

# Ivyland New Church Newsletter

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## Message from our Pastor

For the past few months we have been fortunate to have live streaming through Facebook for our regular Sunday services. This has been a useful tool for reaching many people not only across the country, but across the globe. It has also proven convenient for those of you who aren't able to make it to the church, so you get to enjoy church services in the comfort of your own home or wherever you are.

While we continue using Facebook streaming and keep looking into the advantages it can bring, it is useful to take a moment and learn something about the value of your presence at church.

One of the easiest and most efficient ways to make a difference in the life of the church and your spiritual health as well as the spiritual health of the society at large is by simply attending Sunday services. Just showing up and sitting in one of our seats can significantly change things more than most people typically know, even if that's all you do. This means attendance plays a big part in the overall service.

Does this mean the service is better when there are more people present? Yes! When there are more people at church on Sunday, there is more presence, that is, the Lord is more fully among us. The message in the service, when many are present, not only reaches more people, but it will reach each person more profoundly, and more deeply. So someone who comes to church with only 30 other people, may hear a sermon and enjoy it. If the person comes and hears the exact same sermon, word for word, but with 80 to 90 people there, he enjoys the same sermon much more. He will get more out of it, remember it better, it will impact him

more than if there were only a few people present. This is also true for the other people present. We can see this is the case with the Lord who preached, not only to a few, but to many. With the large crowds His teachings sunk in deep and spread tremendously.

It also helps to keep in mind that when we come to church, we not only bring ourselves but we also bring all our spiritual qualities together with our spiritual associations. When we hear the Word on earth, many angels in heaven hear and love the Word there on their level, which affects our minds. Imagine what that does to us when we all read and hear the Word together here. The result is even stronger and meaningful presence of the Lord. This gives the words in Matthew 18:20 a very important meaning.

So although live streaming services and watching from a remote place is convenient and useful, there's still nothing like being physically present and being part of something huge. This means there will always be a way YOU can make a difference! Thank you all for already being a part of Ivyland, you help make the teachings of the New Church known to the world.

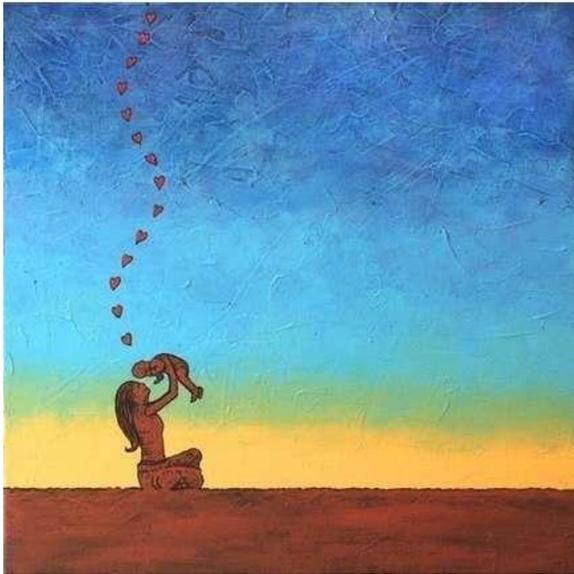
Pastor Ryan Sandstrom



## Upcoming Events

### Mother's Day:

Don't forget, May 14 is Mother's Day this year. We typically use this day at church to honor mothers and women the way they are honored in the Word. Imagine what the world would be like without women... on second thought, let's not!



Children will get a chance to pass out flowers to the women in the congregation on this day during the children's talk. Come and enjoy!

### Revelation Study:

There were two classes scheduled in April that were both cancelled for various reasons, which means we haven't gotten anywhere since March!

On May 10 and 24 at 7:30pm we will cover Chapter 14 of *Revelation*, along with its treatment in *Apocalypse Revealed: A New Christian heaven is formed!*

### Discussion Class:

Due to popular demand we will be having discussion style doctrinal classes after church on a semi-regular basis. Following a similar format to the sermon series classes we've had in the past, all people will be welcome to come after church to learn more about and discuss a variety of topics, which typically have a practical side to them. In

these classes everyone gets a chance to speak their mind, hear what others have to say, answer some questions, share experiences, or just reflect. The topics will be established ahead of time and can relate to basically anything of life and religion. Suggestions for topics can also be given.



Our first discussion style doctrinal class will be on May 21<sup>st</sup> after church. The topic for this class will be on our interaction and connection with spirits. How are we connected to them? Why does it matter? Do they really influence our daily lives? What do you think? Come and be a part!

### Red Cross Blood Drive:

According to the American Red Cross, a total of 30 million blood components are transfused each year in the US, and more than 38,000 blood donations are needed each day. If you are able, please consider donating blood at Ivyland on May 16, from 2-7pm. Signing up is possible at [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org) (Sponsor code: Ivyland New Church), or sign up on the sheet at the church in the community room.



*Together, we can save a life*

This is a very easy and effective way of saving and maintaining life!