
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

SEPTEMBER 2024



If you read through any of the gospels, you would notice that Jesus asks a lot of questions! Good teachers know how to ask good questions. In fact, many of the greatest lessons from our teachers came not from information they gave us, but from questions they asked us that we had to wrestle with. In Matthew 16:13 Jesus asked his disciples, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?” To this first question, they said, “Some say John the Baptist, others say Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” Yet Jesus had a more penetrating and personal question to ask.

In verse 15 Jesus responded to their factual and impersonal answer by asking, “But who do you say that I am?” Notice that any of his disciples could have spoken up. If they wanted to, they could have huddled together to come up with a collective answer. Was Jesus more than what the crowds thought? Peter doesn’t wait for group consensus but speaks up for himself: “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.”

Of course, this narrative could have been a lot shorter if Jesus hadn’t asked that second question. After the disciples told him what they crowds said of him, he could have responded, “Actually, I’m the Christ, the Son of the living God.” Jesus could have said much more about himself and things he would state at other times, such as calling himself the way, the truth, and the life, like he does in John 14:6. He could have given more details, such as that he is also the Good Shepherd, the Door, the Prince of Peace, the Word of God, and so on.

Jesus wasn’t asking what they thought of him because he was unsure of who he was. What his disciples needed was not more factual information about him. A time was coming when following Jesus would cost them much more. When that time came, they would need to know who Jesus was to them personally. Is he just a man, a great teacher, a prophet, or is he the Christ, the Son of the living God? When persecution came, each of them would have to answer that question themselves and group

consensus would not give them the resolve to continue to follow him.

By answering the question out loud, Peter wasn’t just passively agreeing with facts that someone spoke. They were his words and his conviction. His confidence was strengthened by answering the question himself. We must do the same. It is good for us to know what the Bible says about Jesus. We should have good theology. In fact, in verse 17 Jesus praises Peter for his truthful statement: “Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven.”

Yet, salvation doesn’t come until we receive Jesus as our Lord and Savior. Knowing facts about him, even true facts, will not bridge that gap. Likewise, answering who Jesus is ourselves strengthens our resolve as we continue to follow him. In your time of prayer, I encourage you to answer that question. Even better, declare who he is to you out loud.



SEPTEMBER PRAYER TIMES

Wednesday, September 4

7:00 pm

and

Thursday, September 5

11:00 am



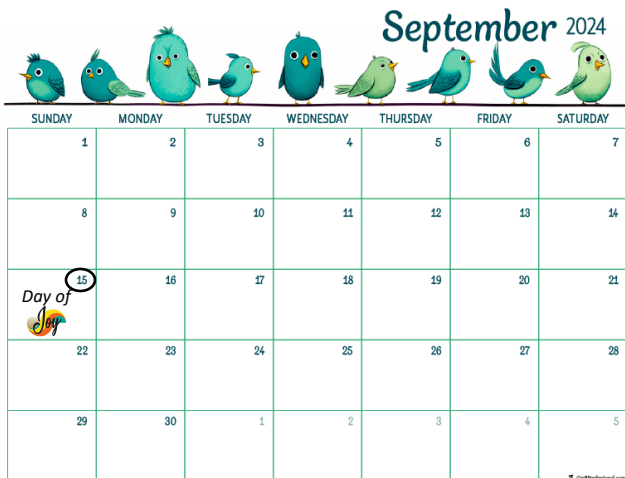
INVITE A FRIEND
to Day of Joy

Sunday, Sept. 15, 2024

9:30 a.m. Continental Breakfast followed by
Worship on the Lawn, Lunch, & Fellowship

If you would like to help,
please contact Vicki Booher.

*Please pray for this special day and who you
can invite to attend! Join us in praying for
our neighbors, family, and friends as we
reach out to them and who God leads to
worship and fellowship with us.*



Bell choir has been on a small break, but it's time to start again. If you know your left hand from your right, can count to 6, and you can see colors...you can play the bells! Bells is a 30-minute commitment on Thursday from 6:30 - 7 PM. Meet us in the fellowship hall beginning again on August 29th.

It's time for choir!

Choir season will begin again on
Thursday, September 5th at 7 PM
in the sanctuary.

Come make a joyful noise with us. You don't have to be a soloist, read music, or try out; just come! Want to come, but have little ones, please contact Vicki ahead of time, we'll do our best to have a sitter.

Choir is a 90-minute practice on Thursday, singing weekly at the 10:45 AM service on Sunday.

Can't make that commitment for weekly, try our Christmas Cantata. Rehearsals begin Sept 19 at 7:45 for 45 minutes. Cantata is scheduled for December 7th and 8th.





Preschool classes begin Thursday, September 5th for the 3 year-olds and Friday, September 6th for the 4 year-olds.

3 year-old classes meet from 9:00 am - 11:30 am every Tuesday and Thursday. Teachers: Nicole Biedrycki and Jenn D'Angelo.

4 year-old classes meet from 9:00 am - 11:30 am every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. Teachers: Nicole Biedrycki and Becky Platt.

We will once again have prayer buddies for the students and teachers as soon as we get all the permissions back. Please keep the children and teachers in prayer as the new school year begins.



The September meeting of Norwin Alliance Keen-Agers will be on Thursday, September 26th at **11:00 am**.

The meal will be Heritage Foods, vegetables, salad, dessert. Please bring your favorite heritage food or side to share.

Shelly Denney will minister to us with music.

**** Food Pantry item is: Boxed Cereal**

Everyone age 50 and over is invited to join us for lunch and fellowship.

Hope to see you on September 26th ~ we are looking forward to having a great afternoon together.



Congregation Meeting
SUNDAY, September 22, 2024
11:45 am

Please make every effort to attend this meeting. Some items of business that will be discussed are:

1. Nominating Committee members will be chosen.
2. The 2025 Church Budget will be presented and voted on.

Don't be left in the dark ~ stay and hear what is happening at Norwin Alliance Church and let your voice be heard. **** A quorum is needed to approve the 2025 budget.**

All are encouraged to attend ~ but only members can vote.

Responsibilities of the Nominating Committee:

~ Nominate Officers of Norwin Alliance Church (Ministry Board Secretary, Church Treasurer, Asst. Church Treasurer, Board Members at Large) to be elected at the January Congregation Meeting.

~ Nominate "positions of serving" to be appointed by the Elder Board.

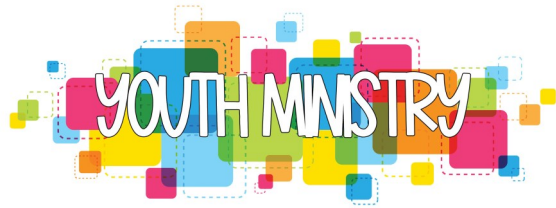
~ Consider nominees from the Elder Board for the position of Elder and if desired, make Elder nominations to the Elder Board.

If you have any questions, or would like to suggest a person for an office, please contact the Board Members-at-Large (Janis Swope or Harold Lawhorne), Lead Elder (Jeff Ewing), or Pastor Mike.

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

Thank you so much for any contributions you can make.





Wednesdays at 6:30 pm

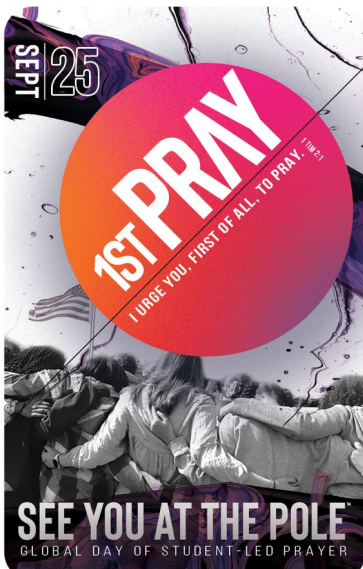
The Youth will continue to meet on Wednesday nights this coming fall. Please come out for fun, singing, fellowship, worship, and time to dig into God's word. For the fall we have plans to study the ordinances (baptism and communion), a Middle School JOLT retreat at Laurelville Camp, plus a musical drama/skit directed by Benjamin Cox.



Also in the Fall we have plans of extending our "20-Something" group to include "30-somethings" for studies, meals, outings, and whatever else might interest our Pre-Keens (older than youth but much too young for Keen-Agers!). We've discussed some thoughts about child care and how to free up the time for young parents. If you're interested, please Joe Cox know!

See You at the Pole

Wednesday, September 25th



See You at the Pole is a time of prayer on the 4th Wednesday of September when students meet at their school flagpole, before school, to lift up their friends, families, teachers, school, and nation to God. It is student-initiated, student-organized, and student-led.



With a new school year starting, a new Bible Quiz season is also beginning. This fall we will dive into the book of Luke. This program is open to anyone in grades 3 - 12. Junior quizzing is for those in 3rd-6th grade and senior quizzing is for 7th-12th grades. Norwin Alliance holds our practices every Sunday evening from 6:00-7:30 pm. Competitions are usually at 9:00 am the first Saturday of the month from October to April at various CMA churches in the greater Pittsburgh area.

The Norwin quizzers will hold our first meeting on Sunday, August 25th. Anyone interested in joining us is welcome to attend this meeting to learn more. Please encourage any young people in your life who may enjoy studying God's Word with fun and fellowship to come check it out.

Awana resumes Wednesday, September 4th at 6:45 pm.

Join us Wednesday evenings from 6:45 - 8:00 pm. Every week we spend time together learning God's Word, playing games, eating snacks, and having lots of fun with each other.

This year we plan to include a Puggles class for 2 year olds, so if you know anyone who might be interested, please let them know.

You can use the registration form attached to the Koinonia or register online www.norwinalliance.org.

We look forward to seeing you on September 4th.





Resumes Monday, September 9th
10:30 am

Please note the new schedule for the Bible Studies: They will be meeting the 1st and 3rd Monday mornings of each month rather than weekly. Exception: September meetings will be the 2nd and 4th Mondays (9/9 and 9/23) due to Labor Day the first Monday.

Both studies begin with coffee and fellowship and focus on fellowship, prayer, and Bible study.

The men will continue their study on the book of Exodus. They will continue with Chapter 32.

Newcomers are always welcome.

Please join us on Monday, September 9th!



DARTBALL FELLOWSHIP

The guys and gals have been meeting all summer for fellowship and Dartball fun.

The Dartball League will begin games on Monday, September 9th.

Their first game will be at Circleville Church.

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

Games are held on Monday evenings at 7:00 pm at various, local churches. Please see Terry Blair if you would like to join.



Women's Corner

Psalm 16:3 As for the saints who are on the earth, "They are the excellent ones, in whom is all my delight."

My favorite Bible translation is the New King James Version (copyright 1979, 1980, 1982 by Thomas Nelson, Inc.) I just included this last sentence because I'm nerdy like that! Well, anyway, I was looking through the Psalms trying to decide which one I should read. I came upon Psalm 16 and decided to read it. When I read verse 3, it just captured my attention. The Psalm had the heading "The Hope of the Faithful, and the Messiah's Victory." Although it is considered a psalm of lament, a note at the bottom of the page stated that "This poem of David became central in the preaching of the apostles in the early church." Another source (Enduring Word Commentary) said that "David delighted in the people of God; despite all their failings, scandals, and embarrassments." All I can add to this is that when I read this verse, I immediately felt uplifted. So many people, Christians and non-Christians, are talking about how things have changed in our society, in our schools, in our communities, and just about everywhere else. But with this verse, I want you to know that no matter how things change God still considers us as His saints. He is with us all the time. You are never truly alone. God loves us that much! Right now, in 2024 we are considered the excellent ones! Have you ever considered yourself excellent? I, certainly, am not excellent. But because I love Jesus and follow him, God looks at me and you as excellent. Don't ever forget that God loves us and won't desert us. Look at another verse, this one is from Psalm 146:1, 2. "Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord, O my soul! While I live, I will praise the Lord; I will sing praises to my God while I have my being." Keep on singing praises to God. He is good!

Just a note to remind you that Monday, September 9th is the first day of **LADIES BIBLE STUDY**. We will begin a study of the book of Daniel. I'm really looking forward to this study. If you have never been to Ladies Bible Study, this is an invitation to come and join us. We begin at 10:30 a.m. and end at noon.

Also, I must put in a word for the **WOMEN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL** class. We meet at 9:45 a.m. on Sunday mornings in the Craft room. We are studying the basics of prophecy. If you are interested, please come. Both Ladies Bible Study and Women's Sunday



2024-2025 Registration Form

Family Information: Parents - please complete all information for each child who is registered.

Parent/Guardian Name(s) _____

Address _____ City _____ ST _____ Zip _____

Home Number _____ Cell Number _____

Email _____ Church affiliation _____

Emergency contact _____ Phone # _____

Preferred method of receiving notifications: Phone call _____ Text _____

or Email _____

Kids Information

Name _____ Date of birth _____ Age _____ Grade _____

Known allergies (including food) _____

Special Needs _____

What else would you like us to know about your child?

I authorize Norwin Alliance Church to use photographs of my child(ren) for local publications, brochures, or web posting.

____ Yes ____ No

I authorize Norwin Alliance Church to use photographs of my child(ren) for posting throughout the church facility.

____ Yes ____ No

Parent Signature _____