

## Upcoming Events/Announcements

If someone you know has become homebound or has moved to a care center, please let us know so we can include them in our caring ministries. We love our whole church family and want to ensure that everyone is included, remembered, and loved.

**Our January mission will be soup packets.** Volunteers will assemble 500-600 packets of soup mix for the recipients of Church Response. Your monetary donations will buy the necessary supplies. On January 9, 16, 23 and 30 (all Thursdays) from 1-4 p.m., we will come together to package the soup ingredients in the CLC. If you would like to assist, please join us. Questions? Call or text Candy @ 605-490-5007. Mark your gift "soup packets."

**Thanks to everyone who donated in December to our MUSH tree.** We collected 1 jacket, 53 hats, 29 pairs of men's underwear, 50 pairs of women's underwear, 11 sets of gloves/mittens, and 217 pairs of socks. Items have been distributed to the Boy's Club, WAVI, Church Response, and the Women & Children's Home.

**Canyon Lake UMC Celebrates 75 Years!** We are kicking off a year full of 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations! Special guest Pastor Kent Millard will preach on January 12. In between Sunday services, please drop by the Christian Life Center for an informal time of fellowship with coffee and light snacks. We will also have a time of fellowship and snacks following our Saturday evening service.

**BEWARE OF SCAMS!** We have been made aware that unknown individuals, claiming to be Pastor Scott, have asked **SEVERAL MEMBERS** of our congregation to purchase gift cards for them. If you receive an email or text message that asks you to click a link, that asks for you to send gift cards or cash, or that seems suspicious in any way, **PLEASE DO NOT RESPOND.** We will never ask for help in this way. If you are ever unsure about the legitimacy of emails or text messages that seem to be coming from a pastor or anyone here at the church, please call the church office and we can help you sort it out.

**Changes to online worship.** Beginning with the new year, a pre-recorded online service has replaced the livestream of our Sunday in-person worship. When special services occur (such as those with guest speakers or on holidays), we will generally still release this new pre-recorded format, but we will also do a livestream of the 10:45 a.m. in-person service.

### Calendar at a Glance

**January 11 & 12:** 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Kickoff Celebrations

**January 18:** Brunch Bunch @ 8:30 a.m.

**January 28:** Blood Drive in CLC from 2:30-5:30 p.m.

# THE PATH



For the week of  
**January 12, 2025**  
Canyon Lake  
United Methodist Church  
Rapid City, SD

## Remember Your Baptism

Traditionally on this, the second week of the new year, we read the Gospel scripture, hear the stories, and remember Jesus' baptism. It's really important to hear these stories each year. They help us to remember who we are and whose we are, who leads us and how do we follow. This week we dive into the different versions of Jesus' baptism and explore the early Christian experience of their own baptisms.

**Prayer: Gracious God in heaven, at the baptism of Jesus in the River Jordan you proclaimed him your beloved Son. You anointed him with your Holy Spirit. Today we ask that all of us who are baptized into his name may keep the covenant they have made. Help us to be bold in our faith as we claim him as our Lord and Savior, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, One God, in glory everlasting. Amen.**

**Monday 1.13 "Jesus' Baptism in Mark" Mark 1:4-13**

Each day, be sure to keep a marker in the reading because you will want to refer back and compare these stories to each other. As with so many other stories found in the gospels, they agree with some details and disagree with others. Today, we read the oldest version of Jesus' baptism story. What do you see that strikes you, that perhaps you have not realized before?

**Tuesday 1.14 "Jesus' Baptism in Matthew" Matthew 3:1 - 4:1**

Notice today how much more is spoken of John the Baptizer. The greater, deeper detail is very different from Mark's rendition. The passage does not give us much detail, but we know that Jesus and John were related. They would have known each other as boys, growing up together even though they lived far apart for most of the year. As adults, they worked together in their ministries. Thus, Jesus was comfortable coming to John, and John was comfortable baptizing him. How do you begin to see differences and similarities between these two men?

**Wednesday 1.15 "Jesus' Baptism in Luke" Luke 3:15-22**

If you want even more clarity, start reading in 3:1 to hear John's message. This story in Luke is different in that in verses 15-18 you hear more the thoughts and voices of the people. Now, look back at these past three days. Matthew, Mark, and Luke are known as the "synoptic gospels," which means that they are connected. Mark is the oldest. Matthew and Luke actually had a copy of Mark as they wrote. They used major sections of Mark to complete their versions of Jesus' life. Notice that they are intentionally different from each other even though they have so much in common.

**Thursday 1.16 "Jesus' Baptism in John" John 1:19-34**

The Gospel of John does not actually talk about Jesus' baptism. This passage talks around it and only refers to it in a sideways fashion. But baptism is still a very important topic of discussion. How do you think this passage in John fits in with the passages in the Synoptics?

**Friday 1.17 "A Man from Ethiopia Baptized" Acts 8:26-40**

Is it odd to you that the Gospels tell us about Jesus' baptism, but never that he baptized anyone else, even the disciples? But when we get into the book of Acts, this original book of early church history, we begin to hear about baptisms. This story is just rich with so much to share about the earliest Christians and their attitudes of grace to others who were often rejected (like this eunuch!). Are there any similarities you see with the other baptism stories?

**Saturday 1.18 "A Family of Gentiles Baptized" Acts 10:1-8, 44-48**

If you really want the power of the story, read the whole of chapter 10. This was an earth-moving event for the earliest Christians. Remember, they were ALL Jewish, and here was the Holy Spirit moving in Gentiles. This story tells us that Jesus is for EVERYONE. Are there places in our world today that you see people being excluded from following Jesus? How?



**Sermon Notes**

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