
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

JANUARY 2025



Lamentations 3:22-23 says, “The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.” I’m hoping you all had a wonderful Christmas and have (or will have) a happy New Year. The new year seems to offer us an opportunity to reflect back on the past year and have a new start. Yet, in the Lord every day is a new day, which includes January 1st.

At Christmas we celebrated the Jesus’ coming to earth, Emmanuel, God with us. As believers we have the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit guiding and empowering us for obedience and service. In a sense, there really is nothing special about January 1st in terms of the power available to us. If the Lord leads us to make changes in our lives, we have the power to begin anew 365 days a year. The change need not wait until a January 1st resolution.

God gave the Israelites certain annual celebrations and other days to observe. Yet, he first placed us on a planet that has seasons and a 365-day year. He also gave and modeled the week for us in creation. We might say that God gives us such markers of time as a gift. There was of course spiritual significance to each of these markers. In fact, the Israelites were given the Festival or Feast of Trumpets in Leviticus 23:24 which is celebrated in September or October, which marked the end of one calendar year and the beginning of the next.

While our calendar begins a New Year on January 1st, like the Jewish New year, it can be an opportunity for us to reflect on who we are. For us, we can reflect on who we are in Christ. 2 Corinthians 5:17 says that we are a new creation. 1 Peter 2:9-10 says, “But you are a chosen race, a

royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. Once you were not a people, but now you are God’s people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.”

Remembering who we are in Christ is a great place to begin as we seek what the Lord may be asking us to change or do differently in the New Year. If you’re reading this and New Year’s Day has already passed, it’s never too late. God’s mercies are new for you each morning.



JANUARY PRAYER TIMES

Wednesday, January 8

7:00 pm

and

Thursday, January 9

11:00 am

YEAR END REPORTS

ALL DEPARTMENT HEADS.....from DMC, LEAD ELDER, LEAD TRUSTEE, TREASURER, ASST. TREASURER, YOUTH...your End-of-Year reports are due to Cindy Barnhart no later than Sunday, January 12th. Please make sure that your report includes a financial report (if applicable).

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CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

There will be a meeting of the congregation on **SUNDAY, January 26th at 11:30 AM.**

Even though only members are permitted to vote, everyone is invited to attend the meeting.

Come hear how NAC did in 2024.

VIGNETTES by VIRGINIA

As we look forward into this new year, our thoughts and hopes can be reminders of what should be different, or what we do not have any plans to change. Almost immediately we will be re-introduced to Mr. Trump returning as President. Many other political offices are to be filled across the United States, as well as other countries and nations around the world.

What are the privileges we should endeavor to share in our neighborhood, church ministries, family responsibilities, employment, and daily agendas?

“Decision Magazine”, September 2024, has a reprint of Billy Graham’s message from 1960 about prayer. *“Have a time for secret prayer each day, when you can pray alone. It should be a regular habit and become as vital and necessary to you as your daily food. Another thing I would suggest is that you learn to ‘pray without ceasing’ (I Thessalonians 5:17). In other words, all day long you are to be in the spirit of prayer.”*

“Make a prayer list of people and subjects you should pray for. Above all, be sure that your motive in praying is always the glory of God.”

“The Scripture says, ‘To obey is better than sacrifice’ (I Samuel 15:22). God wants your obedience and love more than anything else. The consecrated life is the victorious life.”

For New Year 2025, our first thoughts and promises can be that GOD IS IN CONTROL! He loves us! He cares about us! Jesus may return to earth in the rapture this year. Are you ready?

Choose 2 or 3 Biblical verses to encourage, discipline, instruct, and inspire you personally in 2025. Read to get started: Psalms 16:1, Romans 12:1-2; Galatians 5:24-25; and I Timothy 1:7. As a special verse “jumps” out to you, memorize it. That verse will come to mind whenever you need that significant trust in God’s promises.



For all those in the community
50 years of age and older

Happy New Year!

There will not be a Keen-Ager meeting in January as the weather is often uncertain. The officers take this month to prepare the programs for the year and make up the new directories. Please watch future bulletins and newsletters for programs and menus.

If you are 50 or over, plan to include Keen-Agers in your 2025 calendar. We meet the fourth Thursday of each month (except November and December when we meet the third Thursday for our Thanksgiving and Christmas luncheons.

If you have any questions, please contact the church office.

We look forward to seeing you February 27th for a time of good food and fellowship.

2025
HAPPY NEW YEAR



Please join us on Saturday, January 4 for the quiz meet which will be held at Norwin Alliance Church! If you've heard of quizzing but aren't really sure what it's all about, or if you have young friends or family members who might benefit from the program next school year, please come see for yourself on the first Saturday of January. The meet runs from 9am until about 11:30 or Noon ~ there's no need to stick around the whole time, but, to ensure you can see an entire round, you'll want to plan to arrive by 10:30. Norwin's two teams are currently ranked number 1 and number 2 in all of the Pittsburgh zone, so if you can, please come out and show your support for these kids who are giving it their all this year!



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. January's collection item: **SOUPS/ RAMEN NOODLES**

Thank you so much for any contributions you can make.