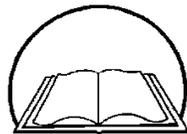


# Ivyland New Church Newsletter

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## Message from our Pastor

What does it mean to be free? Free to do what we want, say what we want? We've heard a lot in the world these days about "freedom of choice." While the Lord works with all of us to be truly free, He still leaves us in freedom to choose whether or not to follow Him in His teachings. Even though He leaves us in freedom, He still leads us closer to Himself without ever violating our freedom.

Although He leaves us in freedom, we know this does not necessarily grant anyone the freedom to do anything he chooses, or to believe anything he wants. With freedom comes great responsibility. It's the responsibility to deny ourselves, take up the cross, hear the Lord in His teachings through the Scriptures and Heavenly Doctrine, and then to stand by these teachings. We are free to hold on to these teachings, and we are free to ignore them. One choice leads to true freedom, the other does not. The challenge in this day and age is to stand by the teachings even if the popular, public opinion seems to go against them.

Let's keep in mind what the Lord said about being truly free: "If you remain faithful to my word, you are truly my disciples; and you will recognize the truth, and the truth makes you free. If therefore the Son makes you free, you will be truly free. But anyone who commits sin is the slave of sin" (John 8:31-36).

The Lord also tells us not to judge others, as we have our own cross to bear. So as we celebrate independence this summer and freedom from our natural enemies, let us continue to use our freedom to follow the Lord as our Shepherd and find out

from Him what is good and what is evil, what is true and false so we can be free from the sneaky spiritual enemies.

Pastor Ryan Sandstrom

## Upcoming Events

### Guest Preacher:

On August 13, Rev. Chris Barber will be giving our regular service. Chris is always happy and ready to preach at Ivyland, we look forward to what he has to say!

Keep your ears open for other possible guest preachers coming to see us over the summer!

### Giving Tree:

We did it, the branches are bare, good job everyone, we reached our goal!



Thank you very much for your help and support, we are grateful for the amount of returns we've had so far thanks to this tree. Just remember that even though the tree is down again for a while that you can always return your "leaves" at anytime.

### **Hugo Tree:**

All are invited to a brief tree dedication on Saturday, July 15 at 10am at the far end of the front parking lot.



Hugo Henderson is no doubt experiencing some incredible things right now in the other world. May his life continue to blossom in heaven as this new tree blossoms every year!

## Community News

### **Movie Night:**

For those who aren't going anywhere for this time over the summer, consider coming to Ivyland on July 21<sup>st</sup> at 7:30 for a laid back and relaxing movie night.



Keep a look out for movie titles and descriptions to choose from in the community room. We will watch the most voted movie. There will be a movie for children too.

### **Game Time!**

On Saturday, August 26, 2-5pm, bring your kids to the Ivyland for a variety of fun. There will be indoor and outdoor games for people of all ages. 50/50 raffle, raffle prizes, and surprises!

Since this is a fundraiser we will be asking only \$10 per family, plus a snack or refreshment of some sort to share.

Join us this summer for some fun and support Ivyland!

### **A little help:**

We all have plenty more summer to go. With a good amount of time ahead of us still we've already started to think about our great annual 5k event later this fall.



This event, as you can imagine, does take quite a bit of planning and help from a number of people. We'd love to have you join our 5k committee if you're interested. There are always plenty of things to look into and do. Contact either Ryan or Daric Smith this summer if you would like to help.

### **Jacob's Creek:**

For those looking for a family fun church themed camp to go to this summer, try considering Jacob's Creek. This is a New Church summer camp geared for people of all ages. Lead by Rev. Matthew Genzlinger, there will be a staff of New Church ministers and other talented planners to make for a very meaningful and pleasant time.

Pamphlets with information and registration form are available at the church, in the community room. Feel free to take one. Now is the time to apply! Camp will take place on July 23-26. This year's theme is "Behold I make all things new!"

