

evolve **Baptism**

We are so glad that you are considering baptism. Please take some time to review the following information about baptism. To sign up for baptism, please fill out and submit the baptism interest form. If you have any questions, please feel free to call the church office at 716/240-4697.

WHY BAPTISM

To Follow the Example of Christ

"At that time Jesus came from Nazareth and was baptized by John in the river." (Mark 1:9)

Because Christ Commanded it.

"Jesus said, "Go then, to all people everywhere and make them my disciple, baptize them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit and teach them to obey everything I gave commanded you." (Matthew 28:19-20)

It Demonstrates that I am Really a Believer.

"We know that we have come to know Him if we obey His commands." (1 John 2:3)

WHY IMMERSION

Jesus was baptized that way.

"As soon as Jesus was baptized, He went up out of the water." (Matthew 3:16)

Every Baptism in the Bible was by immersion

For example "...then both Phillip and the man went down into the water and Philip baptized him. When they came out of the water..." (Acts 8:38-39)

The Word "baptize" means "to dip under water."

It best symbolized burial and resurrection

(See Romans 6:1-11)

The founders of the major denominations agree

Martin Luther (founder of the Lutheran denomination)
"I would those that are to be baptized be entirely immersed, as the word imports and the mystery signifies.

John Calvin (founder of the Presbyterian denomination)
"The word "baptize" signifies to immerse. It is certain that immersion was the practice of the ancient church."

MEANING OF BAPTISM

Illustrates Christ's death, burial and resurrection

"Christ died for our sins...He was buried...and He rose again." (1 Corinthians 15:3-4)

For when you were baptized, you were buried with Christ, and in baptism you were also raised with Christ." (Colossians 2:12)

It Illustrates New Life as a Christian

"When someone has become a Christian he has become a brand new person inside. The old life has passed away and a new life has begun." (2 Corinthians 5:17)

"We were buried with Him through baptism into death in order that just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may have a new life." (Romans 6:4)

Baptism DOESN'T Make You a Christian

Only your faith in Christ does that. Baptism is like a wedding ring - It's an outward sign of an inward commitment you have made in your heart. (See Ephesians 2:8-9)

WHO SHOULD BE BAPTIZED

Every person who has believed in Christ. A believer is someone who has acknowledged that their sin separated them from God. They have given up all efforts to reach God through good works or religious activities. They have embraced the fact that Jesus Christ's death on the cross for their sins is the only thing that can bridge the gap between them and God. A believer is someone who has decided to trust Christ alone for their salvation. If you have come to that point in your spiritual journey, then you are ready to be baptized. (Acts 2:41; 8:12-13)

WHAT ABOUT CHILDREN

The New Testament shows no example of baptism when the candidate did not request it. All instances of baptism followed an individual's decision to trust Christ alone for their salvation (Acts 2:41; 8:12; 10:47-48). At CenterPointe, we wait until the child is old enough to believe and understand the true meaning of baptism before we baptize them. When a child makes a decision for Christ, we gladly baptize them in the Christian faith.

Some churches practice a "baptism of confirmation" for children. This custom began about three hundred years after the Bible was completed. This is a time when the parents pledge their commitment to raise their child according to Christian values and beliefs. While a very meaningful event, this is not a Christian baptism. CenterPointe offers a similar opportunity for parents through its infant dedication services. As the purpose of baptism is to publicly confess your personal commitment to Christ, it is strongly recommended that every Christian person be baptized as an adult Believer, even though many of us were "confirmed" as children.

WHEN SHOULD I BE BAPTIZED?

As soon as you have believed. "Those who believed were baptized that day!" (Acts 2:41)

"The Philip began with the scripture and told him the Good News about Jesus. As they traveled along the road, they came to some water, and the man said, 'Look, here is water! Why shouldn't I be baptized right now?' Philip said, 'If you believe with all your heart, you may.' The man answered, 'I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.' So they went down into the water and Philip baptized him." (Acts 8:35-38)

DOES THAT MEAN IMMEDIATELY?

No, what the Bible is trying to teach is that baptism should follow your decision to become a Believer. There is no reason to delay. If you wait until you are "good" enough, you will never feel ready for baptism.

WHAT ABOUT INFANTS

In the Bible we find parents bringing children to Jesus. He held them and prayed for them and told us to welcome them. But He did not baptize them, and He did not tell anyone else to baptize them. So it seems more biblical to wait until after a personal dedication to trust Christ has been made by the child. For if baptism symbolizes salvation (as the Bible teaches), only people who have intentionally received salvation should experience baptism.

If you have not experienced believers baptism, even though you have experienced baptism as an infant, the full meaning and significance of baptism has yet to take place in your life. We strongly encourage you to be baptized as an adult believer in Christ.

WHAT SHOULD I WEAR

Dress in clothes you don't mind getting wet! You should wear a dark shirt and feel free to wear either shorts or jeans. There will be a changing room available and you will want to bring a towel. Remember to bring a change of clothes to wear home.

WHAT HAPPENS AT THE SERVICE

Every service will have the same elements. Each individual will publicly share the story of their journey to exclusive faith in Jesus Christ. They will have a cloth handkerchief to cover the nose. They will then be baptized by an elder of the church.

HOW DO I REGISTER

To register for our next baptism service, simply complete the baptism registration form and return it to us. Please complete all of the information. Once we have received your form, we will contact you with our upcoming baptism service dates and details.