rounds of quizzing. At the end of the championship bracket competition, WPA 1 landed in 6th place.

Three WPA quizzers ended up placing in the top 10 individual quizzers. These were Miles from WPA 2 in 10th place, Hannah from WPA 1 in 7th place and Daniel from WPA 1 in 3rd place. In addition, Hannah was also the second-highest placing rookie.

Congratulations WPA teams!!

August's collection item: **Personal Hygiene Products** (shampoo, conditioner, toothpaste, toothbrushes, deodorant, mouthwash, etc)



**Large Christmas Tree
and
All the decorations for it**

If you are searching for another tree at Christmas, please contact the church office

It has only been used twice, but it is too hard now for the couple to get it in and out of their attic.



AWANA Program for kids ages 2 yrs through 5th grade

Wednesday Evenings ~ 6:45 – 8:00 pm

Join us for Bible lessons, games, and snacks

AWANA Kick-Off

On August 27 AWANA will host the Wild World of Animals at 6:30 pm. The presentation is about an hour long and features a number of exotic animals. The trainer displays the animals and provides fun and informative facts about them that are suitable for all ages. The program is open to anyone, not just AWANA kids, so feel free to come out and invite a friend.

The following week, on Sept 3, we will begin our new AWANA year with a-MAZE-ing Grace night at 6:45. Kids ages 2 years - 5th grade are invited to attend.

Registration forms can be found in the small narthex on the shelf, on our website (norwinalliance.org), or on the last page of this newsletter.

Looking forward to the start of another great year.



On July 19th, 30 enthusiastic folks packed 100 boxes! Enjoyed good fellowship and fantastic pizza. The evening couldn't have happened without the generosity of those who donated items. Thank you!

FOMO (Fear of Missing Out) affecting you? Don't worry, you still have an opportunity to participate in the OCC Shoebox Ministry. Soon and very soon, boxes will be available for you to personally pack. Please return boxes by **November 9th**. There is no limit to the number you can fill.





2025-2026 Registration Form

Family Information: Parents - please complete all information for each child who is registered.

Parent/Guardian Name(s) _____

Address _____ City _____ ST _____ Zip _____

Home Number _____ Cell Number _____

Email _____ Church affiliation _____

Emergency contact _____ Phone # _____

Preferred method of receiving notifications: Phone call _____ Text _____

or Email _____

Kids Information

Name _____ Date of birth _____ Age _____ Grade _____

Known allergies (including food) _____

Special Needs _____

What else would you like us to know about your child?

I authorize Norwin Alliance Church to use photographs of my child(ren) for local publications, brochures, or web posting.

_____ Yes _____ No

I authorize Norwin Alliance Church to use photographs of my child(ren) for posting throughout the church facility.

_____ Yes _____ No

Parent Signature _____