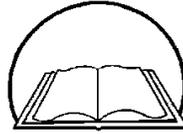


# Ivyland New Church Newsletter

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## Message from our Pastor

On Sunday October 29 we had our Annual Society Meeting. For the past few years though we have been calling it the “Annual Gathering.” Psalm 50: 4-6 was read at the beginning of this occasion: “Gather my saints together unto Me, those that have made a covenant with Me by sacrifice.” One of the infinite things the Lord does is that He gathers together. People come together for all kinds of things, and it always feels like it’s by chance or freedom that we meet, but it is always His doing. He brings people together, and He has most certainly brought Ivyland together.

We gather on Sundays to worship, and learn and for other reasons as outlined in the pastor’s report. One great benefit of gathering is that we get to connect with each other.

The Annual Gathering wasn’t just a meeting or a chance to conduct business. Sure that was part of it, but really it was a celebration. So many individuals came forward to report on something, share some news, offer ideas, and give thanks. It was a time to recognize the outstanding qualities that you all possess that make this church incredible. And what makes it amazing is that no one here takes credit for any good thing they do, because we all know that it’s from the Lord and thanks to the Lord that we have come together to not only worship, but to work and serve as a team.

After looking through each of the items in this newsletter, you’ll see a report on this year’s annual gathering at the end. As you look through, just think for a moment how many people are involved with

each item, and who will benefit from each one. Let that be proof that it’s thanks to you all, and thanks to the Lord that we are together as a church.

Pastor Ryan Sandstrom

## Upcoming Events

### Thanksgiving Day:

Please join us on Thanksgiving Day at 10am for our annual Thanksgiving Festival Service.



As always we ask that you bring with you non-perishable food items to be placed on the chancel during this service. The food donation is a useful act of thanks, which we symbolically do during the service as a way of offering thanks and praise to the Lord. However, this offering has a lot of practical benefits that go a long way for some maltreated and needy children in our own surrounding community. They will be the direct recipients of our act of thanksgiving.

We look forward to having you with us!

## Guest Preacher:

Stay tuned for more details on our guest preacher for our regular Sunday service on the 26<sup>th</sup>.

## Revelation Study:

We will have one class on November 8<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 to begin Chapter 17. Who could know that there is so much contained within each phrase, let alone, each word we read in Revelation? So much was going on back then in the spiritual world, and historically in the natural world. And yet each and every detail touches on some aspect of our lives today. Incredible how it all comes together.

Come and see just how much there is to see and learn!

After this class on the 8<sup>th</sup> we will take a break until after the new year due to Thanksgiving and Christmas activities.

## Community News

### Ivyland Oktoberfest: Family Potluck and Homebrew Tasting.

It's coming up in just a few days, come to Ivyland on November 4 anytime from 5:30 to 8 pm.



We are looking forward to a great Oktoberfest with this year's changes in location, time and cause.

Bring your family and a dish of some sort to share. There should be plenty of good food for everyone, plus lots of exquisite homebrews to try out.

Suggested donation is \$30 per adult above the age of 21, though any donation amount will be gladly

accepted. Tasting classes will be given per donating guest.

All proceeds from this event will be matched per dollar and donated to the American Red Cross for Hurricane Relief. Make checks out to Ivyland New Church and the funds will be distributed from there.

## Clean up time:

One of the teachings the New Church says that being spiritual is a matter of keeping our externals compliant with our internals. So we should act the same on the outside with words and actions as we are on the inside with thoughts and intentions. Ivyland certainly provides plenty of guidance as to cleaning out our internals, though an external cleaning is certainly necessary from time to time.



On Saturday the 18th, from 8:30 onward, come anytime to help keep our building in tip top shape. There are all sorts of odd jobs for anyone to do, you can even bring your kids.

Lunch will be provided.

## Bertucci's (Huntingdon Valley):

It's that time of year again to let your dining experience benefit Ivyland. Eat in, carry out, call for delivery, lunch and dinner, bring your friends and family!

We have been introduced to a new tier system of benefits: If we spend up to \$900 in dining, Ivyland keeps 15% of that. Up to \$1900, we keep 20%. Over \$1900 we keep 25%!



But please, above all, don't forget to mention to your host, server, waiter, manager, etc., that you are there for Ivyland. This year we will be providing flyers ahead of time to be presented at the time of dining. Remember every dollar (and bite) counts, but only if they know it is for Ivyland.

Let's get hungry!

### **The Giving Tree is Back:**

For the month of November we are bringing back our giving tree to keep up with the spirit of thanksgiving.

This time we are seeking support for Sunday School in order to ensure quality Sunday School lessons. The leaves now take the form of various Sunday school supplies, ranging from scissors to flat screen TVs. That's right, TVs! Often times the children will watch an instructional and appropriate video that is directly relevant to the topic at hand. Having a wider screen certainly beats huddling many small heads to a little laptop screen.

So take a moment to check out the tree with its new "leaves." And thank you always for your continued support and attention to these details. We couldn't do it without you.

### **Annual Society Meeting (report):**

On Sunday October 29<sup>th</sup> we held our annual gathering after our regular Sunday service. Thank you to all who were able to attend. As you learned that day, your presence greatly matters to us all, and we really can't grow without you.

Please keep an eye out for the minutes for this meeting, which will be made available for all in the next few weeks. Also look out for a written copy of the Pastor's Report, to be sent separately.



The society was made aware of our current financial standing, that we are in relatively good shape as long as nothing major and unexpected happens. There was some concern over the lack of offertory contributions in the past few months. It's thanks to the recent grants we've received that we can all breathe a little easy at this point.

The society voted in two members into the Board of Directors. We now welcome Daric Smith, who has already been serving on the BoD for six years now. We also welcome Alan Laidlaw, a new nominee, though he has served on the Ivyland Board some years ago.

We also expressed our deepest gratitude to departing Board Member Ken York for his vast amount of work in the past 15 years. Many of the improvements we've seen in the building over the past years are thanks to Ken's service. Although he will still be with us, the Board will surely miss him!

We saw a few changes on the Pastor's Council. Judy Schiffer has stepped up, and Stephanie Doman is back on tag teaming with her husband Ray. As of now we have a wide variety of Council members ranging from young to old, long time church member to newcomer, married and single, with children and without children. They all help the pastor by providing their unique perspectives and input on the various functions and happenings of our church.

We heard from Daric Smith, as head of Sunday School, who updated us all on what your children gain from our Sunday School program. We had to say farewell to a number of volunteer teachers, though we

are grateful for all that they did. Although the volunteer staff is short as of now, the quality of learning and engaging activities is exceptional thanks to the work of our current volunteer teachers and our Sunday School head. We'd be delighted if any of you would like to volunteer teaching Sunday School.

Other than these main items, we covered plenty of various and sundry things, all of which will be outlined in the recorded minutes coming your way soon.

Again, we thank everyone for being an integral part of our society. All of you have something great to bring with you, even if it's simply attending our Sunday Services. We are grateful to have you with us!