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# 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

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**NORWIN ALLIANCE CHURCH**

**DECEMBER 2017**

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He will be called Wonderful Counselor. This is a stunning and humbling self-revelation of Jesus. The Hebrew word for Wonderful means “extraordinary, unusual, a miracle, hard to understand, too high, full of wonder.”

Most truth about our Lord is this way: Wonderful God’s character is honored with the same word in Psalm 139:5 “Such knowledge is too wonderful for me” and in Psalm 131:1 “I do not concern myself . . . with things too wonderful for me.”

To paraphrase Ravi Zacharias “Sometimes trying to explain Jesus is an attempt to control Him. If God can be explained by a 3 1/2 pound brain, He is a God too small to change my life and save my soul.” So even at Jesus’ birth we meet an Infinite Wonderful God.

We can still worship and wonder when:

- ~ we can’t explain the Virgin Birth.
- ~ we can’t explain Mary and Joseph.

~ we can’t explain Herod’s evil at baby boys.

~ we can’t explain Jesus’ hypostatic union. (God and man)

~ we can’t explain a small-town Messiah.

~ we can’t explain the cradle or the cross.

“Christmas crammed with heaven and every common moment is afire with God.” ~ Browning (edited)



## 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”.



## EVENTS

- Dec. 3 First Sunday of Advent  
Children's Christmas Program ~ 10:45 am  
**"JINGLE BELL BEACH"** 
- Dec. 10 Second Sunday of Advent  
 Christmas Cantata - 10:45 am  
**"SEARCHING FOR THE KING"**  
Connection Service - 6:30 pm
- Dec. 17 Third Sunday of Advent  
Advent Festival Afternoon - Noon
- Dec. 21 Keen-Ager's Christmas Dinner
- Dec. 24 Fourth Sunday of Advent  
Morning Worship Services 8:30 & 10:45  
Christmas Eve Candlelight Service -  
7:00 pm
- Dec. 25 Merry Christmas!

Connection Service  
Sunday, December 10  
6:30 pm

## ADVENT FESTIVAL AFTERNOON

Please come and join your church family for an "Advent Festival Afternoon" on Sunday, December 17th.

The afternoon will begin with our Advent luncheon – then you will be able to take part in activities with your church family: making Christmas crafts, singing Christmas carols in the Sanctuary or perhaps you and your friends would like to Christmas Carol in our neighborhood. Games will be available in the youth area; you are welcome to bring games to play in the Fellowship Hall after lunch.

Several prizes will be given for guessing the number of items in a bowl or jar or sleigh.

Our afternoon will continue until 3pm. You may stay for the entire time or any part of it.

Please let someone on the DMC (Carole Sarber, Renee Himler, Lindsey Boone, Beth Buchanan, Becky Cox, Bria Craycraft, Sue Hoffman, Frank/Dannette Kolar, Ruth Long, Shelli Prindle, Bill Sarber, Virginia Wilson) know what you and your friends would like to do that day.

Advent is a special time in the Christian faith – looking toward the coming of Jesus.

Please plan to join us for this festive time.

So many people's hearts cry out that they are "dying to live," meaning that they really wish they could experience a full and invigorating life. Ironically, Jesus offers a full and invigorating life only as we truly "die to live." Every moment, every motive, every action completely yielded to His will instead of my own is the real way to live. Wherever my will bumps up against God's will, my self must be crushed. Amazingly, this brings real life and real hope! It's the way of the cross, the way of Jesus, and the way to Heaven!

What if we actually took Jesus at His Word? What if we really believed and applied what He said? How could it change everything?

Come explore an all too-familiar passage, and see it in a brand new light by the power of God's Spirit!

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## Dying to Live

Have we ever really grasped what Jesus requires?

A Message By  
**Shelli Prindle**

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Sunday Dec 10 | 6:30 – 8 pm  
Norwin Alliance Church

**KEEN-AGERS**



Calling all senior citizens of Norwin Alliance Church to attend the final 2017 meeting of Keen-Agers on Thursday, December 21<sup>st</sup> at 11:30 am for our Christmas Luncheon/Party.

The menu will be: baked ham with pineapple, scalloped potatoes, green bean casserole, tossed salad, mixed berry pie, and peach pie. The cost is \$10.00 and is due by December 10th. The meal will be prepared by Lori Kuhn, Chef & Caterer.

Kevin Craycraft will play his bells for your entertainment.

Everyone 50 and up is welcome to come join us. Hope to see you there and help us celebrate our Savior's birth.

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Officers for 2018 were elected at our November meeting and will be installed at our December meeting. The 2018 Officers are as follows:

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|-----------------|-----------------|
| Co-Presidents   | Joe/Patty Beyer |
| Vice-President  | Ruth Long       |
| Secretary       | Norma Wood      |
| Asst. Secretary | Ruth Minto      |
| Treasurer       | Georgia Turnsek |
| Asst. Treasurer | Bill Swope      |

**VIGNETTES by VIRGINIA**

Most of us enjoy the special music that is heard during the Christmas season. We are blessed with a fantastic group of children and adults.

The words of a song musician, Ralph Carmichael, wrote the message of Christmas follow:

*Over in Bethlehem one clear and shivery night, All of the stars were out, but one was especially bright. For it was shining down Over that little town Where Baby Jesus lay, There on a bed of hay. Jesus came to love us like we are right now; Glad or sad, Good or bad, Tall and wise, 'Bout your size!! He can love us anyhow, anyhow. Over in Bethlehem bright stars still shine above. Children still laugh and play Protected by the Savior's love. (c. 1969)*

Listening to, and singing, the music is very uplifting. We carry the memories of Christmas celebrations throughout our life. We teach our children, grandchildren, friends, whomever, some of those very special 'spotlights' that help remove the negative aspects of the year, and instead are given a positive outlook for the future.

Of course, reading and memorizing God's Word is one of the BEST ways to grab on to life and depend on the Lord for daily guidance. Remember Jesus came to earth for a very important reason - - LOVE and SALVATION.

- C arols
- H allelujahs
- R edeemer
- I nvitations
- S tars
- T rinity
- M anger
- A ngels
- S hepherds

- G ratitude
- R ecognition
- E motions
- E ternity
- T ravlers
- I nn
- N ativity
- G enesis 1:2
- S cripture



**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).



## “The Christmas Gift”

A Christian Nutcracker dance performance featuring Jessica Ewing. Saturday, December 2<sup>nd</sup> at 1:00 pm at the Science Hall at Westmoreland County Community College. (Jessica is only in the 1:00 show).

## SIGHT & SOUND BUS TRIP



Saturday, April 7, 2018

Cost is \$217.00/person and includes: bus, lunch at Good-n-Plenty, and your ticket (lower level, center section, rows L, M, N).

Please sign the sheet in the narthex if you would like to attend. Last day to sign-up is February 26<sup>th</sup>.

Please see Pat Beyer with any questions.

## Your Christmas Is Too Small

Excerpt from Shelli Prindle

Your Christmas is too small. . . Your Christmas is too small if it leaves Jesus in the manger, or on the Cross, – or even rising from the tomb and ascending to Heaven. If your “Silent Night” does not give way to “Resounding Day,” then your Christmas is too small. Your Christmas is too small unless you connect the message of the angel Gabriel two millennia ago to the future message of the nameless, seventh angel and many loud voices:

FIRST CHRISTMAS: “And [Gabriel] said to her, ‘Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus’” (Luke 1:30-31, ESV).

FINAL, ETERNAL ADVENT: “Then the seventh angel blew his trumpet, and there were loud voices in heaven, saying, ‘The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and he shall reign forever and ever’” (Revelation 11:15, ESV).

When Christmas seems too small, remember a line from the third stanza of “Silent Night”: “*Radiant beams from thy holy face with the dawn of redeeming grace . . .*” Christmas is only the beginning – the *dawn* of the new Day.

Silent night of long ago will give way to the resounding day of yet-to-come when the humble Jesus of the manger re-enters the world as the mighty Christ of the universe. The story goes from obscure birth without fanfare to angelic trumpets and loud voices proclaiming the inversion of a godless world into the glorious kingdom of God. He who served us with His birth and death will finally rule us with His life!



The following items were approved at the Elder’s and Ministry Board meetings in November:

1. Disciplemaking Ministries Activities: Youth lock-in December 27th from 6:30 pm - Midnight; Cancelling youth group on January 3rd; Holding an “Advent Festival Afternoon” on Sun., Dec. 17th to include lunch, Christmas caroling, crafts, games
2. Moving Communion from December 3 to November 26 to accommodate December’s Children’s Christmas Program and the Choir Cantata.
3. Membership Classes and a Baptism will take place in February.
4. Mission’s Trip for the summer of 2018 to the Dominican Republic has been cancelled.
5. A trip to *Sight and Sound* Theatre in Lancaster April 7, 2018. Joe & Pat Beyer will coordinate.
6. Discussed concern for church security on Sundays.
7. NASCO Roofing will add a ridge vent to our roof in December.
8. Approved SERVPRO to handle the mold issue in the Sanctuary.