



Christ • Communion • Community

# CASCADIAN WEEKLY

October 22, 2021

Week 84

## A MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR

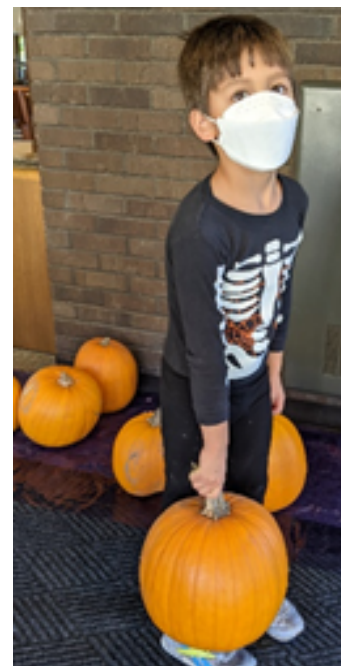
Dear Cascade Christian Church,

It is pumpkin time at Cascade Christian as we prepare for our annual Trunk or Treat event in the church parking lot this Sunday, October 24 from 1:00-3:00PM. We will be passing candy out in the parking lot from the trunks of our cars, and we'll have a pumpkin carving contest. All of this is open to the community, and we hope you and your family, friends, and neighbors will join us for an afternoon of cute kids in costumes, candy, and to see who gets bragging rights for being the best pumpkin carver.

It is wonderful to be able to gather to do this again, and it is possible thanks to the help and donations of so many people. Thank you to BOS GREENHOUSE for the donation of 25 beautiful pumpkins. And a huge thank you to JEFF KIMBLE for arranging the pumpkin donation. Thank you to all of the PEOPLE WHO WILL WORK THIS EVENT - people who will be here with their car trunks, people who are donating candy, and to the AMBER and ANDY ELLIOTT for their help in organizing this event. Thank you to awesome staff members ADAM CARLSON and MICHAEL DIRKSEN for getting the pumpkins and publicizing this special day. *We still have room if you would like to come with your car and hand out candy - please call the church office to sign up.*

Some people might wonder why we do things like this, why would we dress up and hand out candy on the Sabbath? I think of how Jesus treated children, in Matthew 19:14 we read: Jesus said, **"Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these."** It is our privilege to welcome children to this church campus, and through these efforts, give kids and families a glimpse of Jesus and of the love of God in this church family. It is our job to invite people, and then to let Jesus take it from there. What a joy to serve our Lord and Savior by reaching out to our community! We will get to do the same on Tuesday, November 16 with the Thanksgiving take-out dinner for Senior Citizens. All who would like to serve in either of these outreach event, please call the church office.

God's blessings to you, and keep the faith! Jill



## WEEKLY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

<u>Sunday</u> _(10/24).	Sunday School - 9:30 AM Crib Room - 9:30 AM Worship - 9:30, 11:00 AM Trunk Or Treat & Pumpkin Carving Contest
<u>Monday</u> _(10/25).	Book Club Advocates - 11:30 AM (Coffee House) Cancer Club - 1:00 PM (Coffee House) Soul Warmers - 2:00 PM Alcoholics Anonymous - 8:00 PM (Coffee House)
<u>Tuesday</u> _(10/26).	Men's Group - 6:30 AM (Coffee House) Women's Bible Study - 9:00 AM (Centennial Hall) Cub Scouts - 7:00 PM (Centennial Hall) Young Adult Small Group 7:00 PM
<u>Wednesday</u> _(10/27).	Overeaters Anonymous - 3:30 PM (Coffee House) Wednesday Night Classes 6:30 PM <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adult Bible Study "The Chosen"</li> <li>• Wednesday Jubilee - Elementary School</li> <li>• Youth Group - Middle &amp; High School</li> </ul> Scouts - 7:00 PM (Centennial Hall) Alcoholics Anonymous - 8:00 PM (Coffee House)
<u>Thursday</u> _(10/28).	Grief Share - 10:00AM (Coffee House)  Be Bold - 5th-7th grade class 4:00 - 5:30 PM Alcoholics Anonymous - 8:00 PM (Coffee House)
<u>Friday</u> _(10/29).	Church Office Closed  Open Talk Group - 7:30 AM (Coffee House)
<u>Saturday</u> _(10/30).	

Financial giving for  
the week ending in  
10/10/2021:  
Budgeted: \$10,652  
Given: \$11,218

## MEALS MINISTRY

All who would like to help with meals for the Zeeryp family, please contact the church office or call Darcy Hartley. Scott is back home, being cared for Melissa, and meals are to be dropped off in a cooler on the porch of the Zeeryp home, or we can arrange for them to be delivered.

Casseroles, lasagna, and anything chocolate are appreciated.

Thank you for caring for this beloved family.

# MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP



## ROBINETTES

On October 31st after Sunday School we will be going to Robinettes apple orchard. We will be doing the corn maze, eating doughnuts, and having a fun filled fall day. Meet at the church at 12:00pm and we will be back at church by 3:00pm. Bring some spending money for snacks or other things you may want at Robinettes.

## EVENT SIGN UP

We are so excited to get youth group underway. We will be going to Spring Hill for a winter retreat, Mackinac Island, on a mission trip, and doing some fundraisers to help pay for these events as well. If you'd like to help out or you know that your child would like to participate, please fill out the form. Let Michael know if you have any questions.



## SUNDAY SCHOOL

This year we are doing Sunday School at 11:00 AM. We are working our way through the whole bible. Come right up to the youth room at 11:00 AM (we will not be dismissing from Church). We hope to see you there!

## WEDNESDAY NIGHT YOUTH GROUP

Our Wednesday Night Youth Group is up and running again. We are following the lessons in Sunday School and learning more about what we learned that week in Sunday School. We hope to see you here each week!

# CHILDRENS MINISTRIES

## SUNDAY SCHOOL

Children are encouraged to bring money for an offering each week. Near Christmastime, we will use the money we've collected to buy toys and books for kids at Helen DeVos Children's Hospital. Talk with your children about tithing and what it means to be generous.

## BE BOLD

We are beginning a new class for 5th-7th graders on Thursday afternoons from 4:00 - 5:30. Each week we'll be wrestling with questions about the faith. If your child needs a ride from school, please contact the church office.

# ADULT MINISTRIES

## **GAYLORD COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP**

The application is online and available in the church office. Applications are due November 1st, and the scholarship is open to all active church members

## **YOUNG ADULT BIBLE STUDY**

The young adult Bible study is meeting on Tuesday nights from 7:00-8:30 at Michael Dirksen's house. If you would like to participate, please contact Michael at 616.283.9744

# GENERAL NEWS

## **TRUNK OR TREAT - SUNDAY, OCTOBER 24, FROM 1:00-3:00PM**

Join us for Trunk or Treat in the church parking lot, a long time tradition at Cascade Christian Church. Please sign up at the church office if you can bring your car and hand out candy to the children of our church and community. We appreciate donations of wrapped candy, and cannot accept any homemade baked goods or fruit. Participants can decorate their car and wear a costume if they wish, but keep it child friendly (nothing scary).

Please invite the children in your life to join in the fun, and in addition this year we will have a pumpkin carving contest. You can pick up a pumpkin from the church on Sunday, October 17 and bring it back carved on the 24th. A prize and bragging rights will be awarded to the winner. Plan on joining the church for this afternoon of family fun.

## **FAMILY PROMISE DRIVE BY SAMO**

The Social Action and Outreach committee is holding a Family Promise Donation drive October 10-31. The following items were selected as most needed; Pam Cooking Spray, Peanut Butter, Pasta Sauce, Popcorn, and Pillows (new). Collection boxes will be in the church narthex and the church office. Contact Diane Phelps with questions.

## **FALL CLEAN UP DAY**

All are invited for our annual Fall Clean Up Day Saturday, November 13 at 9:00 Bring a rake and gloves

## **DAYS FOR GIRLS WORKSHOP**

Assembling, ironing, cutting, and stitching sustainable menstrual kits for young women, in Centennial Hall.

November 20, 1-4

All skill levels, sewers and non-sewers alike. Contact Diane Phelps (email [dianephelps2010@gmail.com](mailto:dianephelps2010@gmail.com)), or call the church office.

# A MESSAGE FROM CARIBBEAN CHILDREN'S FOUNDATION

"PLEASE CONVEY TO THE CONGREGATION OUR THANKS...

We are deeply touched by the special offering for Emergency Relief. The funds will be used for feeding people in the months to come and at some point, for construction, when the rubble has been cleared away and people are able to start rebuilding. Shown below is one of the camps where we are feeding 27 families. They are SO SO grateful, as no one else has come to help them.

The people of CCC have been so faithful in supporting the work that we do. We cannot do it without people like you. The prayers being offered sustain through the difficult times. THANK YOU!"



## CONGREGATIONAL CARE – THANKSGIVING DINNER – TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 16

Many thanks to the Congregational Care Committee under the direction of Susan Strobel and John Duchon for the work on the annual Thanksgiving Dinner for Senior Citizens. Due to precautions issued by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the church will be hosting a drive through- take out dinner again this year. We simply do not have enough space to safely distance and host this as a sit-down dinner. Last year many chose to eat their dinners together with friends off campus, and we encourage all who are comfortable to do the same this year. The invitation for the dinner will be coming out in a few weeks. If you are a senior citizen (over 70 years of age) and are unsure if you are on the invitation list, please call the church office. If you would like to serve on the committee who will prepare for this dinner, please be in touch as well.

## OPERATION SANTA CLAUS

Plans are again underway to help families in the coming holiday months as it has for the last 60 years. Last year, we made a plan to safely care for the families in need with gifts of toys and clothes in the pandemic. It worked so well! We are still fighting this virus battle, so we want to continue the processes we tried last year with a few additions.

Our "callers" will again be asked to call the families, gather gift wishes as well as shop, and then deliver the gifts. (We can arrange to have the gifts wrapped if preferred.) Last year, this allowed our callers to 'connect' more with the families and purchase gifts for them, knowing exactly what the parent/guardian shared with them. It was safe as well! We will need many callers, so please consider 'calling' on a family for us. If interested, please contact Peggy Boelkins at 616.889.4431 or email her at [pjboelkins@gmail.com](mailto:pjboelkins@gmail.com)

We will be offering wrapping service to all of our callers this year and will be providing a food box for each family. If you would like to wrap on December 10, let Peggy know as well.

## 10.17.2021 SERMON: IT TAKES COURAGE FACE YOUR LIONS

We have been spending the last few Sundays looking at the book of Daniel, a story of faith, of courage under oppression, a story of obedience even when you're far from home. Daniel helps us to have courage to know who we are, to let God use us as we are, and to stand courageously for God. King Nebuchadnezzar and his son Belshazzar have shown us it takes courage to admit you're wrong, and how pride and defiance brought down their kingdom. Now we come to the story of Daniel in the Lions' Den. It has been called the "one of the best loved stories in the Bible." Kids love it; you probably heard this story in Sunday School, and it might be the only thing you remember about Daniel. I looked online, and you can buy all kinds kids' stuff about this story, veggie tales, action figures, books, cuddly lion stuffed toys - and that's because this story has everything - danger, adventure, suspense, and a really cool ending.

This story appeals to adults as well. Many of us love lions, they are so majestic and powerful. And they are dangerous - back in 1898 two male lions stalked a railroad construction crew in Uganda. and were believed to have killed about 135 victims. There is a book and movie about these lions - called "The Ghost and the Darkness", and you can see these lions now, stuffed, at the Field Museum in Chicago. Throughout history and as recently as August of 2020, people have been killed by lions, they really are dangerous animals. Now lions don't ordinarily kill people, but if there's nothing else to eat, they might eat you. In Babylon, kings kept a few hungry lions around to deal with troublemakers.

While Daniel and the lion's den is a familiar story, have you ever wondered why this in the Bible? Why did God put it here for us to read thousands of years later? I believe God knows that Daniel isn't the only one who will face lions. There are many lions out there right now, in families and friendships, in business and school, in politics and medicine, you never know who is going to growl, who is stalking you, who will be on the attack. We need this story, we need Daniel's example to inspire us hold on to our integrity when we face dangers in our lives, and we need this story when we faced our anxieties and worries.

So how are you doing with worry? I don't have to ask, I know how worried, anxious, and concerned many of you are with pain, uncertainty, and chaos. How do you feel when someone tells you to stop worrying? It is easy to tell someone don't worry, but we know it's very hard to do. But worrying doesn't help when you face your lions. In Matthew 6:27 Jesus asks in the Sermon on the Mount - **Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life?** Worry won't add to your life, it will more likely shorten it! Don't worry, it sounds simple enough, but can you stop worrying, stop being afraid? How do you stop the panic when you feel like your world is falling apart?

That's what happened to our friend Daniel, his world did fall apart. For nearly 70 years he'd survived and thrived as a Jewish exile in Babylon, and was a trusted and respected adviser to King Nebuchadnezzar. But all that ended when the Persian army invaded Babylon, and a new king took charge. But as it turned out, the new king liked Daniel, and as before, others in the kingdom were jealous of him. They were envious of the attention the new ruler gave Daniel, of the promotion given to this foreigner, this exile, this outsider, so Daniel's enemies tried to discredit him before his new employer. In the business of running Babylon, Daniel's job was in jeopardy, but it didn't seem to bother Daniel. He didn't worry, and he found peace in the midst of pain, uncertainty, and chaos.

## 10.17.2021 SERMON: IT TAKES COURAGE FACE YOUR LIONS

The book of Daniel inspires courage in challenging times, courage to face whatever the lions are in your life, that we can be people of courage due to the sovereignty of God. Courage comes from the heart, and when our hearts and minds align with God, we can fear less and be fearless. Here's Daniel's story: Daniel 6:1-2 **It pleased Darius to appoint 120 satraps to rule throughout the kingdom, with three administrators over them, one of whom was Daniel. The satraps were made accountable to them so that the king might not suffer loss.**

So Daniel's old boss is gone, replaced by King Darius in a hostile take-over bid. God allowed Persia to conquer Babylon due to the defiance and irreverence of King Belshazzar. In business terms, King Darius reorganized the company. There were 120 supervisors, or satraps, who answer to three top executive administrators, and one of them is the foreigner, the aged exile, Daniel. Promotions can happen when a person knows who they are in the Lord, when they allow God to use them as they are. People of integrity, honesty, people with a great work ethic do get noticed. And that's Daniel, he never loses his faith, he seeks to glorify God, and he credits God with his successes. Daniel respected the rulers he has served as a captive in Babylon, and in turn, he earns their respect. The new boss, King Darius, noticed Daniel, and that aroused jealousy.

**Daniel 6:3 Now Daniel so distinguished himself among the administrators and the satraps by his exceptional qualities that the king planned to set him over the whole kingdom. At this, the administrators and the satraps tried to find grounds for charges against Daniel in his conduct of government affairs, but they were unable to do so. They could find no corruption in him, because he was trustworthy and neither corrupt nor negligent. Finally these men said, "We will never find any basis for charges against this man Daniel unless it has something to do with the law of his God."**

In other words, the king wanted to make Daniel the Chief Executive Officer over the whole company because Daniel excelled, going above and beyond what was expected of him, every time, and with humility, not to step up and over anyone, but to serve his God and help his people. And his co-workers didn't like that.

How do you do your work? Do you go above and beyond what is expected? Or do you do the bare minimum, just enough so you don't lose your job? Daniel always did more, and it won him the respect of kings! But it also made his fellow-workers jealous. Have you experienced jealousy in your workplace? We might like to think our business, church, school, office, team is above all that. And maybe you are one of the fortunate ones who've never dealt with employment conflicts. But scripture is full of people who are jealous, starting with Adam and Eve's son Cain who was jealous of his brother Abel, jealousy happens in churches and among pastors. I saw this right away in day 2 of seminary orientation - we were instructed to not hide research materials or library books so another seminarian couldn't use them. Jealousy, envy, competitiveness gone wrong, can be found anywhere.



## 10.17.2021 SERMON: IT TAKES COURAGE FACE YOUR LIONS

The other administrators were jealous because Daniel, the outsider, was shown favor – again. Maybe they hoped a new regime would demote this man who had been so influential over Nebuchadnezzar. So the administrators try to dig up some dirt on Daniel. Surely anyone who had been in Babylon politics all of these years would have some secrets, some flaws they could exploit. But they find nothing – no sexual immorality, no embezzling, no betrayals, no lies, no palace intrigue. Daniel was untouchable, he was an honest and blameless man. So the administrators conspire to take Daniel down – he refused to be corrupted, so they attack his faith in God. That's how small these men were and that's what jealousy will do, it makes us mean, small, less than God created us to be. So these men decided to use Daniel's faith as an excuse to attack him. And maybe you've been like them– maybe you've attacked a co-worker or a fellow Christian out of envy or jealousy, coveting what they have, the respect they have earned, the depth of their faith. Or maybe you've been there, attacked because you stood for Christ, objected to the racist comment at work, didn't laugh at the lewd joke in the cafeteria, wouldn't overlook the cheating at the job site. Christians can be attacked when they stand in faith for God. Christians can face the lions of gossip, backbiting, rumor mongering, because they choose to remain with Christ, and do what Jesus would do.

So these jealous men hatch a plan to bring Daniel down. They get King Darius to agree that for the next 30 days, anyone who prays to any god or man other than King Darius, should be fed to the lions. These administrators are good – what a way to flatter the new boss, he's the man, and if anyone disagrees, they are eliminated. The thing is, the laws of Babylon were such that once made, once they were written, they could not be broken or altered. The administrators had Daniel where they wanted him – either he would break the law and be killed, or he would keep the law and lose his integrity.

**Daniel 6:10 Now when Daniel learned that the decree had been published, he went home to his upstairs room where the windows opened toward Jerusalem. Three times a day he got down on his knees and prayed, giving thanks to his God, just as he had done before.**

So Daniel faced a choice. Obey or disobey. Live or die. Be true to who he is, or become less. It is hard to tell the timeline here, but it looks to me like there is no long pondering of what to do – Daniel learns of the decree, goes home, and does what he has done all of his life, he prayed to God, giving thanks, facing Jerusalem, looking towards home, remembering the God of his ancestors who was with him, even in this. He didn't hide his prayers, he doesn't pull the curtain closed on his faith, and by kneeling on what are now 70 or 80 year old knees, he stands tall and courageous for God. God has been faithful to Daniel; Daniel's not about to doubt God now.

His enemies report Daniel's prayers to King Darius, and the king is greatly distressed, he must have realized his pride and error. By listening to flattery, he has written the death order for his trusted friend and advisor.

Daniel was cast into a pit, an underground chamber of lions, but before a stone is rolled over the lion's den, Darius called to Daniel "May your God, whom you serve continually, rescue you." Then the stone was rolled, the pit was sealed and marked with the King's signet ring, and the king left his friend and adviser in a torture chamber and tomb, and Darius had a sleepless night.



## 10.17.2021 SERMON: IT TAKES COURAGE FACE YOUR LIONS

Daniel made his choice – he chose to pray, and it seems like he would be the lion's prey. This story is so familiar, you most likely know how it ends, but as the den was shut, as the stone was rolled, as the light went dim and the end seemed near, Daniel didn't know what the outcome would be. Not unlike his friends Shadrack, Meshach and Abednego in the fiery furnace, he knelt to no one but God, not to any human powers, but to the Lord of the Universe. He would worship God only, even if it cost him everything. He would trust God, even if he died. How about you – there is so much out there that can devour you – so many temptations, so much that is false and evil, so much that the evil one can make look good. You need to watch it, or you can be eaten alive. In 1 Peter 5:8, Peter gave a firm warning about the evil one: "Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour." Peter says that Satan wants to devour and destroy you, just like a roaring and hungry lion. Daniel chose to be prey rather than dishonor his God and worship a man.

Daniel 6:19-23 At the first light of dawn, the king got up and hurried to the lions' den. When he came near the den, he called to Daniel in an anguished voice, "Daniel, servant of the living God, has your God, whom you serve continually, been able to rescue you from the lions?" Daniel answered, "O king, live forever! My God sent his angel, and he shut the mouths of the lions. They have not hurt me, because I was found innocent in his sight. Nor have I ever done any wrong before you, O king." The king was overjoyed and gave orders to lift Daniel out of the den. And when Daniel was lifted from the den, no wound was found on him, because he had trusted in his God.

God had protected Daniel, Daniel wasn't alone, an angel had been with him, keeping the lions from killing him. Daniel was innocent, and was lifted from this den and was restored to power because he trusted God. Those who plotted against him had a grisly end – you probably didn't hear this in Sunday School – the evil doers, those who are jealous and who defy God, are thrown to the lions, along with their wives and children. Scripture says they were killed by the lions, attacked before they even hit the floor. Sadly, the innocent suffer for the sin and defiance of the proud.

Darius then issued a new proclamation – that all people must revere and fear the God of Daniel, saying Daniel's God is a living God, he endures forever, his kingdom will not be destroyed. His dominion will never end. He rescues, saves, performs signs and wonders, and he saves his people. That's the same God who cares for you. God has not changed. I don't know what lions stalk you, but I pray that you have the courage to face them, because of your faith in a living and loving God, who is with you in the lion's den, with you in the darkness, with you as you do what is right.

And maybe we can fear the lions in our lives less. No doubt, they are there, but there is another, more powerful Lion there as well. A Lion that is looking out for you. The Lion of Judah, Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world. He went into the pit of a cold tomb, a stone was rolled over the entry, the tomb was signed and sealed and guarded, and it looked like the end. But evil could not overcome the love of God, death didn't have the victory, the Lion of Judah roared over death and evil and what looked like the end was the beginning. It takes courage to face this Lion, Jesus, the Christ, but face Him anyway, in Him find hope, and life, and be blessed. Amen and amen.

