



Christ • Communion • Community

# CASCADIAN WEEKLY

September 9, 2022

Week 130

## A MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Cascade Christian Church,

What do you think of when you hear the word "homecoming"? My mind goes back to my days at Caledonia High School with football games, the homecoming dance, the competition between the grades with spirit week and making floats for the parade, marching band, and the fun of being together with one purpose in mind - to cheer on our team.

This Sunday is Cascade Christian Church's homecoming, and I invite you to join us in worship. We will have one service at 10:30AM in the sanctuary with both contemporary and traditional music. Our children and youth will be in church and will be assisting in worship leading, we will share in the Lord's Supper, say the Lord's Prayer in unison, and gather together as one people, God's people, in gratitude for the beginning of another school year. And like a homecoming at a high school, we gather with one purpose in mind, to praise our Lord and God.

Being at church and cheering on your favorite team have this in common, we gather to be together - joyfully and with hope. But we all know that sometimes our favorite football team doesn't win, sometimes we are on the losing side. That's the big difference between church and high school homecomings. With Jesus, the battle has been won, the evil one is defeated, and the victory is decisive - Jesus triumphs over sin, evil, death, and darkness. And by His sacrifice on the cross, the victory is ours, and nothing can take that away.

This is good news for a hurting world. During the month of September our sermons will focus on reaching out by building bridges. There are so many chasms between people right now, there are deep divides that keep us from being in relationship with one another, and this impacts friendships, neighborhoods, workplaces, families, and churches. We divide over all kinds of things - race, religion, politics, football, values - the list can go on and on. Rather than be part of the schisms, I invite you to be a bridge builder as we look to scripture and what Jesus says about unity. The church can be a leader in creating a space for love and unity, even for people who don't see eye to eye. We can close the gap in our relationships because of who we are in Christ, and by following His example.

- On September 11, we will look at being bridge builders who seek unity as we look at one of the most frightening words in the English language. We will also take a moment to remember those who gave their all on 9-11, and will honor our local firefighters and deputies. Join us for this service of praise and homecoming.
- On September 18, we will look at building bridges of unity by breaking down barriers to compassion.
- On September 25, we'll look at how people in scripture have thrown a party when unity is restored.
- On October 2 we'll see from scripture that even our enemies can become our friends and neighbors.

I hope you will join us in person and/or through our online worship services and pray with me that we be a church of bridge builders.

Looking forward to a great autumn season with you. Happy Homecoming and keep the faith, Jill

## WEEKLY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

<u>Sunday (9/11)</u>	Pre K-5th grade Sunday School and Crib Room- 10:30 AM Unity Service - 10:30 AM followed by picnic Alcoholics Anonymous - 7:00 PM (Coffee House)
<u>Monday (9/12)</u>	Soul Warmers 2-4 PM OSC meeting 5:30 PM Alcoholics Anonymous - 8:00 PM (Coffee House)
<u>Tuesday (9/13)</u>	Women's Bible Study 9:00 AM Senior Exercise Class - 1:00 PM College Boxes - 5:30 PM Worship Committee - 5:30 PM
<u>Wednesday (9/14)</u>	Men's Bible Study - 6:30 AM (Coffee House) Overeaters Anonymous 3:30 PM Youth Group Wednesday night classes - 6:00 PM Boy Scouts - 7 PM (Centennial Hall) Alcoholics Anonymous - 8:00 PM (Coffee House)
<u>Thursday (9/15)</u>	Grief Share 10:00 AM Soup & Sandwich - 12:00 PM Senior Exercise Class - 1:00 PM Cub Scout kickoff Al-Anon - 8:00 PM (Coffee House)
<u>Friday (9/16)</u>	Church Office Closed Open Talk Group - 7:30 AM
<u>Saturday (9/17)</u>	Days for Girls - 1-4 PM

Financial giving for  
the week ending in  
9/4/2022:  
Budgeted: \$10,652  
Given: \$9,243

## GENERAL NEWS

### GRIEF SHARE SUPPORT GROUP TO RESUME ON THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 15

10:00-11:30AM in the Church Coffee House

Anyone who has experienced a loss is welcomed to come to Grief Share. A Grief Share session includes coffee and introductions, watching a 40 minute video on an aspects of grief and grieving, and then a time of discussion. Grief Share is a 13-session class, the workbooks are an excellent resource, and all of the class materials are free of charge. For more information or to sign up, call the church office.

### WEDNESDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY BEGINS AGAIN ON SEPTEMBER 28 AT 6:30PM - PLEASE NOTE THE DELAYED START DATE

All adults are invited to our Wednesday Night Bible study. We will have a six session class for the fall quarter, reading and discussing Max Lucado's book "You Are Never Alone". This book, the accompanying video, and the study guide are based on the Gospel of John, and will help us to trust in the miracle of God's Presence and power.

The cost for the book and study guide is \$25 per person. The class will meet on September 28, October 5, 12, 19, and 26, and November 2 from 6:30-8:00 in the adult classroom on the second floor of the education building. If you're new to Bible study, Max Lucado studies are a great starting place. To sign up call the church office.

# GENERAL NEWS

## WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

The Tuesday morning Women's Bible Study will resume on September 13th at 9:00 in Centennial Hall. We will be studying "Common Ground: Loving Others Despite Our Differences" by Amberly Neese. We will learn how the scriptures hold the key to living at peace despite our differences in the stories of sibling rivalries in the Old and New Testaments. The study focuses on four sets of siblings and includes a video plus lessons to complete for each. New members are always welcome!

## REGIONAL ASSEMBLY

Rev. De. Bruce Reyes-Chow

Keynote speaker

Regional Assembly Schedule

- Friday October 14 6-7:30 pm - Worship Rev. Dr. Bruce Reyes-Chow live stream
- Saturday, October 15th
  - 10:00 - Business Session  
Fellowship and Mission Projects
  - 1:00 PM - Workshops

Go to [www.michigandisciples.org/event/cciw-ccmr-regional-assembly](http://www.michigandisciples.org/event/cciw-ccmr-regional-assembly) for more information or to register

## CASCADE HERITAGE FESTIVAL

Saturday, September 10, 2022, from 5:00-9:00PM

Join the larger Cascade community as we open our church lawns to the second annual Cascade Heritage festival, sponsored by Cascade Township. This will be a family friendly afternoon of games and activities for the kids, food trucks, a music and beverage tent, and a corn hole tournament. Cascade Historical Society will have Cascade Museum opened, and our Chapel will be open as well for tours. We hope the church will come and enjoy this time of fun and fellowship as we welcome all kinds of people to our campus. Please call the church office if you would like to volunteer;

- Host the open house at our 1880's chapel from 5:00-7:00PM
- Help with hosting the event - from 5:00-7:00
- Help with clean-up from 9:00-10:00PM

There will be a dedication of the corner park in memory and honor of Virgil Westdale at 5:00 PM.



## UNITY SERVICE AND CHURCH PICNIC

Sunday, September 11, 2022

Our annual Unity service will be on September 11 at 10:30AM, followed by a church picnic. Cascade Fire Department will stop by, and there will be food and fun for all ages. We need a lot of volunteers to make this happen, so watch for ways to sign up to help. We are grateful to Cascade Township for the use of the tent, tables, and chairs from the Heritage Festival. Please call the church office to sign up to help with set up, clean up, and food serving. Food will be provided, so no need to bring anything. Make a reservation by calling or emailing the church office. 616-949-1360

## SOUP AND SANDWICH

Come join us for the September Soup-N-Sandwich on Thursday, September 15th at noon in centennial hall to hear our very own Mark Lagenbach tell us about "Rural Life and Ministry in Lakeview, South Dakota."

# CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

## SUNDAY SCHOOL

Elementary Sunday School is returning to the Sanctuary! Every week, starting on September 11, kids PreK through 5th grade will start in the Sanctuary and participate in opening worship in the 9:30 service. They will be dismissed from there to go up with Adam Carlson and his merry band of volunteers to the Elementary room, where they will have Sunday School. Pickup will be in the Elementary room at the end of the service. As a side note, if you would like to join Adam's merry band of volunteers, please let him know! You can find his contact information on the church website. This week, we are kicking off the Fall with a new Curriculum, LifeWay's *Gospel Project*. It is a journey through the Bible, where we hear about how God has worked with humanity to keep us in step with Him. Every week, the story connects back to Jesus, so we can always remember what He has done and is doing to keep us in step with God.

## CRIB ROOM

The Crib Room is open for kids who aren't yet old enough to join the fun in the Elementary Sunday School. Children will be well-cared for in a safe environment with our amazing staff.

## WEDNESDAY JUBILEE

Our midweek program Wednesday Jubilee will start up again on September 21, from 6:30-8:00PM! We will be working in concert with our Sunday School curriculum, strengthening the lesson we learned on Sunday, and having great fun in the process. Everyone Kindergarten through 5th grade is welcome to join us for a night of engaging Bible study and fun.

## PARENTS' NIGHT OUT

We provide a night of free childcare for parents once every month! For a few hours on a Friday night, parents can have some time to themselves. Go on a date, run errands, or just nap in the car! And don't worry, dinner is provided. **The next Parents' Night Out is scheduled for September 23, from 6:00-8:00PM.** If you would like your children to attend, please go to: [tinyurl.com/CascadePNO](http://tinyurl.com/CascadePNO)

## MIDDLE SCHOOL & HIGH SCHOOL

### SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday School meets regularly during the 11:00am Service in the High School Youth Room. We will be starting a new series in the fall, but until then we will be mirroring the lessons done in the 9:30 Sunday School Class. We would love for everyone to join us!

### WEDNESDAY NIGHT YOUTH GROUP

Wednesday night youth group will be returning on September 14th. Youth Group goes from 6:30-8:00PM and is open to everyone 6th grade and beyond. Please mark your calendars and we hope to see you there this fall!

### MIDDLE SCHOOL MADNESS

The next Middle School Madness will be September 23 from 7:00-9:00PM. Join us for a night of fellowship, food, and fun!



## 9.4.2022 SERMON: ANCHORED IN HOLINESS

God's blessings to you on this labor Day weekend, and thank you for being with us in worship today. As summer comes to an end, so does our summer sermon series on Anchor -Finding assurance in God's promises. As we live in THE Great Lakes State, we are all familiar with boating, anchors, fishing, and nets, and it has been a joy to look at God's promises that anchor our lives. We are anchored in Jesus Christ, he is our hope, our still point in an ever spinning world, our joy, our Lord, our Savior.

We have looked each Sunday at this verse from Hebrews 6:19 - This hope we have as an anchor for the soul, a hope both sure and steadfast. We look to Jesus, for our answers, for our path, for our guidance. He is the compass that guides our souls as we live here on earth in the assurance of God's promises.

Today I would like to share one more of God's promises with you - God promises holiness. We know God is holy, His attributes reveal His holiness. Think of what God is:

- God is omniscience - God is all knowing, completely wise
- God is omnipresent - God is holy in His presence and there is no place where God is not present
- God is all powerful, God is almighty, just, and good
- God is infinite -beyond space, time, boundaries, God is eternal
- God is incomparable - there is nothing in all creation that is pure and holy like God.
- And this God whom we worship today, this God invites you to be holy, our God promises you holiness.

What does it mean to be holy? When we think of holiness we think of perfection, and we know that only God is holy, only God is perfect, and we are not. God's holiness is his defining characteristic. In fact, God's holiness is so overwhelming that it can actually be dangerous to approach. So what is God calling us to?

God commissioned the prophet Isaiah to call Israel to task, to be God's holy people when they weren't acting like God's people at all. The Old Testament tells the history of God's people, and you'll recall there are stories of massive disobedience, of idols, making a golden calf to worship, mixing with ungodly people, and adopting ungodly customs. There are stories of terrible kings and queens, of greed and warfare, of running away from God, and disobeying God in about every way you can imagine. So God sent the prophets, people like Isaiah to shift the people back on to God's path, and God gave Isaiah this vision of God to share: Isaiah 6:1-5 **In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord, high and exalted, seated on a throne; and the train of his robe filled the temple. Above him were seraphim, each with six wings: With two wings they covered their faces, with two they covered their feet, and with two they were flying. And they were calling to one another:**

**"Holy, holy, holy is the Lord Almighty;  
the whole earth is full of his glory."**

**At the sound of their voices the doorposts and thresholds shook and the temple was filled with smoke.**

**"Woe to me!" I cried. "I am ruined! For I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips, and my eyes have seen the King, the Lord Almighty."**

Isaiah sees God high and lifted up, exalted, and reigning overall. God is surrounded by seraphim, angelic beings that are beyond human language to describe, and these angelic beings are calling out "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord Almighty; the whole earth is full of his glory."

In Isaiah's vision the temple fills with smoke, the place shakes, the presence of God fills the space, and Isaiah can hardly stand it. The power of God terrified him almost to death. Isaiah knows how unholy he is, and as he faces the perfection of God he falls to his knees, as if he is a dead man about to be sentenced. The holiness of God would have consumed him, burned him up if God would have allowed it. Isaiah gives us a glimpse, a tiny portion of God's holiness.

And how do we respond to our Holy God? We treat God like a buddy. We argue with Him. We tell God no. We ignore God and put Him off. Friends, we would be wise to remember the holiness and power of God.

## 9.4.2022 SERMON: ANCHORED IN HOLINESS

Isaiah feared God, and so should we, but out of respect, reverence, out of our wonderment of His glory, we are to fear God because of God's greatness, creativeness, and love. But it is holy fear, knowing you are in the presence of the divine. And this Divine Being, our Perfect God, our Holy Father loves us. Even us! Ray Ortlund, Jr. wrote: "What generates real holiness is not fear of punishment, but fullness of heart." Put that in your heart - to get right with God, not out of fear of punishment, but get right with the God who loves you- let His holiness fill your heart and change you.

How can we be holy? Since God is all knowing, God certainly knows how unholy we can be. God knows our sins, imperfections, our addictions, our lack of kindness and mercy. God knows our self-centeredness, our judgmental attitude. God knows our anger, and how we don't always forgive. None of this is hidden from God. And yet, we are called to be holy. To live a life of holiness is to live a life of discipline, focus, and attention to matters of living right with God. A holy life is a surrendered life - a life fully presented to God in a way that transforms our lives to God's glory rather than conforming our lives to the ways of the world. And human holiness can be seen in two ways - personal holiness which is growing in our relationship with God, and social holiness, which is showing love and care to others as Jesus has loved and cared for you. And maybe you're feeling like Isaiah - how can we do this? Let's look at the life of Peter as an example.

The Apostle Peter didn't fit the Hebrew profile of being a holy man in his day, and he wouldn't in our time, either. He was a rough fisherman, a man who could be impulsive, despondent, disloyal - he was not one of the educated religious elite, not a Pharisee or a part of the religious rulers of his neighborhood. But Jesus saw something in this man and said Peter would be foundational to the church, Peter was close to Jesus, and learned, and changed. First Peter 1:13-16 is titled - Be Holy - and listen to what Peter wrote:

**Therefore, with minds that are alert and fully sober, set your hope on the grace to be brought to you when Jesus Christ is revealed at his coming. As obedient children, do not conform to the evil desires you had when you lived in ignorance. But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; for it is written: "Be holy, because I am holy."**

Peter helps us see holiness begins with God, and is filtered down to God's people. Peter, from his time with Jesus and his personal experience, learned that the unholy can find hope and grace in Jesus - the most rebellious parts of us can choose to obey, we can turn from our worst inclinations, and we can grow out of our ignorance. A Holy God call us, to be holy in what we do - we can be holy because God is holy. God set the standard of holiness, and God knows we fall short. And yet, we are called - be holy, as God is holy.

The apostle Paul wrote in Romans 12:1-2 of how to become holy - **Therefore, I urge you, brothers, and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.**

Like Peter, Paul says give up on the things of the world that twist you and bend you away from God. Surrender, obey, submit to God by going all in - be as a living sacrifice - God wants all of you, all of the time. And once you turn less towards the things of the world, you will be changed, transformed, your mind will be cleared and cleaned, you'll have focus and direction, leading towards God's good and perfect will for you.

How can we do this - well, we can't do this alone, we can't do this for ourselves, we can only be holy by asking God to take what is unclean or messed up about us and to clean us up.

Another way of saying this is you don't have to have a perfect life to be holy. Christopher Yuan wrote: "Biblical change is not the absence of struggles, but the freedom to choose holiness in the midst of our struggles." Life is tough, and God knows every struggle you face. Your walk as a Christian, as a disciple of Christ is not going to make life perfect - troubles will still come. But so do choices - to choose holiness, the holiness of God when you are in trouble. To choose to be Christ-like when facing your enemies, to separate yourself from what would come naturally to you, and to instead look to God for how to respond, how to act, how to handle what is front of you. Choose God's holiness.

## 9.4.2022 SERMON: ANCHORED IN HOLINESS

A way to become more like Jesus, to live a more holy life is to live a transparent life. Stop trying to be what you are not, and become more fully who you are - a child of God. Your journey begins and ends with God, so live your life with Him now, it will be your best life, the best choice you can make. You exchange your weakness and imperfections for His strength and goodness. Living a transparent life is freeing, you no longer live a lie, you no longer try to impress, and the value judgments of others have little or no power. When you live transparently, you're keeping it real, being genuine, and when you live with a wide open life like that, you've made so much more room for Jesus.

In First Timothy 2:14-21 we see what transparent living looks like, how it is a path to holiness: **Keep reminding God's people of these things. Warn them before God against quarreling about words; it is of no value, and only ruins those who listen. Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth. Avoid godless chatter because those who indulge in it will become more and more ungodly. Their teaching will spread like gangrene. Among them are Hymenaeus and Philetus, who have departed from the truth. They say that the resurrection has already taken place, and they destroy the faith of some. Nevertheless, God's solid foundation stands firm, sealed with this inscription: "The Lord knows those who are his," and, "Everyone who confesses the name of the Lord must turn away from wickedness."**

**In a large house there are articles not only of gold and silver, but also of wood and clay; some are for special purposes and some for common use. Those who cleanse themselves from the latter will be instruments for special purposes, made holy, useful to the Master and prepared to do any good work.**

Transparent, holy living calls for no quarreling, no godless chatter, but that we live a God-approved life as we hold out the words of God's truth. The Lord claims you, and that means you and I turn from what we know is wicked, what we know is wrong.

You might still be feeling that holiness isn't possible, that God can't mean you. But God does mean you. God is still molding and shaping each of us to be who He made us to be. If we let God work in us, He changes our speech, our actions, our attitude, and our plans. And God will do this for each of us. Think about this - maybe you've been at a wedding or special dinner where there has been a beautiful place setting, fine china, lots of forks and spoons that you're not sure when to use, a wine glass, a water glass, several plates, a beautifully folded napkin. And maybe you've been at a picnic - with paper plates, disposable forks, and not enough paper napkins.

In First Timothy we read of how houses have vessels of gold and silver, but also of wood and clay. If they are clean, both vessels are useful. Both are needed, both have their uses. I don't know if you see yourself as a paper plate or a piece of fine china, but I know God can use you, can clean you up, can make you holy and ready to do God's work.

Friends, there is so much to do to share God's grace in our fragmented world. You can be part of God's movement for wholeness and holiness, you can be part of the change. This hope we have as an anchor for the soul, a hope both sure and steadfast. Our hope is in Jesus. May you sail into the fall season and beyond, anchored in His holiness. Amen and amen.