

# BAPTISM

Baptism expresses publicly what you have experienced personally as you committed your life to Jesus Christ.

## WHY DO I NEED TO BE BAPTIZED?

### 1. TO FOLLOW THE EXAMPLE SET BY JESUS

“At that time Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan.” Mark 1:9

### 2. BECAUSE CHRIST COMMANDED IT

“Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.” Matthew 28:19-20

### 3. IT IS MY PUBLIC PROFESSION OF FAITH

“... many of the people who heard Him believed and were baptized.” Acts 18:8

“We know that we have come to know Him, if we obey His commands.” I John 2:3

## WHAT IS THE MEANING OF BAPTISM?

### 1. IT ILLUSTRATES CHRIST’S BURIAL AND RESURRECTION.

“Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that He was buried, that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures.” I 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

### 2. IT ILLUSTRATES MY LIFE AS A CHRISTIAN.

“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!” II Corinthians 5:17

“By our baptism then, we were buried with Him and shared His death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead ... so also we may live a new life!” Romans 6:4

## WHY BE BAPTIZED BY IMMERSION?

### 1. BECAUSE JESUS WAS BAPTIZED THAT WAY.

“As soon as Jesus was baptized, He went up out of the water.” Matthew 3:16

### 2. EVERY BAPTISM IN THE NEW TESTAMENT WAS BY IMMERSION.

(Example) “... then both Philip and the man went down into the water and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water ...” Acts 8:38-39

### 3. THE WORD “BAPTIZE” MEANS “TO DIP UNDER WATER”.

- The Greek word, “baptize” means to immerse or dip under water.”
- It best symbolizes the burial and resurrection!

### 4. The founders of denominations agree:

Martin Luther ... “I would have those who are to be baptized to be entirely immersed, as the word imparts and the mystery signifies.”

John Calvin ... “The word, ‘baptize’ signifies to immerse. It is certain that immersion was the practice of the ancient church.”

John Wesley ... “Buried with Him, alludes to baptizing by immersion according to the custom of the first church.”

## WHO SHOULD BE BAPTIZED?

Every person who has accepted Christ should be baptized.

“Those who accepted His message were baptized ...” Acts 2:41

“Simon himself believed and was baptized ...” Acts 8:13

“But when they believed Philip as he preached the Good News ... and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women.” Acts 8:12

At Eagle’s Landing First Baptist Church, we wait until our children are old enough to believe and understand the true meaning of baptism before we baptize them. Some churches practice a “baptism of confirmation” for children. This ceremony is intended to be a covenant between the parents and God on the behalf of the child. The parents promise to raise their child in the faith until the child is old enough to make his own personal confession of Christ. This custom began about 300 years after the Bible was completed. This is different from the baptism talked about in the Bible, which was only for those old enough to believe. The purpose of believer’s baptism is to publicly confess your personal commitment to Christ.

At Eagle’s Landing First Baptist Church, it is a membership requirement that every member must be baptized the way Jesus demonstrated, even though many of us were “confirmed as children.”

## WHEN SHOULD I BE BAPTIZED?

As soon as you believe!

Those who accepted His message were baptized ... that day!” Acts 2:41

“Then Philip began with that very passage and told him the Good News about Jesus. As they traveled along the road, they came to some water, and the eunuch said, “Look, here is water!” Why shouldn’t I be baptized? And he gave orders to stop the chariot. Then both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water and Philip baptized him.” Acts 8:35-38

There is no reason to delay. As soon as you decide to receive Christ into your life, you can and should be baptized. If you wait until you are perfect, you will never feel good enough!

## CAN MY FAMILY BE BAPTIZED TOGETHER?

Yes! If each family member fully understands the meaning of baptism, and each one has personally placed their trust in Christ for salvation, we encourage families to be baptized at the same time. It is a wonderful expression of commitment. Young children who wish to be baptized are asked to meet with Carol Garrison, our director of preschool and children, for a pre-baptism conversation.

However, it is important to remember that baptism is a personal statement of faith, not a family tradition. It is usually not wise to delay your baptism while waiting on other family members to accept Christ, particularly children. This puts an undue pressure on them, and delays your obedience.

## WHAT SHOULD I WEAR WHEN I AM BAPTIZED?

Something similar to a t-shirt and shorts is suggested to wear under the white robe. We provide the robe for you to wear during your baptism.

**CAUTION:** Wet clothing becomes transparent so wearing undergarments and avoiding thin shirts is recommended.

## WHAT SHOULD I BRING?

Bring a change of clothes, a plastic bag for your wet items, and any toiletries you may need. Changing rooms, a hair dryer and a mirror are available for your convenience.

## WILL I HAVE TO SAY ANYTHING?

No. At the beginning of the service, Pastor Tim or one of our staff will briefly explain the meaning of baptism. You will wait at the edge of the pool for your turn to be baptized. Pastor Tim or another pastor will introduce you, briefly lower you just under the water, and then you can leave the pool and dry off. A certificate of baptism will be provided. We encourage you to invite all your relatives and friends to attend your baptism, and we even have invitations available on request. When possible, we also will provide a picture of your baptism as a reminder of your special day in the Lord.

## WHO WILL BAPTIZE ME?

- Pastor Tim is available to baptize the first Sunday of each month.
- The Student Ministry will baptize the last Sunday of each month.
- During the remaining Sundays, all pastors are available (except Pastor Tim). Only one pastor will baptize each service.

## WHERE DO I GO FOR BAPTISM AND WHEN SHOULD I BE THERE?

There are changing rooms behind the baptism pool. Access to these rooms is through a hallway on the outside corridor or you can go through the door just to the left of the baptism pool from the inside of the worship center. Arrive 15 minutes prior to the service in which the baptism will take place.

## SPECIAL NEEDS?

Any of our pastors can perform a private baptism in special circumstances or help if there is a special need or concern.

## READY TO SCHEDULE A BAPTISM?

Register Online - [www.eagleslanding.org](http://www.eagleslanding.org) - search "baptism registration"

- For children, 5th grade and below, contact Carol Garrison at 678.818.1009 or [carol@eagleslanding.org](mailto:carol@eagleslanding.org)
- Middle School and High School, contact Student Ministry at 678.818.1069 or [reagan@eagleslanding.org](mailto:reagan@eagleslanding.org)
- Adults should contact Bruce Mewbourne at 678.818.1001 or [bruce@eagleslanding.org](mailto:bruce@eagleslanding.org)

## CAN I INVITE MY FRIENDS AND FAMILY?

By all means! Please do!

## PICTURES

We make it our goal to provide you pictures of your baptism. Sometimes things happen that are just out of our control, but for the most part, we are able to give you digital photos of the experience. Click on the link below and follow these directions:

1. To download baptism photos, go to: <http://eagleslanding.smugmug.com>
2. Open up the gallery that corresponds with the date the baptism took place. Once you have found the correct gallery, simply search for the photo(s) and follow the directions to download the file(s).
3. If you have any difficulty, contact Bruce Mewbourne at 678.818.1001 or [bruce@eagleslanding.org](mailto:bruce@eagleslanding.org).