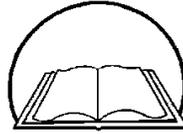


Ivyland New Church Newsletter

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

2017 is done. How was the year for you? Either there were a number of personal challenges to get through, or the number of world affairs was overwhelming, or maybe a bit of both. Or perhaps you saw 2017 as equally challenging as any other year. Maybe it was a great year for you.

There certainly is a lot of good in the world, but it does seem at times that there is way more evil than good. One reason for this is because evil always gets more recognized than good while goodness doesn't seek recognition. But the age-old question that's on a lot of people's minds still stands: why does God allow evil? Why does He let people suffer and tragedy strike? There is no simple, straight forward answer to this question. But we do get some explanation from the Doctrines that can lead us in the right direction. Many passages from the Doctrines speak on the permissions of evil, this one offers an interesting explanation: "the Lord allows evil to exist until it has reached its closing stage or culmination" (AC 10622).

In other words, evil (both the internal and external kind) is allowed so it can be put away forever otherwise it would build up and consume life from within. If it builds up inside we would end up with eternal death instead of eternal life, and the Lord definitely does not want that to happen.

The Lord's plan involves an end where there will be no evil, no pain or suffering, or misfortune, and this to eternity. When viewed together, the earthly years where suffering exists don't even come close to an eternity of peace and satisfaction!

As we all long for an eternity of peace, let's see about adjusting our point of view from a doctrinal standpoint: there is a lot of evil in the world, and in our lives, but that means it **will** come to an end.

And now, here are some good things to look forward to at Ivyland for 2018 so far.

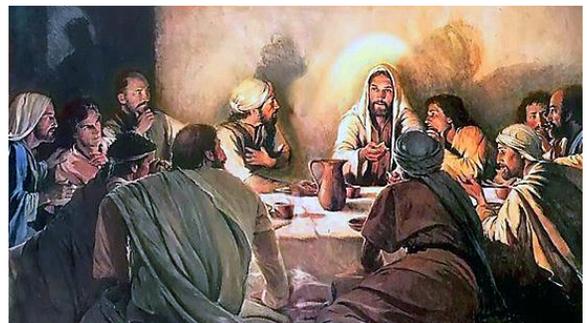
Pastor Ryan Sandstrom

Upcoming Events

Holy Supper:

Getting into a new year is like getting a new chance. Even though it's just another rotation of the earth, it's nice to be reminded that the Lord constantly gives us new chances and fresh starts.

On January the 7th we will all get to start the new year in the right direction by taking a new chance to approach the Lord in worship and take Him into our lives.



Not feeling worth it? Everyone is called. The disciples all got to sup with the Lord Himself, yet neither of them all were anything near perfect. Remember it is impossible to get anywhere in life without the Lord inside of you. Come and gather!

Scout Sunday:

Make sure to get your uniforms ready and let all Scouts know. **February 4** this year is Scout Sunday. Friends and family from all over are invited to attend this annual service honoring the Scouts of America.

Boys and girls, men and women especially are invited to attend this service in full class A uniform.



The theme for Scout Sunday this year is Duty: Duty to God, Duty to Others and Duty to Yourself. Please come and enjoy!

New Sermon Series:

Lately we've heard what it means to be part of Ivyland, which is really what our mission statement declares. Being part of our church means being aware of what we stand for. So what do we stand for? What is it that we do here?

Our official mission statement for Ivyland answers this, and it reads: *"To worship the Lord Jesus Christ, the One God of heaven and earth. To learn from His Word; the Old and New Testaments and the Heavenly Doctrine of the New Jerusalem. To apply the teachings of the Word to life, and to share them freely with our neighbors near and far."*

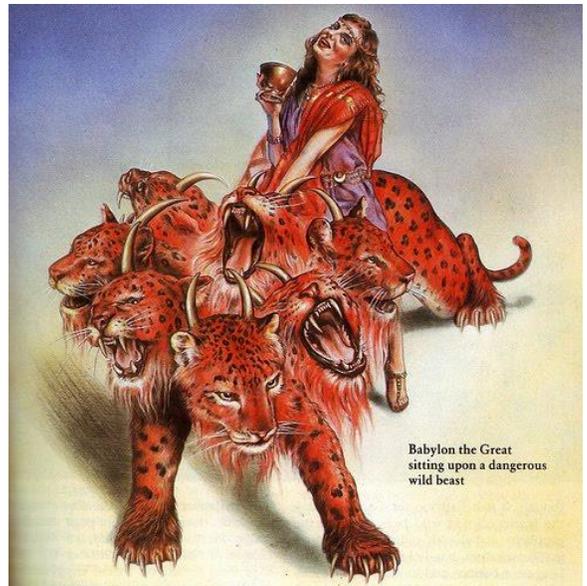
Take a good look at this statement and you'll see that it includes all the fundamental elements of living a spiritual, that is a heaven-bound, life. Let's break down the statement to four key words: worship, learn, apply, share. All Scripture and Doctrine teaches us to learn the truth, and to live by it, and doing so constitutes true worship of God. Worshiping the Lord this way also involves loving the neighbor. All this is what we are all about at Ivyland.

Starting on **February 11** we will launch into a 4 week series in order to cover each of those 4 key components of our statement listed above, which again are worship, learn, apply, and share.

Discussion style classes will be offered after church for this series.

Revelation Study:

We had a busy and fun holiday season with Thanksgiving and Christmas festivities. Now that we are into the new year and the festivities have past we can resume our regular study of the incredible book of Revelation.



Before Thanksgiving we read into Chapter 17 involving a woman sitting upon a scarlet beast. What happens next? And more importantly, what on earth does it all mean? Find out as we get back together on **Wednesday January 24**. Class begins at 7:30, all are welcome!

Attendance Challenge:

There are many aspects about worship that help bring the Lord closer to you. One these aspects has to do with your presence. There's no limit to how far and deep the Lord can reach you inside, but one thing that certainly helps this, especially during worship, is being present with others. The Lord is present with each one of us, no doubt. When a few are together, the Lord is present with them all, collectively and singularly. When there are many together, the Lord is

that much more present, collectively and singularly. The effects of the Lord's individual presence in each of us increases when we all come to worship Him together.

We're talking about new chances and new starts, here is a worthy challenge to begin the new year. You have heard about it at church in December and have seen the flyers. For the **month of January** we are calling on you all to provide your presence for each Sunday. Come for each Sunday, or as much as you can simply to help increase the effects of the Lord's presence and influx into all of us as we worship together.

We look forward to seeing you!

Community News

Crafting Time:

Are you a knitter or a quilter? A photographer or a scrapbooker? Do you have a project that you'd really like to finish, or would you like to learn a new crafting skill?



This winter, Karen Cavanaugh and Merry Farmer will be organizing Craft Time at the church as a way of getting us all through the blustery months. Our first order of business is figuring out when would be a good time for the most people to meet. So if you see Merry or Karen after church, let us know what would work for you! (We're thinking maybe Sundays after church???) All ages and skill-levels welcome!

Game Night:

Stay tuned for details coming up very soon on our next Game Night!



Special Thanks:

Daniela and I would like to thank the Ivyland society for the generous donation we received this Christmas. It is thanks to the support and care from all of you that has made it possible for us to stay and continue serving for over 5 years now!

Thank you and blessings to you all!