

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



Living a half-day's drive from family has changed the way Kate and I give gifts to family members. I still remember years back when we learned that we could order gifts for family on Amazon and have them ship it to them gift wrapped for free with our prime shipping. This saved us both time and money, avoiding boxing gifts up ourselves and the time and expense of going to the post office or UPS to ship.

This online shopping reality has also taken away much of the Christmas season stress. Rather than make numerous trips to various stores to find the perfect gift, you can select from a vastly greater range of products in a fraction of time from the comfort of your couch. If there was one virtue of the old and less efficient way of Christmas shopping, it was the sacrifice of time behind every gift. Even the least creative cliché gifts of tacky ties, fluffy socks, Christmas themed Lifesaver packets, popcorn tins, and peanut jars required a trip to Rite Aid or the Mall.

But the greatest gift all was a gift of both time and presence. In Matthew 1:22-23 we are reminded of the words of the prophet Isaiah, 'All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: "Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel" (which means, God with us).' Jesus came to earth to be with us, to reconcile us to the Father.

Advent is a time to celebrate the coming of Christ, both in the incarnation and His second coming-when He will be with us for eternity. As His followers, maybe the best gift we have to offer others in this age is our time and presence as

well? The beauty of such a gift is that it doesn't require lots of disposable income. It can be the time we spend in person, but also over the phone or video call with a loved one far away. It can be accompanied by acts of service or sitting and listening to a loved one in a time of need. Maybe a thoughtful hand-written letter sent in the mail?

Such gifts of time may be expected from family members. But perhaps there are others the Lord is bringing to mind, someone He is leading you to offer the gift of time and presence? The beauty of such gifts is that they are often gifts we receive in return. The time and presence shared becomes their gift to us as well. Maybe a little busyness during the Christmas season is a blessing after all?



DECEMBER PRAYER TIMES

Wednesday, December 3
7:00 pm

Thursday, December 4
11:00 am

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.

CHRISTMAS EVENTS

- Nov. 30 First Sunday of Advent
- Dec. 7 Second Sunday of Advent
- Dec. 13 Christmas Cantata ~ "OUR JOY HAS COME" ~ 6:30 pm
- Dec. 14 Third Sunday of Advent
NO 8:30 service
Christmas Cantata ~ OUR JOY HAS COME" ~ 10:45 am
- Dec. 17 AWANA Family Christmas ~ 6:45 pm
- Dec. 18 Keen-Agers Christmas Catered Meal
11:00 am (by RSVP)
- Dec. 21 Fourth Sunday of Advent
Advent Luncheon ~ Noon
- Dec. 24 Christmas Eve Candlelight Service ~
6:00 pm
- Dec. 25 MERRY CHRISTMAS!



Sunday, December 21st

Noon

Everyone is invited to our Advent Luncheon. Your entire family is invited to come that day for a free lunch of: Ham, Breaded Chicken, Rigatoni, Potato Salad, Salad (with Ethel's famous salad dressing), Rolls/Butter and cupcakes for dessert.

Please sign the sheet in the narthex with the number of people attending.

We look forward to seeing your whole family on December 21st.

CHRISTMAS CANTATA

Saturday, December 13th

6:30 pm

AND

Sunday, December 14th

10:45 am



Invite your family, friends, and neighbors and come celebrate the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ, through this special choir presentation.



BIRTHDAY CAKES

FOR

JESUS

We know that the holiday season can get very busy, and it may be tough at times to find opportunities to share the true meaning of Christmas with young children, so the Preschool Teachers wanted to give our preschool families an easy activity to do together. Every child loves to bake, and they love helping their grown-ups in the kitchen, so we would like to provide each of our preschool families with everything they need to bake a Birthday Cake for Jesus. If you would like to donate a box of cake mix with icing, please sign the sheet in the narthex. 30 sets are needed by **December 14th**. ** Please only purchase white, yellow or chocolate mixes (no Devil's Food) with vanilla or chocolate icing. If you would like to donate more than 1 mix (with icing), sign up on multiple lines. Thank you for your help.



The Men's and Women's Bible studies meet each Monday morning at 10:30 am. They will be off December 29th.

The men meet in the back youth area and the women meet in the Craft Room.



The Prayer Shawl Ministry group will not be meeting in the months of December, January, and February. We will resume our meetings on Monday, March 2, 2026 at 7:00 pm.

Mardy Rogers



Donations benefit the
Irwin Food Bank

December's collection item is: **Canned Pasta's** (SPAGHETTI O'S, RAVIOLI, BEEFARONI, SPAGHETTI and MEATBALLS, ETC.)

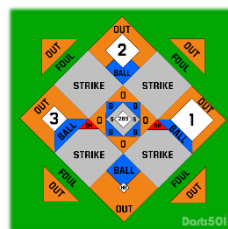
Thank you so much for any contributions you can make. The Food Bank has been very appreciative with our donations and have been able to bless many.



Preschool Christmas Parties:

3yr olds ~ Thursday, December 18th

4yr olds ~ Friday, December 19th



DARTBALL FELLOWSHIP

Games are held on Monday evenings at 7:00 pm at various, local churches.

If you are 12 years old and older, there is room for you. Girls, you can join also.



Keen-Agers

Keen-Agers is for those at NAC and in the community 50 years of age and older



DECEMBER 18, 2025

11:00 am

Keen-Agers will meet one week early in December.

This is a catered meal by reservation only. Please see Cindy Barnhart if you would like to attend but have not reserved your spot.

Cher Chamberlin will be our special singer for the day.

Officers for 2026 were elected at our November meeting and will be installed at our December meeting. The 2026 Officers are as follows:

President	Cindy Barnhart
Vice-President	Harold Lawhorne
Corresponding Secretary	Joan Patterson
Treasurer	Georgia Turnsek
Asst. Treasurer	Bill Swope
Kitchen Committee Head	Lori Deliman

Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.

ISAIAH 7:14