



November 2019

Women's Ministries Newsletter

Blessed Be Your Name

Thanksgiving has always been my favorite holiday. As a girl, it meant family gatherings with grandparents, aunts, uncles, and cousins; huge feasts and games. Each year we would go around the table and share something for which we were thankful. As a child, my thankfulness focused on things relevant to my life: winning an important basketball game, passing a biology final, and of course, the generic answer—my family. Naturally, I was thankful for those things. When life is uncomplicated and progresses as you think it should, thankfulness is easy. Age and experience have shown me that there are very few simple things in life. There are losses and disappointments; consequences to choices and things out of our control; pain, worry, and regret. In those seasons, God has taught me to cry out for mercy and live in thankfulness that we have our Savior. So, how do we say, “Blessed be Your name” and mean it when life seems more hard than blessed?

Out of hard seasons, we can develop meaningful and purposeful thanksgiving. It is during difficulties that we must learn to hold on to the Anchor of our salvation, recognizing He is enough. “He is faithful” becomes our anthem and “*blessed be Your name*” our life song.

Ephesians 2:4-9 tell us,

“But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.”

There is nothing more sure or more precious than this truth. Because of Christ’s sacrifice and the assurance that He steadfast in His commitment to us, we can be thankful through times of hardship and moments of triumph.

We learn to speak, to live and to sing the chorus of “*blessed be the name of the Lord!*”

Slow Down & Savor Christ

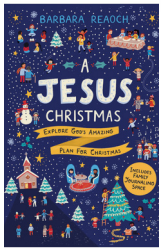
*I wait for the LORD; I wait
and put my hope in his word.*

Psalm 130:5

We provide these Advent resources as a means of helping you and your family pause, contemplate, and enjoy a meaningful Advent season.

A Jesus Christmas

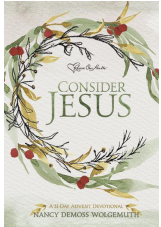
by Barbara Reaoch ([amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com))



This Advent devotional offers an exciting and fresh way for your family to prepare for Christmas. Right from the beginning, the serpent lied to Adam and Eve in the garden of Eden – and he has been lying ever since. But right from the beginning, God told us his amazing plan to send Jesus. Each of the 25 readings looks at one of the serpent's lies from Genesis 3, and then shows how the glorious truth of Christmas beats it every time!

Consider Jesus

by Nancy DeMoss Wolgemuth ([store.reviveourhearts.com](https://www.store.reviveourhearts.com))



The message of Christmas, hope in Jesus, is God's greatest gift to us. In the midst of our own traditions of gift-giving this Advent season, may we remember the Gift of all gifts—God sending His Son to save us from our sins—bringing hope and eternal life for all who believe.

Advent 2019 Study Book

([shopshereadstruth.com](https://www.shopshereadstruth.com))



“O holy night! the stars are brightly shining; It is the night of our dear Savior's birth.” From the earliest promise of His coming in the garden, to the angelic announcement of His birth in a field outside of Bethlehem, the hope of the world is Jesus, the Son of God given to rescue and redeem a broken and weary world. In this four-week Advent reading plan, we will prepare our hearts for the celebration of Jesus's birth by reading traditional scriptures of the season, approaching anew our need for Christ and celebrating the glory of His arrival. watchman is to stare at a “boring old tree stump” and wait for a sign that will signal the arrival of a King who will restore the broken world. Even though the waiting is long (it's been hundreds of years of silence since the prophecies about the “stump”), Benjamin is patient, waiting and longing for the Messiah's arrival.

Ladies' Christmas Brunch: please pray!



We're grateful for all those who give so much of themselves to help us provide a beautifully festive morning of celebration on the first Saturday of December each year. At the time of this writing, preparations for our Ladies' Christmas Brunch are at an all-time high. Our guest speaker, Janet Aucoin, is prayerfully preparing the message that God has placed on her heart. The worship team is practicing. The kitchen crew is hard at work, planning and preparing a delicious meal for you to enjoy. And the table designers are tweaking and rearranging, desiring to provide an experience that makes their guests feel pampered and encouraged. Oh, the to-do list is long, the details many. But despite all that, we are painfully aware how very much we need Jesus. More than delicious food or decorations that wow, we long for the Holy Spirit to be at work in each individual heart: to show us the sin we cling to and the idols we raise up. We long for Him to bring women from darkness to light, mourning to dancing, death to life. Oh, friends, will you please pray with us for each woman in this building on Saturday, December 7? We long for this gathering of women to bring glory to Christ alone.

“Women's Ministries seeks to support the church's mission and vision to multiply disciples of Jesus Christ. Committed to the Word as our authority, we're passionate about nurturing a culture in which Titus 2 discipleship (older teaching younger) can thrive by providing opportunities, resources, and support for women of all ages to connect with one another and the Lord Jesus Christ.”

*Women's
Ministries*
Sheboygan Area Church