
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




Are you struggling to be in unity with certain believers? In the CMA, we rightly emphasize progressive sanctification, becoming what we've been declared to be positionally. We are positionally sanctified, or holy, at conversion, but progressively become what we've been declared to be. Couldn't the same be said about reconciliation and the unity among the children of God?

In Ephesians 2, Paul says Jesus is our peace who has made us one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility, reconciling us both to God, killing the hostility. Likewise, in verse 19, "we are no longer strangers but fellow citizens." This is positional and a past completed action. Yet we see it as progressive in verses 21-22: "in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit."

In Ephesians 4:1 Paul urges the Ephesians "to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace." In Ephesians 4:17 he says something similar to Romans 12:1-2 "to put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness." Paul then warns in verse 26, "Be angry and do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger."

Can we grow in love with God while growing in hostility towards our fellow saints? If we aren't experiencing reconciliation and unity, we must not forget that we are called to become what we've already been declared to be. Romans 12:18 says, "If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all." The dividing wall has already been broken down, even if we aren't experiencing it. This doesn't mean conflict avoidance, but pursuing reconciliation when it does occur, motivated by love.

Like other aspects of sanctification, we don't experience unity by trying harder. Christ, our sanctifier and our reconciler, is the one that makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love. Reconciliation and unity with our brothers and sisters aren't unconnected to the sanctification process but part of it. Who are the brothers and sisters in Christ in whom we have been trying and failing to love for years, whether through direct conflict or a hidden bitterness? Perhaps believers outside our church we've had past conflict with? Those whose political opinions irk us? Those whom we disagree with on non-essential theological differences? Have we allowed the Holy Spirit to lead us to a place of crisis in which we cry out to Jesus to help us, believing that he is powerful and willing to do so?



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.



Keen-Agers

Keen-Agers is for everyone age 50 and over.

Our July meeting will be Thursday, July 24 at 11:00 am.

Menu: Ham BBQ and Mac-n-Cheese

Program: Steve Tori

Food Pantry Item: Personal Hygiene Products

Hope to see you on July 24th for a great day together.



Saturday, July 19, 2025

6:30 pm

If you have signed up to bring items in for the shoebox packing party, please have all items back at the church before July 19th.

Please sign the sheet in the narthex if you are able to attend the party so enough pizza can be ordered.

Then join us for fun and fellowship as we pack the donated items into shoeboxes. Our goal is to pack 100 boxes.

Boxes will also be made available if you would like to pack one individually.



INTERNATIONALS 2025

July 13-21 ~ Minnesota



Daniel Cox has qualified to compete in the Internationals Bible Quizzing Tournament. Also, Becky Cox has been selected to be one of the Team Coaches Districts across Canada and the USA send teams to compete in this tournament.

Please pray for Daniel and Becky as they prepare for this next level of Bible quizzing.



The church library has been moved back downstairs. To access the library, drive to the lower lot and you can enter through the double-glass door (call the church office and Cindy will meet you down there to open the doors).

Library will be available during the day from 11:30 am – 3:00 pm during the school year and from 8:00 am – 3:00 pm from June to August.

Come check it out.

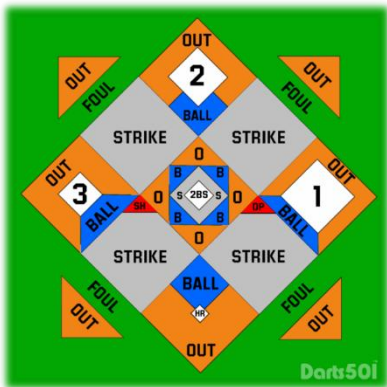


Alliance Stamp Ministry

The Alliance Stamp Ministry is a group based out of Fort Myers, FL that recycles canceled stamps. The stamps are then sold to dealers. The proceeds go toward publishing Spanish-language Sunday school materials and distributing them to churches of 40 different denominations in Spanish speaking countries in Latin America, Spain, and even the USA.

If you would like to help in this ministry, please place your stamps in the box above the coat rack in the small narthex. Please be sure to leave 1/4" to 1/3" of paper around the stamps.

The stamps will then be sent to the Alliance Stamp Ministry at Shell Point.



Dartball Fun Days

Mondays, June 30, July 14 & 28

The Dartball Team is inviting anyone interested in Dartball to come and try it out this summer.

This is a great time of instruction, fellowship, and fun with the pressure of league play.

League play will resume in the fall.

Come and join the fun!



Saturday, July 26th

Oak Hollow Park
Locust Pavilion

3:00 – 6:00 pm
Eat at 3:30 pm

Chicken, iced tea, lemonade, and water will be provided. Please bring a dish to share. A sign-up sheet is available on the shelf in the narthex. Please mark your name, number attending, and the dish you are bringing.

There is a playground nearby and there will be a piñata for the kiddos.

LIFE2025

July 4 – 9, 2025

Indianapolis, IN

LIFE is a gathering of the next generation Alliance family to experience God and expand His kingdom locally and globally.

Please PRAY for our youth and leaders who will be attending.



We will continue to collect items for the Irwin Area Food Pantry during the summer months.

July's collection item: **Personal Hygiene Products** (shampoo, conditioner, toothpaste, toothbrushes, deodorant, mouthwash, etc)

Thank you so much for any contributions you can make.