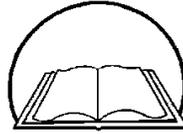


Ivyland New Church Newsletter

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Message from our Pastor

And before you know it March is already here!

We are ¼ of the way through 2019. How much has happened to you in these past two months? We've had a decent amount of events here at Ivyland: a holy supper, a Game Night, a Scout Sunday service, a Memorial Service, and the church has been fully restored since the accident late last year. It seems we're off to a good start. Now that we've done quite a bit we can use March to slow down a bit, catch our breath, and look forward to April!

March will be a relatively quiet month for us, but we still have a few things going on that you can learn more about in this newsletter. Consider March a breather, a chance to take a break, to regain strength and ambition to move on. This way even when standing still we are getting somewhere.

Think about King David at En-ge-di taking refuge from King Saul (I Sam 23: 29). David ran for his life for a long time, constantly being pursued. En-ge-di was an oasis-like place where he and his men could find water, shelter, and rest before moving on.

We may not be chased after like David was, but dealing with our regular challenges and duties can have the tendency of wearing us down. Every now and then it's necessary to step back, catch our breath, and carry on. In most cases when we had the chance to catch our breath we come back with more energy and confidence to handle our issues than before.

So rest well when you have a chance, and carry on!

Pastor Ryan Sandstrom

Upcoming Events

Revelation Study:

On the 13th and the 27th of this month, at 7:30pm, we will continue our study on Revelation. It's hard to believe that just a few more classes and we will be done!

On the 13th we will complete Chapter 21 where we get more details on the specific gems used in the Holy City New Jerusalem. It all has specific meaning to the Church, to the Lord, and to our lives.



On the 27th we begin the final Chapter of Revelation; it is time to gear up towards a happy ending.

All are welcome to attend and enjoy!

Palm Sunday:

This year Palm Sunday falls on April 14. It is a little while off still but it is certainly good to anticipate this date now, there are a number of things planned at Ivyland for this day.

First: We will have our regular service as usual with a children's talk followed by an adult talk. You will all be invited to participate in our procession at the beginning of the service. Palm fronds will be provided. In addition to the fronds, please bring any used clothing you have and are willing to donate. These clothes will be laid down on the chancel together with the fronds during the procession. All clothing items will be donated to Good Stuff Thrift, so bring as many clothes as you can!



Second: Immediately after the service we will gather in the community room for a potluck lunch. Keep your eyes opened for a sign up sheet in the community room soon so you can indicate what dish you will bring to share.

Third: Small children will get to participate in an egg hunt (inside or outside depending on the weather). Each egg will contain something of value to the church and something for each child to keep.

Finally, this is a family oriented event, a way of coming together to celebrate the Lord entering into our lives as He entered Jerusalem. We would like as many families and friends to come as possible. Please feel free to get the word out and invite other families and friends to come along!

Baptism:

To top things off for our **Palm Sunday service** we will have an infant baptism taking place during the Children's Talk portion of the service. Rhys and Gabriely Asplundh will be visiting us from Florida to have their fourth child (Nicolas) baptized into the New Church.

Since Palm Sunday is a family oriented event this baptism will be a perfect way to add an appropriate touch, bringing families and children closer to heaven!

Other news and information

Movie Night:

On March 29th at 7:30pm we will have a movie night at the church. Unlike movie nights in the past where we had a theater-like set up in the community room, we will be holding this one in the chapel. Aside from projecting video onto a large screen we now have the advantage of hooking up sound to the chapel speakers, turning the chapel into a theater.



Keep an eye out for a list of movie titles in the community room and place a check near the ones you would like to see. We will end up watching the title that has the most check marks.

This is a family friendly event so please bring your kids! There will be a separate movie selection for children in the nursery room.

Month of Change:

This year we are designating April as the “Month of Change.” Similar to what we did back in 2017, we want everyone to make an effort to collect as much loose change you find lying around and bring it to the church. Our goal by the end of April is to fill the big churchy bank to the top so that our Treasurer Ken Cronlund needs help carrying it to the real bank!

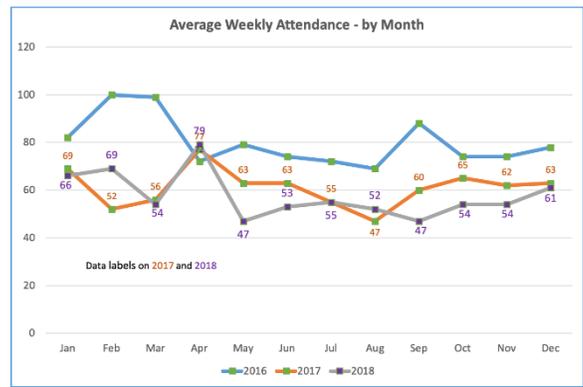


Any change (as long as it is US currency) will gladly be accepted. When you get a chance take a look in your couch, your glove box, your old boots, under the kitchen counter, any place where loose coins like to hide.

Each coin may be small in value, but when we all add up our findings together those coins will certainly make a significant difference, enough to make a change!

Some Numbers:

Every year it’s useful to take a look at where we stand in terms of attendance (and basket contributions). While Ivyland continues to thrive there are some things worth giving attention to, at least for the sake of awareness.



As you can see in these graphs the actual attendance per week varies but the average tells you roughly how many people attend church on any given Sunday.

We seem to be holding steady in the 40 to 60 range. The average offertory seems to be pretty steady as well. Let us hope that we at least keep holding steady.

These graphs are meant to simply act as a gage. We will continue to thrive as we always have, but the overall health of the society and our church depends on your presence and participation. We worked hard in the past to earn the “self-sufficient” status. It’s up to us to keep it.

So the message from this isn’t “please come to church more often.” It’s more like “we are pleased to have you with us and we look forward to seeing you again soon.”

