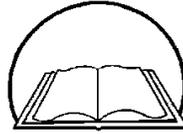


# Ivyland New Church Newsletter

Pastor Ryan Sandstrom  
215 957 9760 | cell: 215 791 1872  
[www.ivyland.org](http://www.ivyland.org)  
<http://www.facebook.com/IvylandNewChurch>  
Email: [rmsandst@yahoo.com](mailto:rmsandst@yahoo.com)



851 W. Bristol Road  
Ivyland, PA 18974  
Editor: Merry Farmer

## Message from our Pastor

For the past two years now 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.

You might have noticed that there have been some recent tweaks in our streaming quality, and some minor changes in the chapel. These adjustments are meant to improve our recording and broadcasting capabilities, and your feedback is most certainly welcome.

While we continue to make modifications I hope that you will consider 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. This can be done 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 get something useful from it. If the same 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 and will get

much more out of it too. He will 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, internally and externally.



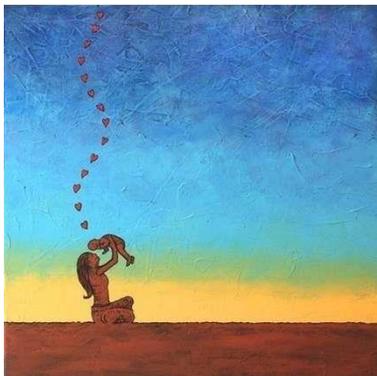
It also helps to keep in mind that when we come to church, we not only bring ourselves but we also bring all our spiritual qualities together with our spiritual associations. When we hear the Word on earth, many angels in heaven hear and love the Word there on their level, which in turn affects our minds. 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:

This year **Mother's Day falls on May 12**. As we have done in the past, we will be honoring mothers and women in our annual Mother's Day Service. All women, including little girls, will receive well-deserved carnations during the service!



The Word has many powerful teachings and passages regarding mothers and women in relation to the Church and our lives. Come and hear more about it.

Mothers and Grandmothers are especially invited to come and enjoy this service!

### Discussion Style Classes (there will be chocolate):

As most of you know by now our regular class that meets twice a month on Wednesday evenings has finally completed *Revelation*. It took 4 years to work through *Apocalypse Revealed* with its doctrinal treatment on the events recorded by John in *Revelation*, which presented countless valuable teachings on the spiritual world and the Church on earth.

With all that done now the next question is "what do we look at next?" Obviously we have a very wide selection of options to consider. But with summer fast approaching it doesn't make sense to launch into another work right away, we will wait for the fall to begin the next doctrinal study.

HOWEVER, it would be nice if everyone was informed now of what our options are for the fall. So instead of looking over a list, how about *sampling* each of the options?

This is what the two discussion style classes in May are for.

Think of it like a box of chocolates, within which is a wide variety of treats. They all look great on the outside, and the inside of each is full of wonderful surprises.



Yes, this does mean that looking further into the Word and the Doctrines with all the specific teachings is very delightful and full of wonderful surprises!

**Our first discussion class will be after church on the 5<sup>th</sup>**. I will present a number of works from the Sacred Scripture and Heavenly Doctrine. But it won't be like reading a manual, but more like sampling one of those delicious chocolates. Each one, like each work of the Word, is unique in design and flavor, and very revealing, and VERY nutritious! You will find out what to expect in each one, and thus let the anticipation set in.

Everyone during this class will be free to ask questions, provide input, present feedback, and most of all, indicate preferences.

Then **on the 19<sup>th</sup>** we will have our second discussion class after church. This one will be more focused on a particular work or two that people seemed to like a lot from the first class. This way you can get a more complete overview of the work itself (again, not like reading through a manual), and a preview of what classes in the fall may look like.

Please note though that these two classes in May are open to all, everyone is invited and will be warmly welcome to attend and participate. Deciding on what to actually study in the fall can still be determined and finalized after May.

I look forward to seeing you soon!

## Blood Drive:

Our church has been a great way to improve our lives. Now the church will be used to quite literally save lives!

**On May 14, from 2-7**, we will be hosting another blood drive by the American Red Cross.



*Together, we can save a life*

The setup is the same as we have done in the past, though this time signing up to donate is mostly done online. Go to [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org) and put in "ivyland new church" as the sponsor code. You will then be able to put in your name and a time preference there.

If you aren't sure whether or not you can make a specific time you can still walk in at any time during the drive.

## Month of Change:

We have certainly appreciated all the thoughtful and generous donations this past month thanks to you all finding loose change from all unusual areas. It was especially fun watching all those kids dump in their change from the Easter eggs they found after our Palm Sunday service.

Each coin has its value, and now with our churchy bank full of many coins they all come together to help make a change that helps us keep functioning.

Although April has passed and our "Month of Change" is over, the churchy bank in the hallway will gladly accept any of your loose change no matter the time of year.

## Jacob's Creek Family Retreat

**July 21 – July 24, 2019**

The Camp is located at the Laurelville Mennonite Church Center in Mt. Pleasant, Pennsylvania.

This Year's Theme is: Sacraments and Rites

Get your registration forms online at: <https://www.jacobscreekfamilyretreat.org/>

Friend us on Facebook at: <https://www.facebook.com/JacobsCreekFamilyRetreat/>

Or you can contact Julie Uber at 412-782-2710 (h) or [jacobscreekfamilyretreat@gmail.com](mailto:jacobscreekfamilyretreat@gmail.com) to receive forms by mail.

## ANC SUMMER CAMP 2019:

We invite all current 8th and 9th grade students to join us for a week of good old-fashioned fun! We offer a taste of dorm life, many interesting classes to choose from, daily worship to learn more about the New Church, different social activities each evening, our world famous color Olympics, and so much more

Registration is open NOW! The all-inclusive cost for the week is \$450. Registration closes June 21st. All class information and registration forms are available at [www.ancss.org/academics-summer-anccamp](http://www.ancss.org/academics-summer-anccamp)

For more information, please contact Emily Adams, Director, [emily.adams@ancss.org](mailto:emily.adams@ancss.org) or 267.625.7009.