

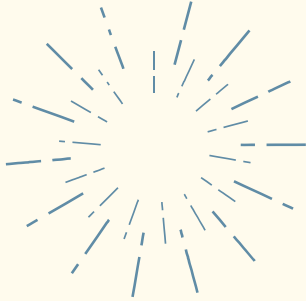


New Church

OCTOBER 2021

BISHOP'S NEWSLETTER

Your connection to General Church vision and community



"...Divine Providence is present within the smallest details of all, and people in the stream of providence are being carried along constantly towards happier things, whatever appearance the means may present."
Arcana Coelestia 8478

From the Desk of the Bishop

Friends,

I am excited to reach out to you in this new format to share some of the ways the Church is striving to enhance your spiritual journey. I hope that the things in this and subsequent newsletters engage you where you live, and stimulate your participation in an ongoing dialogue of what we're here to do together as a church.

One of the things I have been working on is communicating what we stand for and what we offer. I see a wonderful mission under the theme "living a heavenly life"—or of striving to live that life with the Lord's help.

While studying this theme, I have come across three invitations from the Lord in terms of that life that He calls us to live: an invitation to help others or to be useful, an invitation to consider our next step in terms of repentance or life change, and an invitation to actively connect with Him through worship. These three foundations of a heavenly life, then, should be our focus as a church.

You can hear more about these invitations in the video accompanying this newsletter. During my time as bishop, I hope to reach out often with similar moments of reflection. I am very interested in how you respond to the theme of "living a heavenly life," and few things would energize me more than to participate in dialogue around these central spiritual subjects. If this message brings you sentiments or ideas that you wish to share, please send a message through [this form](#).



6 minutes on a life that leads to heaven

Note from the editor:

Thank you for reading our refreshed Bishop's message reporting on the work and efforts of the General Church and its members and friends. Our intention is to build this communication to bring value to your life as a New Church participant. Please share your thoughts and reactions with us via [this form](#) - we are excited to hear about what works and what we can do better.

~ Marijke Bau-Madsen, Communications Director

Wishing you all the best,
Pete



CONNECTING TO SCRIPTURE

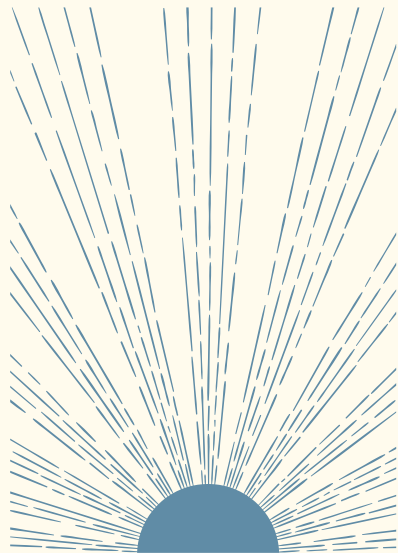
Genesis 1:3 - And God said,
"Let there be light,"
and there was light.

Arcana Coelestia 20 - The Lord is goodness itself, or life,
and truth itself, or light, and consequently there is
neither goodness nor truth except from the Lord.

We invite you to consider these passages and the motif of light throughout scripture.

Suggested readings: [Genesis 1:1-5](#); [Arcana Coelestia 16-22](#)

Our hope is that this section offers you a moment to explore paired readings in the Word and the Writings. Which passages of the Word and the Writings do you see as connected to each other? Let us know [here!](#)



DAILY INSPIRATIONS

Many moments in scripture are simply beautiful and uplifting. Our team works hard to make sure subscribers to Daily Inspirations receive quotes like this from the Heavenly Doctrines first thing every morning:

“The recognition that God exists and that there is one God flows universally from God into human souls.”
Emanuel Swedenborg, True Christian Religion 8

Start your day off right by signing up to [receive Daily Inspirations.](#)

LIVESTREAM A SUNDAY SERVICE



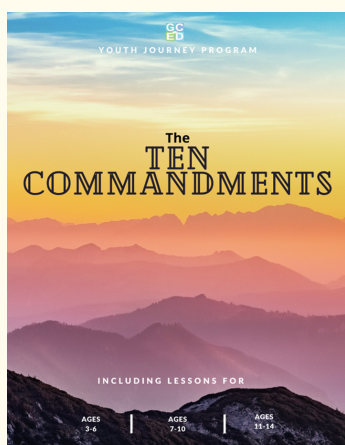
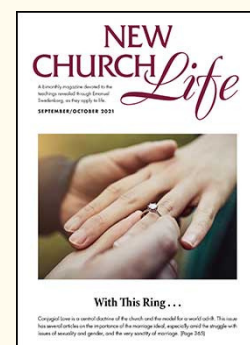
CULTIVATED THOUGHT IN *NEW CHURCH LIFE*

New Church Life, as the official publication of the General Church since 1881, has always been the depository for New Church doctrine and thinking, as well as a permanent record of church activities. Its mission is to apply New Church doctrine to our lives and the world we face.

The September/October 2021 issue is a prime example. It looks at current issues with marriage, sexuality and gender through the lens of doctrine. Several articles – including What the Heavenly Doctrines Say About Sex and Gender – look at these sensitive topics with compassion, not judgment, led always by the ideal of conjugal love.

Issues are also filled with interesting articles, news and photos from around the church, letters and commentaries. We try to offer something for everyone.

You can read this issue – or any issue – [here](#) and you can subscribe by calling 267-502-4990 or emailing susan.wright@anc-gc.org.



TEN COMMANDMENTS CURRICULUM LAUNCH

General Church Education is excited to release a series of 11 lessons for ages 3-14, beginning with an introduction on how the commandments were given at Mount Sinai. Each commandment is taught through a story in the Old or New Testament, carefully chosen to model the commandment's message, illustrating both the negative effects of breaking a commandment and the positive effects of keeping it.

While each lesson includes readings and activities that target three different ages groups, the opening and conclusion of each lesson brings all ages together. These print-and-go lessons include short teachings from the Writings for teacher background, use readily accessible materials for the projects and activities, and are easy to teach from using the color-coded overview chart showing all the options. Teachers or parents can choose what will work best with their children.

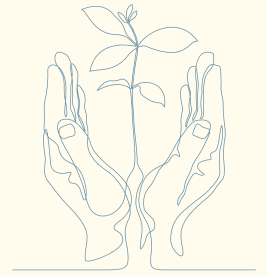
Available for free digitally as [individual lessons](#) or in one [PDF book](#). A [print version](#) of the book is available for purchase.

For questions or to sign a child up, contact General Church Education at gced@newchurch.org or call 267-502-4949.

SOCIETY NEWS & EVENTS

The General Church and its members and friends live all over the world, bringing faith and charity to life both collectively and individually. We aim in this section to offer a glimpse into the hopeful developments happening across New Church societies. We are glad to report the following updates:

- The Kempton Society announced the opening of **Old School Village**, an attractive, accessible retirement living space just five minutes down the road from the Kempton New Church and School.
- The Hurstville Society in suburban Sydney, Australia **celebrates 100 years** this November. Congratulations on this milestone!
- The bishops and clergy are pleased to once again **attend in-person clergy meetings** this fall in North America, Europe, and West Africa.



Read the General Church's most recent [Annual Report!](#)



To make a contribution to the work of the General Church:



BECOME A MEMBER!

Membership is an opportunity to serve and be served by your church. We encourage you to learn more about the process and benefits of General Church membership by clicking below.

