The Memorial Service of

**Casen Sancraint**

West Toledo CedarCreek

Friday July 19, 2019, 10am.

**SCRIPTURE**

The Scripture says…

*We are here for only a moment, visitors and strangers in the land as our ancestors were before us. Our days on earth are like a passing shadow, gone so soon without a trace. 1 Chron. 29:15*

And that’s certainly true in the life of Casen Sancraint …

he was only 10 years old.

Just as a shadow appears in the morning…then vanishes with the setting of the sun, so it was with Casen’s life.

Gone so soon.

You may be thinking he was taken too soon.

There were so many more good times to be shared with Family & friends.

You may be thinking, “Why would God allow this?” His timing was off!

C.S. Lewis, well known for writing - The Chronicles of Narnia, was an Author & intellectual giant. When his wife died, he explained to his friends that the pain of her loss was not localized in one particular area of his life, but that it made everything about his life different.

You who are members of Casen’s family know what C. S. Lewis meant, for you too have gone through an experience that makes everything different in your life.

One of the most difficult tasks to accept in life is the death of a child. Nothing can prepare us for such a task. Children are not supposed to precede parents or grandparents in death. The death of an elderly person or an adult brings pain and sometimes leaves us with many questions. But the death of a child just crushes us with total surprise, deep grief and a sense of hopelessness.

You may be expecting me to try and explain God’s plan and why this has happened.

But I may surprise you today as I tell you, as a Pastor, I don’t understand why God would allow a wonderful little boy’s life to be cut so short.

We go through this life often lacking the ability to comprehend or understand why life is the way it is.

What I do understand…

Is that God’s love is for each of us…

God has so much more in store for us beyond the grave…

More than we could ever begin to imagine…

and someday it will all be revealed to each one of us.

We don’t like this reality and…

For those of us left behind, it is difficult to endure the loss of someone we love.

So let’s turn to God and ask him to help us through this time.

Would you pray with me?

**PRAYER**

Father we come to you this morning with a great burden on our hearts…we are saddened with the loss of Casen…

and the thought of never again seeing him on this earth.

So we ask that you would lift us into the presence of Jesus who provides comfort and encouragement at times like these.

Help us today as we remember his life…

give strength to those who were close to him… the strength needed to go on in the coming weeks and months ahead…

Those whose lives were intertwined with his will think back, and recall his life, and all he meant to them… and as they realize the profound effect he had on them… they will miss him deeply.

So we ask for mercy and grace to help in this time.

We ask these things in Christ’s name. AMEN

**WELCOME**I would like to welcome everybody and thank all of you for joining the family of Casen Sancraint here today as we honor him and celebrate his life and the memories that will always be cherished.

**EXPRESSION OF SYMPATHY**

On behalf of CedarCreek Church I am Ed Bellner and we would like to offer our condolences to you his family and all who knew and loved him…please accept our deepest sympathy at your loss.

I would like to read the obituary to you as printed and posted by Walter Funeral home.

**OBITUARY**

Casen Branden Sancraint left our world unexpectedly on July 12, 2019 in Lenawee County, Michigan.

Casen was born on November 14, 2008 in Toledo, Ohio to Ryan and Kristie Sancraint and was the little brother to Ethan and Kilei Sancraint. He attended Grove Patterson Academy, where he had just completed the Fourth grade, and was cherished by many teachers and friends. No one was a stranger to Casen. Casen could light up a room with his smile and start everyone giggling with his contagious laugh. He was always happy and could be found posing for pictures or creating his own funny videos. He enjoyed karate, video games, watching movies, taking family vacations, and family game night. Casen could spend endless hours swimming and loved lounging around home in his pajamas. He was very picky with his food, it almost seemed like his entire diet consisted of Dunkin donuts, bacon, Slim Jims and Pizza Hut. Casen could often be found giving hugs and with his arms wrapped around his mom or dad’s neck. He was a loving little guy with a soft heart and gentle spirit. Casen will be missed by so many, until we see him again in Heaven.

Casen is survived by his parents Ryan and Kristie Sancraint, and siblings Ethan and Kilei. Also surviving are Grandparents David and Connie Sancraint, Tammy and Dave Szostek, Dale (Shelly) Roop, and Renee Roop. Casen has many aunts and uncles: Kelly (Richard) Chamberlain, Chad Sancraint, Kevin (Jennifer) Sancraint, Nickolas (Andrea) Sancraint, Rob (Crissi) Roop, Daniel (Jennifer) Roop, Courtney (Emma) Hulsey-Roop, and Joyce (Theron) Jewell. He is also survived and adored by fourteen cousins. Preceded in death by his uncle Branden Snyder.

[it then talks about Visitation details] will be held on Thursday July 18, 2019 from 2:00 to 8:00 p.m. at the Walter Funeral Home, 4653 Glendale Avenue, Toledo, Ohio. The funeral service will be held on Friday, July 19th at 10 a.m. at Cedar Creek Church West Campus, 2600 W. Sylvania, Avenue, Toledo, Ohio 43613 with burial to follow in Ottawa Hills Memorial Park.

The family humbly asks for random acts of kindness to be extended to others, in honor of the way Casen lived his life.

Often the most difficult of moments, will be the time here today. I would like to take a moments to reflect on a passage of scripture that points us to God’s guidance, peace, and care for us…

**The 23rd Chapter of Psalms:**

The Lord *is* my shepherd;
I shall not want.
**2**He makes me to lie down in green pastures;
He leads me beside the still waters.
**3**He restores my soul;
He leads me in the paths of righteousness
For His name’s sake.

**4**Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I will fear no evil;
For You *are* with me;
Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.

**5**You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;
You anoint my head with oil;
My cup runs over.
**6**Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
All the days of my life;
And I will dwell in the house of the Lord
Forever.

I would ask you to reflect on His love as we listen to this song…

**SONG**

Sung by: Jason LaPorte - *“I can only Imagine”*

When we hear about the beauty of Heaven, and we try to imagine what it will be like, it makes us thankful for a future to look forward to, a time and a place with no more pain, or suffering. A time and a place of awe struck wonder for the majesty of God.

But we still have the question lingering over us…

Can a father or mother possibly feel thankful to God upon the death of a beloved child?

It is only natural to be honest with your feelings to the Lord for taking a child. Anger is almost always a part of the grief process, but even more so in a situation like you find yourself in this morning. But God is Big Enough to handle your questions and your anger.

Only the Lord knows how difficult Casen’s death is to you. Ryan as you reflect on taking him to The Home Depot workshop or movie night on the air mattress. Kristie, he was your life‘s joy, and as you said, you are so thankful that he still enjoyed snuggling up in bed with you. Ethan, the big brother he looked up to as an artist that inspired him to draw. And Kilei, cherish the nights you would stay up late, enjoying the moment without a care in the world.

To you the aunts and uncles that would tease him about always being in his pajama’s, let’s face it, you were a bit envious. And all the cousins who knew, he was going to be the first in swimming, and many time the last out if left up to him.

Casen’s going leaves you and the rest of the family with such heartache and emptiness.

The reality is, with our lack of understanding, death, especially the death of a child, leaves us confused. On the outside we may fool each other, but inside there are questions, there is disappointment, there is possibly anger. Some of the great prophets in the Old Testament cried out to God with their questions. It was only through their honesty with God that He was able to bring them finally to a peaceful position of trust.

The Lord would have all of us readily accept the death of those we love and trust that He is doing what is best.

But I’m sure you have questions, and If we approach God with respect, then we too can ask our questions. I can’t guarantee that God will give us an answer this side of heaven, but He can help you to move on with unanswered questions. He understands the emptiness that Casen’s death has left, and He will help you live with that hole in your heart.

You know God and He has walked with you this far and He will continue to do so. I’m praying that you, Casen’s family and friends, will be able to move forward to where you can find freedom from the pain.

We are talking about trusting God, the One who has stood where you are now…at the graveside of a beloved child; His innocent Son who had done nothing wrong and did not deserve to die. I can’t tell you that I understand the depth of your pain, because I can’t possibly know your grief, yet God understands and He cares.

Tragic situations like you’ve experience can make you bitter or better. Your tragedy is bigger than you are but it’s not bigger than God. He can help you handle your grief, emptiness, and hopelessness.

Will you give Him your grief and emptiness? Will you give Him your life? Left to ourselves, we are in for a bitter future. In His hands, you’ll see Him eventually turn this awful situation into something far better than you can imagine now.

Though we’d like to hold on to Casen, we can’t. We must release him into God’s hands. And it is the same with our own life and our deep grief. We must release them into God’s hands. There’s no better opportunity to get to know God better than now. Jesus said about Himself, “I am the Way, and the Truth, and the Life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.” [John 14:6]

My hope is that when you leave here today you will understand that the love of Jesus is for each of us!

Because of Casen’s love of Christ and his love of others, the best way I know to honor him, is to provide you with insight into Christ’s love.

As found in:

**1 Corinthians 13**

*4Love is patient, love is kind.
Love does not envy,
is not boastful, is not conceited,
5does not act improperly,
is not selfish, is not provoked,
and does not keep a record of wrongs.
6Love finds no joy in unrighteousness
but rejoices in the truth.
7It bears all things, believes all things,
hopes all things, endures all things.*

*8Love never ends.*

As you can hear in God’s word, love isn’t the absents of mistakes, it is the absents of keeping a record of wrongs.

It is patient, selfless, it believes and hopes and endures all things! Love never ends.

God’s love is one of Forgiveness and Acceptance. Sometimes we have a hard time forgiving and accepting others or ourselves.

His forgiveness is found in…

**Romans 3:23-24**

*23For all have sinned and fall short of theglory of God. 24They are justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus.*

I would like to read it to you again out of ‘The Message’, a translation that says it like we would today…

*Since we’ve compiled this long and sorry record as sinners and proved that we are utterly incapable of living the glorious lives God wills for us, God did it for us. Out of sheer generosity he put us in right standing with himself. A pure gift. He got us out of the mess we’re in and restored us to where he always wanted us to be. And he did it by means of Jesus Christ.*

We have the opportunity to trust in Jesus Christ who said…

*“I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die.” (John 11:25)*

The late **Billy Graham**, once said…

*“Soon you will read in the newspaper that I am dead. Don’t believe it for a moment. I will be more alive than ever before.”*

We would all agree that Casen’s life was short…

Our days may be limited as well …

But all of eternity is to follow.

**PRAY**

When You rose from the dead, You rose to an absolutely new life. What Your resurrection means for us is that we are raised to Your risen life, not to our old life. One day we will have a body like Your glorious body, but we can know here and now the power and effectiveness of Your resurrection and we can “walk in newness of life” with You.

Your Spirit applies the power of the atonement by the Cross of Christ to our lives. Thank God for the glorious and majestic truth that Your Spirit can work the very nature of Jesus into us, if we will obey Him."

We thank you for Your Amazing Grace!

In the name of Christ Jesus,

Amen

**SONG**

Sung by: Jason LaPorte – *“This Is Amazing Grace”*

**COMMITTAL**

We are gathered here today commit the **body**…of Casen Sancraint to its kindred dust;

…earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust…

…but we are committing his **spirit** to God.

The scripture reads…

“*As for man, his days are like grass, he flourishes like a*

 *flower of the field;*

The wind blows over it and it is gone, and its place remembers it no more.

But from everlasting to everlasting the Lord’s love is with

 those who fear him, and his righteousness with their children’s children-with those who keep his covenant and remember to obey his precepts.” *(Ps.103:15-18)*

When we’re gathered around a graveside…

people often ask the question…why?

What’s the point of it all?

What’s the purpose of life anyway?

Well God’s Word tells us that He didn’t put us on this earth just to fulfill a to-do list.

He made us…and wants us to be with Him in Heaven…

so in reality, this life is preparation for eternity.

One day our hearts are going to stop beating…

and that will be the end of our bodies.

Our days may be brief as Casen’s were or we may live 90 or more yrs. on this earth…

But it won’t be the end.

Listen to the tremendous encouragement he gives us in the Bible…

*“Fear not, for I have redeemed you;*

 *I have summoned you by name; you are mine.*

*When you pass through the waters,*

 *I will be with you;*

*and when you pass through the rivers,*

 *they will not sweep over you.*

*When you walk through the fire,*

 *you will not be burned;*

*the flames will not set you ablaze.*

 *For I am the Lord, your God,*

*the Holy One of Israel, your Savior*;…” (Is.43:1-3)

The Bible assures us that when we pass from this life to the next…that God will be there with us.

He encourages us like a gentle and loving Father…

who has compassion on his children…

and He does this so that we will be comforted.

And we trust also in His Son Jesus Christ who said…

*“I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die.” (John 11:25)*

So even though Casen’s **body** is in the ground…

we can take comfort in knowing that his **spirit…**is now with the God of all the earth.

That’s the confidence we have as we stand here today,

knowing that Casen is in the presence of God…

in a place so wonderful that Christ even referred to it as **Paradise**.

The Apostle Paul tells us that it’s natural to grieve at the parting of a loved one, but he said that…

“*we are not to grieve like the rest of men, who have no hope.”*

*(1 Thess. 4:13)*

…because we do have hope…

in fact, we have a promise from God that our parting is not the end of our relationship…

but rather a temporary interruption…

and one day, in a glorious and magnificent reunion…

 we…

*“will be with the Lord forever. Therefore* (the Bible says) *to* *encourage each other with these words”* (1 Thess. 4:17-18).

So I want to encourage you that Casen is not here in the ground, but in Heaven with God.

**PRAYER**

Father we thank you for the hope that we have.

We know that even when life doesn’t make sense, that you have not lost control…and that you want us to trust you.

We are promised throughout scripture that we are never left to fight our own battles…and that you are right there with us.

The Bible tells us to cast our cares on you and that you will sustains us and that you will never let the righteous fall.

So that is what we are doing today Lord…

We are casting all our care upon you.

But even so Lord, it is a painful time for those close to Casen…

so I ask your blessing on each of them today…

and pray that you would comfort them as only you can.

I ask you Lord to come close to the broken hearted…

and replace their despair with hope…

and help them to realize that Casen is safely home with her Savior.

And we pray this in His name…

the one Lord and only Savior, Jesus Christ. AMEN