

# Ivyland New Church Newsletter

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## Message from our Pastor

For the past year now we have been fortunate to have live streaming through Facebook for our regular Sunday services. This has been a useful tool for reaching many people not only across the country, but across the globe. It has also proven convenient for those of you who aren't able to make it to the church, so you get to enjoy church services in the comfort of your own home or wherever you are.

While we continue using Facebook streaming and keep looking into the advantages it can bring, it is useful to take a moment and learn something about the value of your presence at church.

One of the easiest and most efficient ways to make a difference in the life of the church and your spiritual health as well as the spiritual health of the society at large is by simply attending Sunday services. Just showing up and sitting in one of our seats can significantly change things more than most people typically know, even if that's all you do. This means attendance plays a big part in the overall service.

Does this mean the service is better when there are more people present? Yes! When there are more people at church on Sunday, there is more presence, that is, the Lord is more fully among us. The message in the service, when many are present, not only reaches more people, but it will reach each person more profoundly, and more deeply. So someone who comes to church with only 30 other people, may hear a sermon and get something useful from it. If the same person comes and hears the exact same sermon, word for word, but with 80 to 90 people there, he enjoys the same sermon much more and will get much more out of it too. He will

remember it better, it will impact him more than if there were only a few people present. This is also true for the other people present. We can see this is the case with the Lord who preached, not only to a few, but to many. With the large crowds His teachings sunk in deep and spread tremendously, internally and externally.



It also helps to keep in mind that when we come to church, we not only bring ourselves but we also bring all our spiritual qualities together with our spiritual associations. When we hear the Word on earth, many angels in heaven hear and love the Word there on their level, which in turn affects our minds. Imagine what that does to us when we all read and hear the Word together here. The result is even stronger and meaningful presence of the Lord. This gives the words in Matthew 18:20 a very important meaning.

So although live streaming services and watching from a remote place is convenient and useful, there's still nothing like being physically present and being part of something huge. This means there will always be a way YOU can make a difference! Thank you all for already being a part of Ivyland, you help make the teachings of the New Church known to the world.

Pastor Ryan Sandstrom

## Upcoming Events

### Mother's Day:

Don't forget, Mother's Day is on **May 13<sup>th</sup>** this year. As always, we will have a service here to pay tribute to not only mothers, but all women and young girls.

Mothers and women in a general sense represent the Lord's Church. The Church, like a woman with child, receives the Lord's truth like a seed and inside it grows and brings forth goodness, like bearing children.



Even though mothers are prime examples of this, it is the Lord within women and men together who constitutes the Church.

Carnations will be distributed to all ladies, young and old, during the children's talk – flowers serve as signs of the tender yet extremely powerful effects of the love inherited from God found only in women.

### Guest Preacher:

On **Sunday May 20<sup>th</sup>** Rev. Kenneth Alden will be giving our regular service. Kenneth is currently a Translation and Education Consultant for the General Church. With his vast background in Education you will sure be in for a treat on the 20<sup>th</sup>!

### Revelation Study:

We are one class away from completing Chapter 18, which leaves us with only 4 chapters left till we finish this book!

On **Wednesday the 9<sup>th</sup>** we will look at the destruction of the old Roman Catholic Form of religion and the delight of the angels. It's not that the angels took delight in the destruction of that church, but that order was restored in the spiritual world.

Join us as we continue looking into the internal sense of this material and the spiritual implications we can get from it.

### We need your blood!

Many people across the world need new blood at hospitals and clinics all the time in order to stay alive. They stay alive as long as there are people willing to donate their blood. One pint of blood can save up to three lives!

On **Tuesday the 15<sup>th</sup>** we will host another blood drive, provided by the American Red Cross. Signing up is easy online. Just visit [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org) and put in Ivyland New Church under the sponsor code box on the upper right hand corner of the screen. When the 15<sup>th</sup> comes around and you still haven't signed up, simply showing up **anytime between 2-7pm** is certainly welcome.



One more useful piece of information regarding this drive: the Red Cross can provide community service hours for anyone who needs it. If any of you have kids looking to volunteer for community service, here is a chance. Just let Ryan know.

## Ivyland New Church 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration

On Sunday, April 29<sup>th</sup>, the Ivyland New Church congregation hosted a special church service, program, and lunch to celebrate 25 years in our church building in Ivyland, PA. The church building, converted from a pole barn in the early 1990's, was actually dedicated in December, 1992, but we opted to wait for warmer(?) weather for the celebration.



The day began with a family worship service led by our pastor, Rev. Ryan Sandstrom, with the theme “Who Are We? Don't underestimate the importance of your existence.” His talk focused on building things, how various parts are essential, support one another and fit together to create a strong whole, and how it is of Divine Providence that life should work this way.

Following the church service, we enjoyed a program which included messages from our former pastors. Rev. Robert S. Jungé, our founding pastor, sent a message read by Rev. Andrew Heilman, who assisted Bob in the early days of the Hatboro/Horsham Group – later to become Ivyland New Church; we also heard a message from Rev. David Lindrooth, our pastor from 1996 – 2004 (who could unfortunately not be with us due to other church duties), from Rev. Tom Rose, pastor from 2004 – 2012, and from Rev. Todd Beiswenger, who acted as assistant to Tom for a time. Then our current pastor, Rev. Ryan Sandstrom, spoke briefly of his journey to Ivyland. As you can tell from this list of names, Ivyland has been blessed from the beginning with gifted, loving pastors, and we have loved them all.



We were delighted to have old friends join us for this celebration, along with newer members. A signature focus of Ivyland New Church is FOOD and FELLOWSHIP. We have had many delightful potluck meals (Feasts of Charity) after church services over the years, and this occasion was no exception. We seated over a hundred and twenty people in the tent set up for the occasion, with barbecue and many other delicious treats.

Ivyland New Church was founded as a form of outreach to bring our faith to the community outside of the established church center. We have benefited over the years from the support of friends in the Bryn Athyn Church and the Academy of the New Church, from New Church friends located farther out in Bucks and Montgomery Counties, and from friends new to our faith.

We broadcast our church services over our Ivyland New Church Facebook Page and invite you to view them. Please feel free to enjoy this anniversary program as we did. We pride ourselves on being a welcoming, family oriented group, and we hope you will visit us sometime soon!





