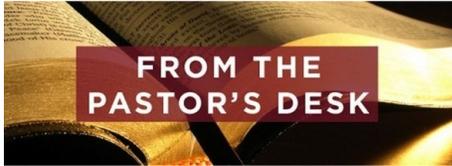

KOINONIA

“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

DECEMBER 2021



A strong Christmas Bible song is “Hark, the Herald Angels Sing”. One line says, *“Christ by highest heaven adored.”*

We love and adore Jesus by our obedience and also by our singing his praises. Here are some old songs giving love to God with heart and mind, with emotion and intelligence:

*“Holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty!
Perfect in power, in love and purity.”*

*“A mighty fortress is our God . . .
And He must win the battle.”*

*“O tell of His might, O sing of His grace . . .
Our Maker, Defender, Redeemer, and
Friend.”*

*“Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light
Thine angels adore Thee, all veiling their
sight.”*

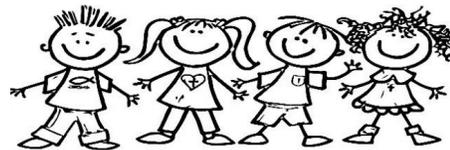
*“Know that the Lord our God is good,
His mercy is forever sure.”*

Next month will highlight recent songs that love God with thoughtful emotion. Love the Lord like this every day.



EVENTS

- | | |
|---------|--|
| Nov. 28 | First Sunday of Advent |
| Dec. 5 | Second Sunday of Advent |
| Dec. 11 | Special performance of the Christmas Cantata 6:30 pm |
| Dec. 12 | Third Sunday of Advent
Christmas Cantata “Thrilling at the Hope ~ 10:45am |
| Dec. 15 | AWANA Family Christmas 6:45 pm |
| Dec. 19 | Fourth Sunday of Advent
Advent Luncheon Noon |
| Dec. 24 | Christmas Eve Candlelight Service - 7:00 pm |
| Dec. 25 | Merry Christmas! |



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.



VIGNETTES by VIRGINIA

Christmas is a very special time of the year for memories and a celebration. Most of us remember our favorite carol, a Cantata presented by our church choir, the Christmas Eve Service, a gift, maybe a toy, a delicious meal with family and friends, cookies and pies, fruitcakes, decorating a tree, playing out in the snow, and riding a sled. Stop and think of this festive occasion! How about the very meaningful words we read in the Gospels ~ Luke 2. These Biblical records remind us of the most important reason Jesus left heaven to be on earth, to be with a family, to minister to mankind.

A precious little boy was born to teenage mother Mary, amazed with delivery after a tiring trip with husband Joseph. The journey was required by Caesar Augustus to pay taxes in their ancestral hometown.

“Shepherds were AROUSED by singing angels in the brilliant, sparkling skies with shimmering stars to run into Bethlehem and witness the birth of the baby, the Savior.” They delivered the news concerning baby Jesus to available people, sharing the welcome. (Luke 2:39, 40, 51, 52).

Christmas is different for all of us every year as we think how the ending twelve months have become our routine, or change of routine, of our daily lives. A personal response can easily be give; or we must stop and consider what is no longer the same, as good, possibly much better. If we allow time to talk with a designated friend, especially God our Father, it can be a reminder while Jesus grew into adulthood. He spent a lot of time talking to His Father. His ministry, healings and teachings to others demonstrated His positive sensibilities. As important as it was to Jesus, it should also be important to us in this sinful world. That is an unquestionable basis that Jesus came to Bethlehem for humanity. JESUS’s LOVE was an introduction to a group of family and new friends in Bethlehem the day he was born. Mankind remembers that very special day of Christmas during the Advent season. It is a time to worship with prayers, music, Scripture and self-reflection of the “Reason for the Season”. Little baby Jesus came to earth to bring us freedom as we accept His love and essential, designated, purposeful, majestic wisdom, grace and mercy.

Romans 11:33-36: *“Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable His judgments, and His paths beyond tracing out! Who has known the mind of the Lord? Or who has been His counselor? Who has ever given to God, that God should repay him? For from him and through him and to him are all things. To Him be the glory forever! Amen”*

MERRY CHRISTMAS! And HAPPY NEW YEAR 2022!

Blessings galore!

Advent

*A Season of Hope
& Expectation*

ADVENT - A Joyous Time

Advent celebrations became popular in America when Christmas began to be celebrated throughout America in the early 1830’s. The religious part of Christmas was the birth of Christ, which became the topic for Protestant sermons throughout our country.

Evergreens quickly became popular to use for Christmas celebrations; they represented man’s second chance with God and Jesus as the Light of the World. Evergreens became the first Advent wreaths.

Advent celebrations started with dinners of chicken and pork. This year the Disciplemaking Ministries Council is having chicken and ham as the two main meats at our Advent Luncheon on Sunday, December 19th.

Except for dessert, “Ethel’s Edibles”, from Uniontown, will be catering our luncheon. Two salads included will be potato and lettuce.

Please come ~ bring your family and friends ~ and celebrate with us for this joyous occasion.

Please remember to sign the sheet in the narthex so the appropriate amount of food can be ordered.

Celebrate His Coming!

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”.



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.

Please save your stamps and deposit them in the box located in the narthex (on shelf above the coat rack).