

Happy New Year!!!!

2019. I can't believe how quickly 2018 passed! Everything from October through December was just a blur for me! I hope all of you had a wonderful Christmas with your families. We got to enjoy hearing from some of our associate pastors in December! If you missed any of their sermons, you need to go to the website or to the Church Hub app on your phone and listen.

Our January event was a Share Your Soup Recipe gathering. The weather cooperated by sending snow on Friday, so it was the perfect setting for delicious, hot bowls of soup. We wanted to keep it simple after the hectic holidays and it gave us a chance to swap recipes and just exhale a little bit. The group was a bit smaller than the normal gatherings, but God had exactly the right people there! I shared the next installment of Embracing Your Christian Womanhood, a study in Titus 2. We concentrated on our roles as part of the royal priesthood and what that looks like in real life. We also learned about intercession and sacrifice. After that we enjoyed some fabulous soups, all different without a bit of coordination! How great is God! I now have several new recipes to try out! Then we spent some time in corporate prayer, specifically for our beloved Brandi Bornschein and the rest of the family. It was perfect! We missed all of you who couldn't be there for one reason or another and we hope you'll be joining us in February!

Speaking of February, our event for this month looks like another hit! We will begin with the next teaching in our series, this time focusing on confidentiality, gossip, taming the tongue, peacemaking and the Matthew 18 principal – where it applies and where it doesn't. It promises to be a very convicting but necessary teaching and I hope you'll join us. Then we will be submitting to our two craft elves, Mandy and Stephanie as they attempt to teach us how to do some wonderful paper crafts to make our Valentine's Day, or any day just a little nicer. I, of course, will be challenged, but they are very patient, so come and join us to see what those creative juices will produce! We will only have coffee/tea for this gathering. There will be a sign-up sheet in the foyer so we ensure there are enough materials for everyone. Also, if you need childcare, be sure to let us know that on the sheet.

As we start the new year, I see than many of you are making resolutions, setting goals, deciding on a word for the year etc. I would encourage you in this new year to make it a point to get into God's Word every day. Don't try to take on too much. Too often we set goals that we can't possibly reach and end up getting discouraged and quitting. If you currently don't read your bible every day, start small. We have Daily Bread available in the foyer and that is a wonderful way to start reading the word. It has a short scripture and devotion for every day of the year. It only takes 5 minutes, but it will help you develop the habit. The more of the Word of God you get inside you, the better prepared you will be to face the struggles, challenges and trials that we all know will come. Start small. I promise your appetite will increase for the bread of life and the living water that His Word contains!

Please remember to keep Brandi Bornschein in your prayers as well as the rest of the family and our beloved Pastor. We are all part of the family and when one hurts, we all hurt. Prayer is one of the best things you can do for them. I know this is a praying church and we have some true warriors out there, so this is an All Hands On Deck call for you to take a few minutes each day to lift this family up. Then stand back and watch what God does!

My prayer this month for all of you is that you will remember how very blessed you are. You are daughters of the Most High God! There IS no higher calling! I pray for strength and wisdom to run your homes well. I ask the Father to shower you with His love and peace that passeth understanding. May all of you grow closer to Him this year as you grow closer to your families and closer to your sisters in the Lord.

Remember Ladies, we are all in this together. We are all in different stages with different challenges and different adventures. Share with your sisters. Share what God is doing in your lives. It encourages us all! If you need help, please Ask. You have not, because you ask not, James says. That goes for your sisters as well. You rob us of a blessing if you won't ask for help when you need it. God provided you with a whole family of sisters to come along side and help you. Some older, some younger, some peers. Let's bind together in love this year. And serve each other with humble, grateful hearts. I can't wait to see what God will do!

May our Lord and Savior bless and keep you. May He make His face to shine upon you. And be gracious unto you. May He lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace. I love you all. Let's take 2019 for Jesus!

IHS and yours,
Karen