

# *Crossroads Church*

*a ministry of the Christian Reformed Church*

*3815 S. Dutch Mill Road Madison, WI 53718-6805 (608) 222-1159 Fax (608) 222-2755*

*E-mail: [crossroads@crossroadscrc.org](mailto:crossroads@crossroadscrc.org) Website: [www.crossroadscrc.org](http://www.crossroadscrc.org)*

*Christians passionately dedicated to impacting our world with God's love, one person at a time.*

In the life of the church, this Sunday is the traditional Sunday of celebrating the baptism of Jesus. I wonder what baptisms you remember. I wonder what baptism/s made a distinct impression on you. In our tradition of Christianity, many of us do not remember our specific baptism because we were baptized as infants. However, whenever a child is baptized many of us imagine what it must have been like at our baptism, or we recall the baptism of our children, our grandchildren, our nephews/nieces or perhaps a godchild.

Others of us clearly recall our baptism because it happened at a decisive turning point in our lives as adults. Some of us have both experiences as we chose to be rebaptized either as a personal choice or a requirement of the church we desired to join.

Being particularly religious or spiritually inclined is not a requirement to sense the importance or impact of baptism. The presence of water along with the litany and ritual (in the positive sense) accompanying it leave impressions that continue long after the baptism is over.

The Bible uses the image of water and renewal in different ways. The Israelites walking through the Red Sea on dry ground is often seen as the consecration, the washing, of a new people. They were not the same people coming up out of the Red Sea as they were when they went in.

John the Baptist used the water of the Jordan River in his call for repentance.

The Apostle Paul sees baptism as a participation in Jesus' death and resurrection – going under we die, coming up we are born to new life. Again, identity changes from when we enter to when we exit.

Jesus is the giver of living water.

In our daily lives water refreshes, water renews when tired and weary, water washes and cleanses, water provides nourishment to all creation, water provides recreation (re-creation), and water sustains life.

I wonder what having been baptized means to you. If you are like I am, your own baptism is not an ever-present thought or memory. Perhaps you and I are the worse for this. I wonder what difference your and my life would be should we remember our baptism and its significance daily. Perhaps it would be worth spending some time reflecting on this.

Why not spend a quiet half hour and ask God to bring to mind what He has done for you in your baptism. If nothing else, you will remember thinking about it for a while – and that alone will make a positive impression.

## This Sunday

Please join us for Worship at 9:30 a.m. This Sunday is the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the season of Epiphany – of Jesus appearing to the world - and we are invited to remember Jesus’ baptism, and through this to renew God’s call in our baptisms. Our Scripture lesson is from Matthew 3.13-17.

**Make worship a priority this week – someone is depending on you to share this worship time with them!**

***Offering for the Month of January: Bethany Christian Services*** - Headquartered in Grand Rapids, Michigan, Bethany is a not-for-profit, pro-life, Christian adoption and family services agency. It manifests the love and compassion of Jesus Christ by protecting and enhancing the lives of children and families through quality social services.

and

Children’s Offering - ***Child Evangelism Fellowship*** - *CEF* works to bring Jesus into the lives of boys and girls and help them find a good church that will help them live for Jesus. *CEF* has many different minis-tries for children, but the primary ones are the *Good News Club* and the *5-Day*.

### **Adult Education Classes**

Con continues leading the study of the book of Isaiah.

Laurie begins a new class entitled “The Emotionally Healthy Church” which will follow the book and workbook by Peter Scazzero.

Many passionate Christians still struggle with loneliness, grief and insecurity. She will help us look at six principles to help us grow.

Please contact Laurie with questions.

## ***This Week***

UNASHAMED Youth

***This Wednesday – January 15<sup>th</sup>:***

***The Chase***

*For more detailed information and if you have any questions,  
please contact:*

**Pastor Ryan Moorad** by [email:](mailto:crossroadsmadisonyouth@gmail.com)  
[crossroadsmadisonyouth@gmail.com](mailto:crossroadsmadisonyouth@gmail.com) **or**

**call/text: (608) 335-2785**

KINGDOM KIDS

***This Wednesday - January 15<sup>th</sup>:***

***The Chase***

*For more detailed information and if you have any questions,  
please contact:*

**Pastor Ryan Moorad** by [email:](mailto:crossroadsmadisonyouth@gmail.com)  
[crossroadsmadisonyouth@gmail.com](mailto:crossroadsmadisonyouth@gmail.com) **or**

**call/text: (608) 335-2785**

## *Women's Bible Study*

### *Thursday Morning Coffee Break*

All women are invited to join us on Thursday mornings at 9AM for Coffee Break Bible Study.

This week we will start a new study called "Twelve Women of the Bible". Instead of the typical women's study of Ruth, this Bible study looks at and discusses a variety of women (some unnamed) and the roles they played in God's Story.

If you have questions, please feel free to contact Shirley.

Have a wonderful Weekend! Enjoy the gifts God has given you. Honor Him in all you do, and I look forward to seeing you Sunday!!

May Jesus' love be your strength.

Pastor Doug