

---

---

# 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**

**March 2025**



When I was younger, I tended to look towards the future. Whether it was the progression of modern convenience or hope for personal achievement, there was at least hope that better days were coming. As I get older, I have found nostalgia for the past a more alluring focus. I suspect that shift will continue as I age, as more of my earthly life will be behind me than ahead. My experience with this future-to-past focus shift is quite typical and is perhaps better understood by those of you who are older than me. Whether your focus is more on the past or future, we all need to spend more time in the present.

Psalm 46:1 says, “God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.” Revelation 1:8 says, “I am the Alpha and the Omega,” says the Lord God, “who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.” Though God exists beyond the bounds of time, we experience Him in the present. The eternal God—who was, and is, and is to come—revealed Himself to Moses, saying, ‘I am who I am.’” (Exodus 3:14)

While we can and should reflect on how God has helped us and the ultimate future He will give us, we experience Him in the present. We must not let our nostalgia for the past or hope for our earthly future (before Christ returns) to become an idol that competes with following Christ in the present.

This tension between the past, present, and future isn’t new. God’s people have always been called to, in one sense, identify as exiles—longing for their true home while remaining faithful in the present. Peter addresses the church in his first letter as exiles. While he was writing in a cultural context that included great persecution of the church, he reminded them that their present situation wasn’t their ultimate home.

Yet, living as exiles in the present doesn’t mean withdrawing. In Jeremiah 29:4-7 we read, “Thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel, to all the exiles whom I have sent into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon: Build houses and live in them; plant gardens and eat their produce. Take wives and have sons and daughters; take wives for your sons, and give your daughters in marriage, that they may bear sons and daughters; multiply there, and do not decrease. But seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the Lord on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare.”

The people of God are called to live in the present as exiles—exiles called to bless others while awaiting our true home. This call challenges us to know the cultural landscape around us and to seek its good. We were exiles in the past-, and we will be exiles in the future until Christ either calls us home or returns to reign. So let us embrace our calling as exiles—living faithfully as Christ’s ambassadors until He calls us home.



## MARCH PRAYER TIMES

**Wednesday, March 5**  
7:00 pm

**Thursday, March 6**  
11:00 am

Join us for a time to pray for: one another; our church family; the mission, purpose, staff, and leaders of Norwin Alliance Church; the church universal; our community; our nation; and the world.

*“Again, I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything you ask for, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them.”*

- Matthew 18:19-20



**KEEN-AGERS**

The March meeting of Norwin Alliance Keen-Agers will be on Thursday, March 27<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 am.

The meal will be "Hearty Breakfast for Lunch". Please bring a dish to share.

Program: Westmoreland County Food Bank

\* \* Food Pantry item is: **BOXED CEREAL**

We invite everyone aged 50 and over to join us.

Hope to see you on March 27<sup>th</sup>!



**Saturday, March 29th**

**11:00 am - 1:00 pm**

This is for children ages 3 - grade 5.

After the children have found their eggs, they will return to the Fellowship Hall to hear about the meaning of the Resurrection Eggs. A lunch will be served and crafts made.

Circle March 29th on your calendars, invite a friend, and sign-up to attend.

**MINISTRY BOARD MEMBER-AT-LARGE**

Do you know who our Board-Members-at-Large are or what they do? They are members elected by the congregation to serve on the Ministry Board.

Janis Swope and Harold Lawhorne hold this position. They are the liaisons between the congregation and the Ministry Board.

If you have a question, problem, or suggestion for the church, please take these to either Janis or Harold. They will report these to the Ministry Board at our monthly meetings.



**MUSIC & ART NIGHT**

**Sunday, March 23, 2025**

**6:00 pm**

The night will begin in the Sanctuary with a Concert of Praise, followed by an Art Exhibition and dessert in the Fellowship Hall. This is a great night invite your friend, neighbors, and loved ones.

All are welcome to participate - please register to participate by signing the sheet in the narthex, calling the church office at 724-864-1570, or e-mailing the church at [ncma@norwinalliance.org](mailto:ncma@norwinalliance.org). Contact Vicki Booher if you have any questions.

Musicians - all songs are limited to 1 per person.

Artists - we would love for you to stay and stand by your works of art so that people can meet you.

If you are able to contribute a dessert for the evening, please sign the sheet in the narthex.

Please plan to come out and support the arts. It will be an enjoyable evening.

**Daylight Savings Time**

Please be sure to turn your clocks **AHEAD** one hour before retiring for the night on Saturday, **March 8th**. Daylight Savings will begin at 2:00 am Sunday, **March 9th**.



**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. March's collection item: **Boxed Cereal**

Thank you so much for any contributions you can make.





Friday, March 14, 2025  
 Pi  $\pi$  Day Celebration  
 6:30 pm



- Get acquainted with one of the world's favorite Dissection Puzzles.
- Visit the importance of dimensions in the Bible
- Enjoy all things Pi(e)!

Plan to **Attend, Invite** (another version of AI)

Please sign up: online (using the QR code) or in the narthex so we can accommodate all.

Get your Geek on and join in the fun!



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

GLORIFY God in worship, word, and community.

INTRODUCE Jesus Christ into the whole life of each student.

EXPOSE God's heart for the lost.

INSPIRE students to join the global Alliance family.

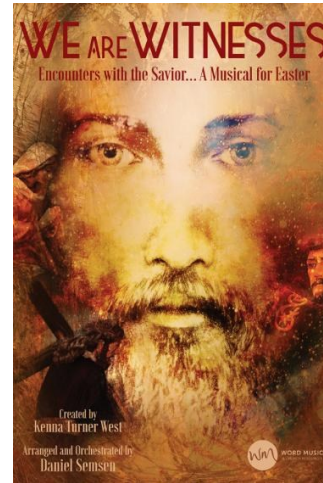
LIFE Conference is for high school students— anyone who is age 13 on July 4, 2025 or completed 8th grade and no older than 19 or just graduated from high school as of July 2025.

Each day will consist of Worship, Seminars, Off-Site Service Projects, Activity Time, Small Group Time.

If you would like to help defray the cost of our youth attending this LIFE altering conference, you may do so by marking your envelope with LIFE 2025.

Please see Joe Cox if you have any questions.

## Easter Cantata



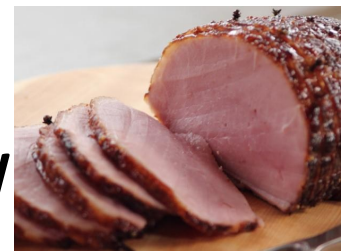
Saturday, April 12  
 6:30 pm

PALM Sunday, April 13  
 10:45 am

FREE TO ALL!

Invite your family, friends and neighbors

## Ham Giveaway



We will be handing out 30 hams and a complete Easter dinner on **SATURDAY, APRIL 12.**

Your help is needed ~ a sign-up sheet will soon be available in the narthex for food items we would like donated for the dinner. Please sign-up under the food item you would like to donate.

There is also a sheet to sign if you are able to help the day of by either visiting with our guests or helping them to their cars

All food items need to be back to the church by Sunday, April 6.



Mark you calendars! We are planning a “Garage Sale Giveaway” for Saturday, May 3.

We will once again have separate rooms for different categories of donated items to help with overcrowding. One of the rooms is a Christmas room. If you have any left-over Christmas items you no longer use, consider saving them and donating them to our giveaway.

We do not have room at the church to store items but wanted to make everyone aware that we will be having the giveaway this year so you can start saving items.

**DONATIONS NEEDED!** All donated items need to be clean. Suggested items for donations are: books, dishes, glassware, pots and pans, kitchen utensils and appliances. If donating bedding, such as sheets/blankets, please mark with size. Baby items such as strollers, play pens (is there such a thing nowadays), high chairs and of course toys and games, are always in demand. If any small appliances or tools are donated, they must be in good working condition.

Please note that we are not able to accept the following items: TV’s, knick-knacks, clothes or large furniture items.

Please try to make sure your donations can be useful.

In April we will post a sign-up sheet for people to help set-up tables in rooms, collect and organize the donations into the different rooms, greet and assist our guests on May 8th, and clean-up.

If you have any questions, please contact Mardy Rogers or Cindy Barnhart.



### Norwin Alliance Church Preschool



The Norwin Alliance Preschool is accepting registrations for the 2025-2026 school year.

The **3yr old class** meets Tuesday & Thursday from 9:00—11:30 am OR 12:30—3:00 pm. Child must be potty trained and be 3yrs old by September 1st.

The **4yr old class** meets Monday, Wednesday & Friday from 9:00—11:30 am OR 12:30—3:00 pm. Child must be 4yrs old by September 1st. The 4yr old morning class is full but a waiting list has been created. If there is enough interest, an afternoon class will be added.

You may contact the church office to register or fill out the form below and return to the office.

A \$75.00 registration fee is required to reserve your spot.

Norwin Alliance Church Preschool  
**REGISTRATION**  
**2025-2026**  
724-864-1570

Parent’s name: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone : \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Child’s Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Child’s birthday: \_\_\_\_\_

Please register my child in the: 3 year old class \_\_\_\_\_  
4 year old class \_\_\_\_\_

Class time preference: AM \_\_\_\_\_ PM \_\_\_\_\_

\*\*Class preference will be decided by the date the registration form AND the \$75 registration fee are received. You will be notified if your preference cannot be granted.\*\*

\*\*Checks may be made payable to:  
Norwin Alliance Church\*\*