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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 2020**

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*The birth of our Lord Jesus Christ continues to be a life changer beginning with the people recorded in the New Testament. Some people trusted Him strongly and some people rejected him strongly.*

*Mary and Joseph ~ Jesus' parents were fearful, joyful, confused, and under great hardship when Jesus was born. Their hearts would break from their Savior's rescue mission. Yet Mary would say her soul rejoices in God her Savior.*

*John the Baptist ~ Cousin John would be six months older than Jesus. John would "leap" in the womb of his mother when his "Aunt Mary" greeted Elizabeth, his mom. Life at conception is shown as precious to God in this event. And John's mother, Elizabeth, would be one of the first to call Jesus, "my Lord". Luke 1:43*

*The Shepherds ~ These outcasts were "sore afraid" about the news of Jesus' birth. This shows God alone is to be feared: not man, not death, not the devil, not a virus. These common folk hurried to see Jesus and were the first to hear "good news of great joy, the Savior has been born, peace on earth."*

*Herod ~ Jealous of Jesus, Herod attempted to have Jesus murdered and killed many while doing so. This evil leader was disturbed and furious about Jesus. Those who reject the Lord are this way still.*

*Which Bible character sounds most like you? By God's grace, may we trust Him and worship Him throughout eternity.*

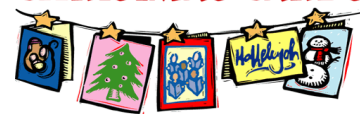


## EVENTS

- Nov. 29 First Sunday of Advent
- Dec. 6 Second Sunday of Advent
- Dec. 13 Third Sunday of Advent  
Christmas Cantata "The Arrival" ~ 10:45am
- Dec. 20 Fourth Sunday of Advent
- Dec. 24 Christmas Eve Candlelight Service - 7:00 pm
- Dec. 25 Merry Christmas!

Each of us is  
an Innkeeper  
who decides  
if there is  
room for Jesus  
-Neal A. Maxwell

## 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".

**INTRODUCING BALD BEAGLE - A YOUTUBE CHANNEL FOR KIDS**

As America’s future guardians, it’s imperative we make sure our children and grandchildren are receiving the best education possible.

At a time when so many kids are stuck at home trying to learn online, and certain groups are even calling for a rewrite of American history - - we at the ACLJ decided to take action.

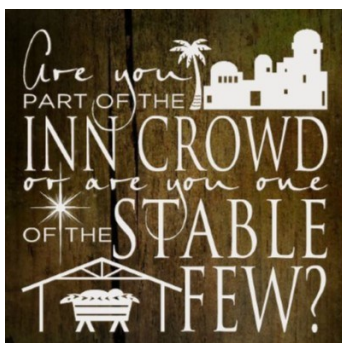
“Bald Beagle” is an exciting new ACLJ project and brand-new YouTube channel that offers fun, educational video content you can share with the children in your life.

“Bald Beagle” is a place for kids to find engaging, educational entertainment that illustrates the great, sometime complicated history and principles of the United States. From the Founding Fathers to how government actually works - to what even kids can do to protect and preserve our constitutional republic - we are building a channel devoted to teaching children about American history in a fun way.

The ACLJ creative team established this programming; some of our dynamic writers, performers, and creators have worked with children’s entertainment leaders like Disney and Nickelodeon.

With “Bald Beagle”, parents, grandparents, and caregivers can rest assured that kids are being taught fundamental truths, not being exposed to an extreme, subversive agenda. We also present lessons of faith and the moral principles that our nation was founded on, which so many of us still share today.

Check out “Bald Beagle” with your kids today.



**CHRISTMAS CANTATA**

Sunday, December 13<sup>th</sup>  
10:45 am



*Celebrating the Joy of His Birth*

Please invite your family, friends, and neighbors on December 13<sup>th</sup> to hear our Adult Choir as they present their Christmas Cantata, “THE ARRIVAL”. May the music touch your hearts, and may the message fill you with hope, joy, and the blessing of Christmas.

★  
**GOD**  
**ROCK**  
**SAVIOR**  
**MESSIAH**  
**IMMANUEL**  
**HOLY • CHILD**  
**MIGHTY • GOD**  
**LORD • OF • ALL**  
**LAMB • OF • GOD**  
**CHRIST • OF • GOD**  
**KING • OF • KINGS**  
**THE • WORD • OF • GOD**  
**ALPHA • AND • OMEGA**  
**PRINCE • OF • PEACE**  
**LIGHT • OF • THE • WORLD**  
**HEAD • OF • THE • CHURCH**  
**SON • OF • THE • HIGHEST**  
**EVERLASTING • FATHER**  
**RESURRECTION • AND • LIFE**  
**JESUS**

### **The Women's Corner**

By Janis Swope

Merry Christmas! Hope you had a great Thanksgiving and are making plans for a great Christmas.

I have a question for you. It's something I've been thinking about lately and I've been praying about it. What should we do when someone in your family or in our church family does something that hurts us. I'm not talking about physical hurt, but hurt that is the result in their actions and speech. Maybe it is a thoughtless word or an omission of some kind. It hurts you, but they may not even realize that that they shot an arrow in your direction and it was a direct hit. How are we supposed to react to these arrows?

When I get hit by one of these arrows, it actually hurts in my heart. I feel sad and helpless in how to heal from it. Is confrontation the way to handle it? Do I just ignore the hit and keep on keeping on without ever saying anything to the person responsible? How does Jesus want me to handle this? How do I get over it?

Here are some helps that I have discovered in researching how I can learn to deal with these situations. A website called [compellingtruth.org](http://compellingtruth.org) advises that difficult people are everywhere. Rude, selfish, impatient, mean folks are out there. (Romans 1:29-31; II Timothy 3:1-4; Galatians 5:19-21). What is shocking to us is that we can behave and act in the same way as these people. We all have the seeds of these attitudes in our hearts. (Matthew 15:19). So the first step to help us deal with difficult people is knowing that by nature we are no better than they are. As believers in Christ our direction from Jesus is not to get even or return evil for evil but to return evil with good (Roman

12:19-21). Matthew 5:43-45 tells us to love our enemies and to pray for those who persecute us. With God working in us it is possible to do this. (Matthew 19:26). Focus on the Family's website ([media.focusonthefamily.com](http://media.focusonthefamily.com)) tells me that we need to "...bear in mind that a person's response to you is not a reflection of you. It simply indicates where they are." Here are some other helps and tips from Focus on the Family that might be helpful:

- ◆ Know that your authority is Christ, not another human being.
- ◆ Be confident in who you are.
- ◆ Set boundaries and allow the resulting consequences and God's work to enlighten the individual.
- ◆ Pray, meditate and/or seek counseling.

So how do I handle the hurt? I pray and turn it over to Jesus. I may have to pray more than once, but eventually the hurt goes away and I am able to stop dwelling on my hurt feelings.

**Important News About Women and Men's Bible Study** ~ We will return to our study of God's Word Monday, February 2, 2021. By then, if God wills, we will be able to put the Corona Virus behind us.

**Women's Sunday School Class** is looking at 1 and 2 Thessalonians. I hope you'll give our class a try. We have some extra books if anyone is interested in joining us. You can see us in the Craft Room at 9:45 a.m. every Sunday.

### **The Last Word**

"If they are wrong they need your prayers all the more; and if they are your enemies, then you are under orders to pray for them."

C.S. Lewis

### **Merry Christmas to All**

This year we will not be having an Advent luncheon to celebrate Advent; instead, we will have an ornament for each family to take home and put on your Christmas tree. Each ornament has a special name - "His name is Jesus," "Silent Night," "Wonders of His Love," and "A Child, A Son, A Savior."

On Sunday, December 6 or Sunday, December 13, please stop in the Fellowship Hall to choose your ornament. There is one for each family group attending.

The beautiful artwork, high-quality pewter-finished construction, and Christmas meaning, dominate each ornament.

From the Disciplemaking Ministries Council



**VIGNETTES by VIRGINIA**

AWAY IN A MANGER, one of the favorite Christmas carols, is claimed to have been written by Martin Luther. It was first published under the title, "Luther's Cradle Hymn" in 1887 and written for children. German mothers have been singing this special song to their families for many years.

The carol is thought to be American in origin by musicians Williams J. Kirkpatrick, (1895) and James Ramsey Murray (1887) writing the words for verses one and two. The third verse was written in 1892 by Charles H. Gabriel, although credit was also given to Martin Luther.

When we read God's Word to relate AWAY IN A MANGER, we turn to Luke 2:4-7. "So Joseph, also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him cloths and placed in a manger because there was no room for them in the inn."

The Advent season is celebrated four Sundays before Christmas. This is a time for the celebration of Jesus' birth AND also a reminder for His Second Coming. Most of us are very busy. This year will definitely be different in unusual ways. Begin new traditions within the families. Learn new songs. Read the Christmas story in another Biblical version and discuss with the children. Let them 'pretend' they are those families traveling to take the census. (Imagination with a true history)

Closing with verse three of AWAY IN A MANGER: Be near me, Lord Jesus! I ask Thee to stay Close by me forever and love me, I pray. Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care. And fit us for heaven, to live with Thee there.

Peter Marshall's prayer, chaplain of the US Senate (1947-1949): "We yearn, our Father, for the simple beauty of Christmas—for all the old familiar melodies and words that remind us of that great miracle when He who had made all things was one night to come as a Babe, to lie in the crook of a woman's arm. Before such mystery we kneel, as we follow the Shepherds and Wise men to bring Thee the gift of our love—a love we confess that has not always been as warm or sincere or real as it should have been. But now, on this Christmas Day, that love would find its Beloved, and from Thee receive the grace to make it pure again, warm and real. We bring Thee our gratitude for every token of Thy 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).

**Norwin Alliance Preschool News**

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. December's collection item: **CANNED PASTAS** (SPAGHETTI O'S, RAVIOLI, BEEFARONI, SPAGHETTI and MEATBALLS etc.)

Thank you so much for any contributions you can make.

**Preschool Prayer Ministry**

Prayer is the greatest support we can give our Preschool children and teachers.

A sheet is available on the shelf in the narthex with the names of our preschool children and teachers. Please put your name next to one of the preschooler's names and commit to pray for this child/teacher and their family for the remainder of the school year.

Cards of encouragement can be given to the church office and they will be passed on.

Please prayerfully consider being part of this ministry.

