

# A LETTER FROM DR. SEAN LUCAS

September 12, 2019

My dear Friends:

Well, we are in the full swing of our ministry year now. Not only do we have our services on Sunday mornings and evenings, but we have a full range of Bible studies for men and women, for couples, for teenagers, for children; we have opportunities for service and ministry; we even have opportunities to join the choir for Lessons and Carols. May I encourage you to take advantage of these opportunities for study and service, ministry and worship?

I've often compared our ministry at IPC to Target—when I go to Target, I don't go to buy the entire store; but I know generally that Target will have what I need and I never leave Target without buying Clif Bars and coffee (that's my breakfast; can never have enough Clif Bars!). In other words, I always buy my staples and then get additional things besides. Here at IPC, we have the staples that everyone needs: Word, sacrament, prayer, Lord's day by Lord's day. But there are a range of additional things besides.

And what I'm asking you to do is pick something—perhaps you've never been involved in an in-depth Bible study and you've just started going to the women's study or to In the Word, which is our men's large group study. Stay committed to that. Perhaps you've never been in a small group; pick one and commit yourself. Perhaps you've never sung in the choir but you'd love to do so—do it! Commit yourself through Christmas and see how it goes.

It is a blessing to be in a church our size and to have all of these options. But sometimes I'm afraid that we like to go to a church that has a range of options—even if we never intend to take advantage of them! So, don't be like that. Rather, find something that interests you and commit to it. When you do, you'll find two things: first, you'll meet people from the church that you never knew before; you might even make some really good friends. But second, God will meet you in that study or service, that ministry or worship, in ways that perhaps you haven't known him in a long time.

In fact, you might find that he was the one drawing you to that commitment for the purpose of meeting him in the midst of it! Isn't that exciting to consider? That the God of the universe wants you to know him and wants to know you—and relationship with him starts when we step out to know him and others in some way! That's what it looks like when we are new people, reshaped by the Gospel of God's grace.

In the grip of God's grace,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sean". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.