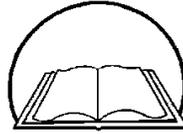


Ivyland New Church Newsletter

Pastor Ryan Sandstrom
215 957 9760 | cell: 215 791 1872
www.ivyland.org
<http://www.facebook.com/IvylandNewChurch>
Email: rmsandst@yahoo.com



851 W. Bristol Road
Ivyland, PA 18974
Editor: Merry Farmer

Message from our Pastor

This is a nice time of the year because we get to finish things off by celebrating the Lord's Advent into the world.

The beauty of Christmas and the Lord's coming is that we can welcome Him into our lives anytime, no matter what we are going through and no matter when. Each new concept we learn and every new love we perceive is like baby Jesus being born in our souls, and we are the stable. And just like the way He grew and developed, our thoughts and loves develop, which cause our entire beings to grow and develop. So you see it is really the Lord who grows and develops you, as long as He is the primary focus in life.

In this world we live in exposure to both good and evil. We see goodness where the Lord is present, and evil where He has been rejected. He came years ago to take on evil and fill up the world again with His love and truth, but that only happens insofar as each one of us receives Him. And to do this, we must all do our part in resisting evil and the tendency to turn away from the Lord. This is how we can feel part of the Lord's coming, that is, He comes to each one of us as we turn to Him. If everyone turns to Him, then He comes into the whole world.

It is a gradual process, since our own individual regeneration is a lifelong process. But let's remember that the Lord is with us in every step of the way. Let's keep the Lord with us as we celebrate His birth into the world and into our lives, and we can move on to the new year with a fresh new start.

Pastor Ryan Sandstrom

Upcoming Events

Annual Children's Christmas Pageant:

On December 9 at 10am we will hold one of the most anticipated services of the year where the children of Ivyland reenact the iconic scenes of the Christmas Story as taken from the Word. See Isaiah, Mary, Elizabeth, Gabriel, Joseph, the wise men, and the many shepherds and angels!

The main roles will be played by the older children, but the smaller children can easily play the roles of shepherds and angels. And as you know there can never be enough of them!



Breakfast will be provided this year, thanks to Ken York, for ALL participating children (parents can enjoy breakfast too). After breakfast children will get a chance to get their costumes on and practice the scenes before the service begins.

As for now, gather as many kids as you can for this touching service!

Caroling service & special presentation:

On December 16 we will have our traditional caroling service. This is a service devoted to key readings from the Sacred Scripture and the Heavenly Doctrine regarding the real meaning of Christmas, and singing our favorite Christmas hymns. As always, the children will get to sing on chancel together with the pastor, so children are especially invited!

Following this service Ryan will give a presentation for those who are interested about the Christmas story. The presentation will consist of a closer look at the details of the Lord's birth and what the Heavenly Doctrine say about them. This can be a useful way to keep the meaning of Christmas alive and strong.

Christmas Eve Candlelight:

On Christmas Eve at 5:30pm all are warmly invited to the church for a special candlelight service to celebrate the birth of our Lord into our lives.



Candles will be provided for all. Near the end of the talk the lights will go down and we will spread light across the whole room with the candles. This is always a calm and meaningful representation of how the Lord's spiritual heat and light, that is His love and wisdom, spread throughout the world in the minds and hearts of people thanks to His birth on earth.

Electric tea light candles will be provided for small children.

Please note that there will be no regular service on Sunday December 23rd.

Guest Preacher:

On December 30 we will have a guest preacher to finish things off for the year. Stay tuned for more details soon about who it will be!

Community News

The Songs of Christmas:

As you know our annual Christmas Show takes place at Ivyland this year on **December 7, at 7pm**. If you haven't been to this show in the past then you're in for a treat. If you have been in the past you are still in for a treat.

Don Rose has a very nice show lined up for us, as always the show will feature talented pianist Jameson van Horn. We will be treated this year with many return performers and other special guests. There will be great music, trivia, prizes, and fun spirits!



Please help by spreading the word. Flyers are available at the church and can be posted anywhere. A quicker and easier way to spread the news is simply by sharing our event on Facebook, or sending a link from our website. Just a few clicks and done.

Looking forward to seeing you there!

Open House at the Manse:

Ryan and Daniela Sandstrom invite you all to an open house on **Friday December 14, from 7-9:30pm**.

Spend some time with us while appreciating some of the history of Ivyland as services were once held in that house.



Enjoy the Christmas decorations, warm fire, and great company. Light hors d'oeuvres and drinks will be provided, though guests are welcome to bring a dish, or drink, or dessert to share.

We look forward to having you with us!

Angel Tree:

The Angel Tree is now set up in the Community Room. Please consider helping local children in need by choosing an angel from the tree, and purchasing new clothing for the desired size and gender. The donations will be distributed to various local agencies by Needlework Guild of America (NGA), who provide "new clothes for new beginnings."



British Academy, a message from Doug Reuter:

In 2018 the British Academy Summer School (BASS) welcomed a large group of Americans, eighteen Yankees in total. Most of those students were from the Academy of the New Church (ANC) because I serve on its faculty and know the students well. We did have six students that did not come from the ANC. They were outstanding contributors to the experience.

I cannot stress enough how important those non-ANC students are to the BASS program. While it was great to have six of them last year, my dream is to have a BASS that is comprised of $\frac{1}{3}$ ANC students, $\frac{1}{3}$ European students, and $\frac{1}{3}$ non-ANC North Americans. Which is why I need your help.

I know there are great kids in or around your society that do not to attend ANC. I don't want them to miss out on the chance to attend BASS simply because I don't know about them or they don't know about BASS.

If you have any young children (typically between eighteen and twenty years of age) that you think would be interested in attending BASS, would you please let me know? I would like to talk to them about it.



BASS 2019 will run from Sunday, July 14, 2019, to Saturday, July 27, 2019. There will be an optional Post-BASS London Adventure that runs from Saturday, July 27, 2019, to the morning of Monday, July 29, 2019.

Financial Aid is available.

Please feel free to contact me if interested or if you have any questions.

Thank you.

Douglas Reuter

Academy of the New Church

Assistant Principal/BASS Liason

267-502-2643/doug.reuter@ancss.org