



CASCADIAN WEEKLY

May 7, 2021

Week 61

A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR JILL

Dear Cascade Christian Church,

As I write this, I am smiling over what a wonderful Sunday we had on May 2. Adam Carlson preached an incredible message on humility and the Holy Spirit that will be long remembered. There was a comment that no one has been in the pulpit and used the name of St. Benedict and a bowl of canned Chef Boyardee in the same sentence. Adam's sermon is in this mailing, and I hope you will also watch it online if you are able.

I am very grateful to work with an incredible church staff who have seen the church through this peculiar and challenging year. I thank God for our staff members - and here is our current team:

Mel Behm - our Minister of Maintenance rock-star, who keeps this facility running in top form, works with the Good Ole Boys, and is a helping hand to all of us in this House of God.

Lois Slack - our Human Resources Director, beloved by the entire staff, who keeps us current in employment regulations, works with the Child Development Center, is mentoring Mark Langenbach, and takes care of all employee concerns.

Mark Langenbach - our new Business Manager extraordinaire, filling the shoes of Chuck Snow, taking in all of the business matters of the church, working on the budget, and adding such a positive presence to the church office.

Michael Dirksen - our High School/Young Adult Director, who also works part time as our Office Manager as Keely is on maternity leave, and works with the Crystal Camp Commission for the Region. Michael wears many hats, and wears them all well; he is a gifted communicator and organizer, and is a real blessing to the church.

Adam Carlson - our Middle School Director and part time Office Manager as Keely is on maternity leave. Adam also has great skills not only in preaching, but in Christian Education and leadership. I look forward to seeing Adam lead further in our church.

Jacob Relph - our Worship Leader, who quickly adapted to Cascade Christian in COVID when there is no singing, pulled together 3 tech teams, and is developing amazing band members, while also working with all technical aspects of the church sound system, live streaming, and updates for the chapel.

Keely Guikema - our Office Manager - enjoying the birth of her son Wesley Thomas, and will return in July. Keely is a warm and welcoming office presence, a great organizer, a talented graphic designer, and we look forward to her return.

Jane Klein and all of the Child Development Center staff - who have weathered the pandemic and some very rough times with faith and hope as they care for children and teach our preschoolers.

And all of our volunteers -, our deeply committed Board under the leadership of Chris Hinsch, our elders who bring us to God at the Table every week, and others too numerous to mention.

I thank God for all of you - for your faithfulness and commitment to bring the Kingdom of God to this time and place. Thank you for being part of the ministry of Cascade Christian Church. God bless you and keep the faith, Jill

WEEKLY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

<u>Sunday</u> _(5/9).	Sunday School - 9:30 AM Worship - 9:30 AM & 11:00 AM
<u>Monday</u> _(5/10).	Cancer Club - 12:30-3:00 PM (Coffee House) Soul Warmers - 2:00 PM (Narthex) Camp Dean Training about COVID19 - 7:30 PM (zoom)
<u>Tuesday</u> _(5/11).	Women's Bible Study "You'll Get Through This" - 9:00 AM (Centennial Hall)
<u>Wednesday</u> _(5/12).	Middle/High School Wednesday Night - 6:30 PM (High School Room) Adult Bible Study "You'll Get Through This" - 6:30 PM (Zoom) Troop 334 Boy Scouts - 7:00 PM (Centennial Hall)
<u>Thursday</u> _(5/13).	Griefshare - 10:30 AM (Zoom) Administration Meeting - 4:30 PM (Zoom)
<u>Friday</u> _(5/14).	Church Office Closed
<u>Saturday</u> _(5/15).	Volunteers in Service Workday - 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM Days for Girls Work Session - 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM (Centennial Hall)

Financial giving
for the week
ending in
5/2/2021:
Budgeted:\$8,432
Given: \$8622.95

Total Given to
Weeks of
Compassion:
\$8,811.39!!

Thank you all so
much for all of
your contributions!

THE CHURCH OFFICE

You may have noticed last week and now this week the Cascadian is coming from a new email - that's because Keely is officially on maternity leave! Michael Dirksen and Adam Carlson will be filling in for her while she is on maternity leave, so if you have anything you want added to the newsletter, prayer requests, or general info regarding programming here at Cascade Christian Church -- **email your submission** to the church office (office@cascadechristian.com) no later than **Tuesday at 12:00 PM**.

CHAPEL UPDATE

We look forward to welcoming the traditional service back to the chapel during the month of May. The equipment has been ordered, and we will install things soon so we can live stream our chapel services. It will be so wonderful to be back in the chapel, and we will let you know the re-opening date very soon.

CHILDREN & YOUTH MINISTRIES

DAY CAMP AT CRYSTAL CONFERENCE CENTER

If you're unsure about camp this summer, this is an option to consider. Day Camp will have a morning program, lunch, and a swim time on Tuesday-Friday, July 6-9. Those attending can stay off site from camp or stay in one of the camp cabins and have their meals in the dining hall. This is a GREAT opportunity to introduce a child or your family to camp, or to go to camp with your grandchildren. We have scholarships to help pay the way. Call Michael or Jill at the church office at 949.1360 or email jforton@cascadechristian.com for more information.

INTERESTED IN BEING A COUNSELOR?

Are you or someone you know interested in being a counselor or counselor in training for Camp Crystal this summer? We are looking for counselors! If you are interested in counseling for Elementary Camp please email Jill at jforton@cascadechristian.com. If you are interested in counseling for Middle School or High School camp, please email Michael mdirksen@cascadechristian.com.

ELEMENTARY CAMP

We are so pleased that many children have signed up for Camp Crystal this summer. Our camp site director, Eric Strommer, is leading our camp deans in best practices to keep campers safe with Crystal's COVID-19 protocols. Due to the need to keep social distancing in cabins, we need to limit the number of campers attending this year. If you have not yet registered, we urge you to do so soon as elementary camp is filling up fast! If you would like to volunteer as a camp counselor, we need 2 more women (over age 18) to accommodate the girl campers who plan to attend. Call Michael or Jill at the church office at 949.1360 or email jforton@cascadechristian.com for more information.

SUNDAY SCHOOL VIRTUAL & IN-PERSON

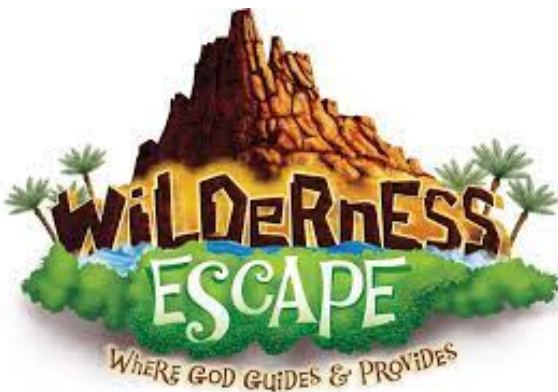
Every week at the **9:30 service** we have in-person Sunday School for children ages 4 on up. The children begin the morning in the sanctuary with their families and then are dismissed to go to class. Students will be brought back down to church after the service. For elementary school, we are also offering a virtual Sunday School, which is mailed out with the Cascadian each week. If you would like your child added to this list, please call Adam or Michael in the church office.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL IS BACK!

Mark your calendars as we look forward to a full Vacation Bible School over July 26-30 from 9:00AM-11:30AM. We'll be studying the life of Moses and the Exodus with "Wilderness Escape - Where God Guides and Provides" - a fun packed curriculum from Group Publishing.

CRIB ROOM REOPENED

Our crib room has reopened for infants and toddlers through age 3 at the 9:30 service. Parents must make a reservation for this kind of childcare. Call the church office by Wednesday to make your reservation.



MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP

BE SURE TO SIGN UP FOR CAMP, MISSION TRIP, AND MACKINAC BEFORE APRIL 30TH TO RESERVE YOUR SPOT!!

MISSION TRIP & MACKINAC



CAMP SCHOLARSHIP



VOLUNTEER SIGN UP



WEEKLY EVENTS

We are back to a regular weekly schedule of events that include Sunday School during the 9:30 service. Wednesday Night Youth Group from 6:30-8:00. Then, typically, the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month we will do a special event! We hope you join us!

VOLUNTEERING

We are in **need** of some parent volunteers to help us run Sunday School at the 9:30 Service as well as come on Wednesday Nights. If this is an area where you may have an interest in helping, please send an email to Michael Dirksen at midirksen@cascadechristian.com. No need to have kids in the program! All volunteers need to be screened before they are able to help.

GRADUATION SUNDAY

If you know a senior who would want to participate in our Graduation Sunday Service, please reach out to Michael at mdirksen@cascadechristian.com. We are getting ready and need to start planning for that service. Thank you!



FUNDRAISING

We have a few fundraising opportunities which will involve some yard work. If you are interested in helping with some yard work and helping pay for some summer events, please let Michael know.

END OF THE YEAR PARTY!

Please join us after Graduation Sunday for an end of the year celebration in the High School Youth Room. We will be having pizza, playing games, and more fun as we kick off our summer programming here with the High School and Middle School Youth Groups.

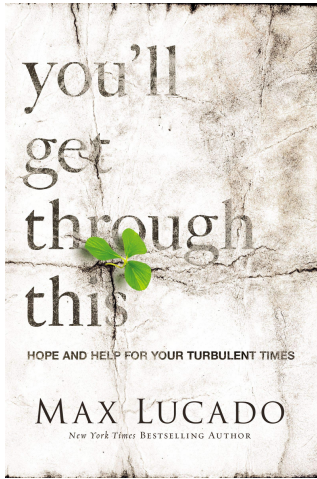
ADULT MINISTRIES

GRIEF SHARE

A new session of Griefshare began on April 8 through Zoom. Join us each Thursday at 10:30 AM for this support group by emailing Pastor Jill.

"YOU'LL GET THROUGH THIS" BIBLE STUDY

Join us for a 6-week Zoom Bible study of the life of Joseph/Genesis. The class is offered in person in Centennial Hall on Tuesday mornings beginning at 9:00 AM and also virtually on Wednesday nights beginning at 6:30 PM. Contact Pastor Jill for the link.



NEW DIRECTORIES

New Directories are available in the Narthex or the church office! Please pick one up after church on Sunday or, if you would rather pick one up during the week, please contact the church office and figure out the best time to stop by and pick one up. Huge shoutout to Darcy Hartley and Denise Pray for helping assemble all 250+ directories!

MEMORIAL DAY WORSHIP SERVICE

A special worship service is being planned for Memorial Day weekend. We will read the names of all who have passed from this life since Memorial Day 2020, and will light a candle in their memory. Family members are welcomed to take those candles home after the service.

We will also honor our veterans, and would like to have as many photos as possible of those who have served. If you can let us scan your pictures, we will add them to our photo montage that will be shown on Sunday, May 30. We ask that photos, names of those who have served, and their branch of service be shared with the church office by Monday, May 24. If you are a veteran and would like to speak on that Sunday, please be in touch by calling the church office. Memorial Day Sunday is a special worship service, and we hope that you'll be here as we honor our veterans and remember those who have gone on to the nearer Presence of God.



OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS

FAMILY AND INDIVIDUAL DAY OF SERVICE

If you would like to help someone out locally, but don't know how to do that, this opportunity is for you! We are looking for families and individuals to do some service projects on Saturday, May 15 from 9am-noon. We will be working with Volunteers In Service, who will connect us with people in the greater Grand Rapids area in need of yard work, painting/staining a deck, and possibly helping out a local service agency. What we do and how much we do will depend on the number of people who are available to help. To get signed up or if you have questions, please contact **Debbie Jones** by **May 11** at dbjones@visgr.org or by phone at 616-299-7154.

NOW HIRING - CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER

The Child Development Center is looking for applications for new staff members! If you know of anyone who needs a job or who might be interested in working at the Child Development Center, please let them know we are looking! They can apply by contacting the Church office or the Child Development Center directly!

STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN IS ON

The annual Stewardship Campaign is happening, and you will be receiving a pledge letter from the Church Board and a commitment card. Please prayerfully consider your support of the church as we work together to build God's Kingdom of Christ, Communion, and Community with open doors, hearts, and minds. Thank you!

THANK YOU, DIANE PHELPS AND THE MULCHING CREW

Many thanks to everyone who has been helping get the church grounds ready for summer. On Saturday, May 1 we had a crew of people here working with Diane to beautify the campus, including Scouts from Troop 334 and Scout Master Scott Zuke. Thank you to all who volunteered their time!



5.2.2021 SERMON: FROM HUMILITY TO THE HOLY SPIRIT

Just as Jesus and His disciples set out for Jerusalem, the disciples got into an argument. A short time before, Peter proclaimed to the others that Jesus was God's messiah, the one sent to restore the Throne of David and rule Israel.

So the argument came when the disciples mused about which of them was going to be the greatest, probably in the context of the coming Kingdom. Jesus, of course, knew their hearts and called them out, in His own way. He had a child stand beside Him and said, Whoever welcomes this child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me. For it is the one who is least among you who is the greatest.

I love how He phrases this. Because sometimes when we read this, we might read it to mean, those who welcome the child welcome Jesus and are therefore the greatest. But that's not quite what He said. He said that the little child is the greatest among them and that by welcoming this child, they welcome the one who is truly greatest.

We know that. But don't we sometimes think of someone who does the most good as the greatest? Like the person who is a full time student and is somehow also the president of a non-profit that gives back candy to babies who had theirs stolen and won't shut up about it on Instagram? Surely they must be the greatest. And certainly, there are those who are humble and do amazing things and there are leaders of organizations that humbly serve those they lead. Humility is not exclusive to those we see as lowly.

But there are also people who do good because it makes them look good or, more often, feel good - rather than simply because it is good. And we still admire those people often. Like celebrities who make very loud donations to already well-funded charities. Or wealthy white people who feel bad for poorer people around the world and take part in some good old Christian Tourism. Or corporations who want to smooth over a PR disaster so they do some "philanthropy." My general rule of thumb in life is, if a corporation would do this, maybe I shouldn't. And that isn't to put down the real good that gets done, but it's not the spirit of humility.

That isn't what we're called to do. We aren't called to become the greatest by being seen serving the least. In fact, another time Jesus calls His disciples to humility was in light of hypocrites who did, or at least pretended to do, exactly that. He said those who exalt themselves will be humbled and those who humble themselves will be exalted and proceeded to completely roast - humble - the Pharisees 7 times over.

We are called to recognize the greatest as defined by the author of life and likewise demonstrate humble service and hospitality toward them. When we talk about church fathers who lived lives of simplicity and servanthood, living among the poor because they saw Christ in the poor, it didn't mean they pretended to see Christ in the poor as a good motivator, and that every time they served bowls of Chef Boyardee ravioli to a hungry child they imagined they were giving it to Jesus instead.

5.2.2021 SERMON: FROM HUMILITY TO THE HOLY SPIRIT

It meant that they were serving the greatest among them and in those people they saw the One who truly is greatest. Yes, that feels backwards and confusing in practice. That's the nature of the Kingdom of God compared to our broken world. In our broken world, if you want to be the best, then you have to crush the competition, push others down, and serve your own interests. If someone else is queen and you want to be queen, you get a lot of people together and you kill the queen and take her cake. If you want a promotion, you have to be better than the other people who want the job. If you want to be the heavyweight champion of the world, you have to pretend to beat a lot of people up. You get the idea.

The Kingdom of God does not work like that. The people who work the hardest and do the grandest stuff are not necessarily the greatest. God determines who the greatest is, and He has chosen those who the world deems not worth anyone's time. God chooses for His spirit to be present and visible in the humble. The Spirit did not come upon the one disciple who everyone agreed was the greatest. It came upon disciples who felt shame and humiliation and grief over Jesus's death and learned humility. Peter didn't lead the church because He was the one who always stood by Jesus. Jesus reinstated Peter in the midst of Peter's humility at having denied his friend, the man who he himself proclaimed was the Messiah. Saul the Pharisee was no friend of Jesus and looked upon the death of Stephen with approval, but blind and terrified and humbled Paul called Him Lord and established a generation of Churches and encouraged every generation of Christians.

All throughout history, God elevates the humble and opposes the proud. Why? I think there is something inherent to humility that seems fitting for those who serve a Holy God. We all make large mistakes and humility is the natural response for those who recognize their own need for grace. And as images of God and mere objects of His mercy, our work has no bearing whatsoever on our value inside or outside of salvation.

So besides the example of all of God's history with humanity, someone might still ask the question: why should we humble ourselves?

To which I respond with Paul's poem from Philippians 2:

In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus:

**Who, being in very nature God,
did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage;
rather, he made himself nothing
by taking the very nature of a servant,
being made in human likeness.
And being found in appearance as a man,
he humbled himself
by becoming obedient to death—
even death on a cross!**

5.2.2021 SERMON: FROM HUMILITY TO THE HOLY SPIRIT

Therefore God exalted Him to the highest place

and gave him the name that is above every name,
that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

It is by following Jesus into humility that we follow Him into exaltation. What does that mean for us now? Well, it means receiving the Holy Spirit. I mean, to be baptized is to die and be buried with Christ and to be raised to life again, no longer dead in sin, but alive in the Spirit. Humility to exaltation, in our here-but-not-fully-stage. We have tasted the heavenly gift, and it began in humility, recognizing our sinfulness and accepting the promise of redemption that Jesus offers. Humility opens our hearts to the idea that we need God and in turn to the beauty and truth and strength of the Spirit. It opens us to embracing the seeming backwardness of God's Kingdom and leads us to come together as humble objects of God's mercy and build the Kingdom of God on earth as it is in Heaven.

CAMP CRYSTAL WORK WEEKEND

Youth and families are registering for camp! The camp is being booked for the summer! That means that we need a crew of people to come help open the camp. We need volunteers May 21-22 (or just for a day if that's what you can do!) to help us open the camp. Breakfast, lunch, and dinner will be provided on Saturday. Overnight lodging is available. Email Eric Strommer to sign up at estrommer@uccr.org. When you email Eric, let him know approximately when you will be arriving and how many people are coming up to work with you.



DAYS FOR GIRLS WORKSHOP

There will be a Days for Girls Workshop in Centennial hall on Saturday, May 15 from 1-4pm. Volunteers Needed, no prior experience required. We will be making menstrual kits that involve both sewing and non-sewing abilities. Middle school and high school students welcome. Please contact Diane Phelps by email; dianephelps2010@gmail.com to RSVP

