
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



I once knew a pastor who had a plan to preach through the entire Bible every twelve years, one chapter each Sunday. He was extremely passionate, even obsessive, with preaching through the whole counsel of God. With 1189 chapters in the Bible, the math didn't add up. Even if he preached through the plan all 52 weeks a year, it would take 22 years to preach. He did plan to skip long genealogies and lists, But I'm not sure how he was able to shave off 520 chapters and still claim to preach the entirety of scripture.

I wondered how many individuals were even hearing what he defined as the "whole counsel of God." Even his growing church had significant annual turnover, with fewer than a dozen were there for all twelve years. Further, a high percentage of the congregation missed a couple services a month. In terms of the depth and quality, he often had to fly through dense chapters in one message that most pastors would spend several weeks on.

I share this true story to highlight the importance of believers each taking an active role to know and obey God's word. A person who desires to know the whole counsel of God won't get there by waiting for his pastor to preach through all of it. As God's word are for us to live by, we can't wait 22 or even 12 years to hear it all for the first time.

In September, we spent a Sunday in Acts 17:10-15. We learned how the Bereans examined the scriptures daily to see if Paul's message was true. If the average adult spends 15 minutes a day reading the Bible, they could read through the entire Bible in a year. Suppose you read a little on the slow side and want some extra time to pray and reflect on the passage? Then 30 minutes a day would get you through the entire Bible in a year. If you missed as often as you remembered,

you'd get through the Bible in two years. If you did this reading every other day for 12 years, you'll have thoroughly read, reflected, and prayed through the entire Bible six times! What's stopping us from doing this?

Having a plan helps. The simplest way to do this is to read three chapters a day and you'd finish in just over a year. Reading two extra chapters a week ensures you finish in under a year. You could just read Genesis through Revelation but could also read the books out of order. For example, reading Genesis, Exodus, then Matthew in the New Testament, before moving on the Leviticus.

Another approach is to find a bible-in-a-year bible, that simplifies this for you. These can be read through from January 1st through December 31st, but there's nothing wrong with starting on October 1st. Another great resource is the Mission 119 mobile app, which you can download for free on your phone. It provides an audio reading of a passage of scripture with a daily audio devotional by John Soper, an Alliance Pastor. The Bible reading and devotional take about 20 minutes combined. His plan takes about a year and a half.

I would encourage you to follow an organized plan if you've struggled to consistently study the Bible on your own. To some degree you also need to find a plan that works for you. If trying to finish a plan in one year is challenging, consider trying to complete the plan in two years.

If you struggle to stay consistent, that's ok. Today is a new day. Reading God's word is investing in your relationship with God. The time you spend investing in that relationship will be a blessing to you. The goal is for you to begin to draw near to God and seek His voice daily, not to simply get through the bible in a certain amount of time. Don't believe the lie that struggling to read the Bible consistently is a reason to stop trying. Rather, every day you choose to spend time with God in his word blesses and shapes you.



OCTOBER PRAYER TIMES

Wednesday, October 1
7:00 pm

There will NOT be Pray Time on
Thursday, October 2nd.

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.



The Men's and Women's Bible studies meet each Monday morning at 10:30 am.

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



Wednesdays 6:30 pm
Grades 6 - 12



Wednesdays 6:45 pm
Ages 2 – Grade 5



The Prayer Shawl group will meet on Monday, October 13th at 7:00 pm in the back Youth Area. We meet once a month. There will be a short devotion before working on any project you might bring.

All crocheters and knitters are welcome to attend. If anyone is interested in learning to crochet or knit, please attend and we can make plans for a workshop.

Mardy Rogers



Keen-Agers

Keen-Agers is for everyone age 50 and over.

Our October meeting will be Thursday, October 23rd at 11:00 am.

Menu: Soups and Stews, Salads, Cheese Trays, Pumpkin Desserts

Program: Cheryl Dobrowolski

Food Pantry Item: Macaroni and Cheese

Hope to see you on October 23rd for a great day together.



Donations benefit the
Irwin Food Bank

October's collection item is: **Macaroni and Cheese**

Thank you so much for any contributions you can make.



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.



FALL FESTIVAL

Saturday, October 18
11:00 am – 3:00 pm



11:00 am – 1:00 pm

Trunk & Treat

(to include Barrel Rides, Games, Crafts)

Noon

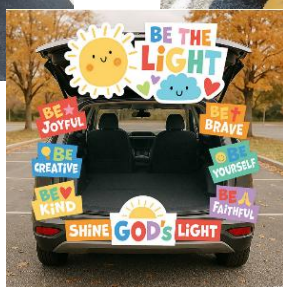
Chili Lunch

1:00 – 3:00 pm

Square Dance Fun

Bring the kids for “Trunk & Treat” fun and stay for chili and Square Dancing fun 😊

“Trunk & Treat” is a family friendly, safe alternative to traditional trick-or-treating.



A Sign-up sheet is available in the narthex for people to make Chili, Pumpkin desserts, and help with the day.

Please see Cindy or Mardy if you have questions.



Boxes are available in the narthex outside the Sanctuary for you to personally pack. Please return boxes by **November 2nd**. **Please note date change for when boxes are due.** They will be dedicated on Sunday, November 9th. Gabriella, a woman who received a shoebox at the age of 9 years old in El Salvador, will share how her “shoebox” completely changed her life. You will not want to miss hearing her on Sunday, November 9th.

There is no limit to the number of boxes you can fill.

Cost for each box is \$10.00. You may give on-line or mail a check in the postage paid envelope attached to the pamphlet.

You may also “Build a Box” on-line: samaritanspurse.org/operation-Christmas-child/buildonline. Once on the page, click on “create a goal page” and then type in Norwin Alliance Church. You can then start “building/filling” your box. The cost is \$25.00 which includes the \$10.00 postage fee.

Please have your boxes back to the church by Sunday, November 2nd. Don't forget to put a band around your box and put a label on. Also, please don't forget to send in your \$10.00 postage.

All boxes will be dedicated on Sunday, November 9th.

Let's fill Renee's jeep and make a difference in a child's life that they will remember for a lifetime.

