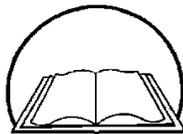


Ivyland New Church Newsletter

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Message from our Pastor

Welcome 2020! Often times when the new year rolls around we reflect on our lives and think about the things we would like to accomplish. What do we want to do differently than last year? What will be new?

The Lord spoke of making all things new in *Revelation 21*. Look at *Doctrine of the Lord 65* and you'll see a good explanation of what those words in *Revelation* mean. The Lord was talking about a new doctrine, or in other words a doctrine that no one in the Church had seen before. The reason why no one had seen it before was because if they had seen too soon they would have rejected it, and it's always worse to see something good and reject it than to just not see it at all.

The thing about this "new" doctrine is that it's buried deep within the stories and teachings of the Old Testament. So the doctrine has actually been around since the beginning of time but people weren't in the proper frame of mind to see it. But today it is possible for us to see it.

When we see the doctrine today, the crystal clear teachings from the Word, it sometimes feels like we are seeing it for the first time. Along with that, the doctrine helps us come to some meaningful realizations about our lives, heaven, and the Lord's active presence among all things. Each realization is something new. This is why the Lord speaks of a *new* doctrine, making all things *new*, and thus establishing a *New* Church. It's all *new* to us.

So as you set out to a new year with new opportunities, keep seeking the Lord in the Word, and discover just how many "new" things He will reveal to you. With the right patience and trust, this will be a great 2020.

Pastor Ryan Sandstrom

Upcoming Events

Come and Gather:

We have just celebrated Christmas, a time to acknowledge the Lord's Advent into our own individual lives. Now that we are into the new year we can look forward to approaching the Lord and internalizing the Lord's Advent even more in the Holy Supper.

At the end of January (the 26th) we will have a holy supper offered during the adult talk portion of the service.



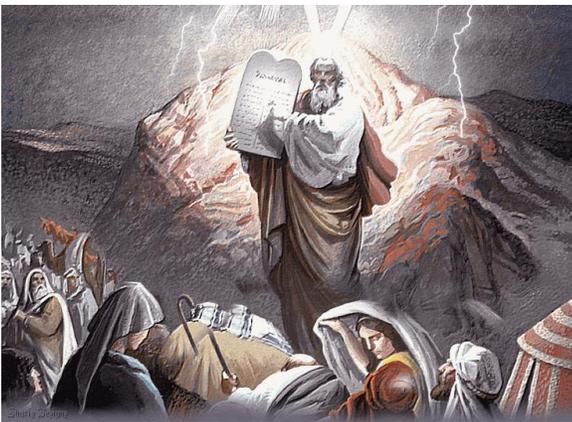
Since this is considered a most holy act of worship it is worth taking the time to prepare. We all do this on a personal basis, so that part is completely up to you. At church, however, there are things you can learn that can be useful and instrumental in your own personal preparation.

For the next few Sundays leading up to the 26th we will focus on specific aspects of the holy supper. This way, by the time we get to the 26th, we can be good and ready to partake.

Sermon Series:

Looking through the Word there are many stories, many teachings, many collections of doctrine that do well in a sermon series. We have looked at quite a few in the past several years here such as the Life After Death series, the “I AM” series, the Prayer series, and many more. Each one is unique and offers an in depth look at very specific aspects of our lives.

This time, instead of going to the next idea we will take some time to revisit one of the most fundamental and core set of teachings that spread throughout the entire Word and throughout our entire lives – the Ten Commandments.



We have known these by heart ever since childhood, we can recite them without even having to think. Though how often do we really reflect on the meaning of each one? How well do we actually observe them in life?

The Children of Israel lost the Ark of the Covenant several times, and regained it several times. Each

time they claimed it back they rejoiced greatly. Sometimes we cherish things way more after we lose them than before when we always had them around. So let us take another look as if we have reclaimed these priceless teachings, let us be amazed at how often we discover things about these well known Commandments that we hadn't seen before!

There are ten Commandments, which means it will take ten weeks to get through this series. However, there are many other special services we will encounter along the way. So instead of rushing through all ten in one streak we will break this series up over a period of months. We will begin the series on the first Sunday of February, then pause on the second week for Scout Sunday. We will then resume the series for the rest of February and into March, then pause again in April for Palm Sunday and Easter. Then we will resume for the rest of April then end in May just before Mother's Day. This series will take us well into Spring, which is quite symbolic because obeying the Commandments does take us from a state of coldness to a state of genuine warmth and growth.

The children will get to tag along in this series as well. Each children's talk will feature the Commandment for the week and a lesson revolving around that. Then they will elaborate some more in their Sunday School lessons.

Keep an eye out for a more detailed sermon schedule in the community room. There will be no classes offered after church for this series.

Minor Prophets:

Now that all the excitement and hustling from Christmas is in the past we can take some time to continue our focus on the Minor Prophets. We began this study early last fall and have worked our way through most of *Hosea* so far. We have a few chapters of *Hosea* left then we will continue on to *Joel*.

The study so far has proven very fascinating and deep as we consider the many implications from the literal sense, we compare notes with various translations we

bring, and then we see the depth of each of the verses with the explanation of the internal sense from the Heavenly Doctrine. From this experience we all get to see just how rich and abundant the written Word really is, a true treasure to behold!



Join us as we continue our study. Our first class of the year will be on **Wednesday, January 8th, then again on 22nd. In February we will meet on the 5th and on the 19th. All classes begin at the church at 5pm, and they will be live streamed through our Facebook page.** All are warmly welcome and highly encouraged to attend!

On our first class on the 8th we will cover *Hosea* 13-14.

Scout Sunday:

In February we get the honor of welcoming many special guests for a very unique service. **On Sunday, February 9th** we will have our annual Scout Sunday service.

This year for this service we will focus on the theme of **Preparation**: In what ways do we prepare ourselves? What should we prepare ourselves for? What did people in the Word prepare for? And how did they prepare? When it comes to preparation those with Scouting experience certainly know a thing or two!



Scouts of all kinds are especially invited to this service, including Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, and men and women who have served or still serve. And please do attend in your full scout uniforms. We look forward to having you with us!

Community News

Game Night:

Get ready for a night of games, friendship and fun at Ivyland!

You can expect there to be a wide variety of board games and perhaps a video game or two! **Please encourage your teenage kids to come since there will be plenty of games and activities for them to enjoy as well. No admission will be charged for teens as they can come for free!**



Admission is \$10 per adult over 21 plus a bottle of alcoholic or non-alcoholic beverage. These bottles will be given away as raffle prizes, so make sure you purchase raffle tickets while you're there! Raffle tickets for a 50/50 will also be sold during this event.

Light refreshments will be provided.

Game night will take place on Saturday, February 22nd, at Ivyland from 7:30-10:30pm.

From the bottom of our hearts:

Daniela and I feel honored and privileged to be serving the Ivyland congregation for 8 years now. We are VERY grateful for your generous gift donations. We appreciate this kind of support as it does help us out in many ways. Thank you all very much!

Dining for Dollars:

Bertucci's is putting us back in the game with the popular Dining for Dollars fundraiser. You can look forward to the end of March for the next chance to benefit our church by eating!

Stay tuned for more specific details coming soon.

Movie Night:

Join us at the church on **Friday February 28 at 7:30pm** for a theater style movie experience.

Keep your eyes opened for a list of movie titles in the community room. We will watch the movie with the most votes!