

LIFE RENEWED IN JESUS

Baptism

What mode of baptism do we practice?

We practice baptism by immersion because we believe that makes the clearest picture and that it seems to be what is modeled for us by Jesus and the apostles in the New Testament. Baptism by pouring is appropriate for those with mobility concerns.

What about baby baptisms or christenings?

We believe that the Bible teaches that only those who have personally exercised faith qualify for baptism. Baptism does not make you a believer; rather it shows that you already believe. So baptism is meaningless until a person has personally come to believe. In fact, it may be confusing or create a false sense of security.

Some churches choose to baptize or christen infants. We do not want to be judgmental of other churches practices and respect their right to respond in keeping with their beliefs. We do not see the Bible teaching or giving any examples of baptizing babies, or children before they have trusted Jesus personally. So, we do not practice infant baptism or the baptism of children before they are old enough to personally trust Jesus. We do see value in dedicating our children to the Lord and making the public commitment to raising them as dedicated to God. If you have questions of baby or child dedications pick up our brochure in the literature rack or at the information window or call the church office.

If you have any questions about how to begin a personal relationship with Jesus Christ, please contact mike@giefc.org.



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*Glorifying God. Loving People. Serving the World.
Getting Connected.*

Why should I be baptized?

Here are three reasons why every follower of Jesus should be baptized.

1) Jesus commands us to. In Matthew 28:19 Jesus told his first disciples: "Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them..." It is a part of Jesus original mission statement for those who choose to follow Him.

2) Baptism sets the right direction of our first steps in following Jesus. The instant we place our trust in Jesus Christ and receive His forgiveness by faith, we start a new life with a new Master and a new destiny. Baptism is one of our first steps of obedience in following Jesus.

3) Baptism gives us a good opportunity to testify of Jesus saving power. In baptism we are proclaiming that we believe that Jesus Christ died for our sins, was buried and rose again from the dead as the payment for our sin. God often uses this to bring our friends and family to faith.

Who should be baptized?

Everyone who is a follower of Jesus Christ. Every person who has trusted and accepted the death of Jesus Christ, in their place, also receives the life of Jesus by His indwelling Spirit (John 1:12; 14:15-21). At that moment we are "born-again" to a whole new life (John 3:1-21) and have experienced a transfer of life ownership and lordship (Galatians 2:20).

Every person who has started this new life with Jesus should be baptized very soon.

If you have trusted Jesus' work on the cross as the payment for your sin, and have exchanged your life-ownership and lordship for His - then you are ready to be baptized!

What does baptism symbolize?

Baptism is an outward sign, or a picture, of what has happened in the spiritual life of a believer in Jesus Christ. It is a way of showing others that you have been immersed into, or placed in, God's family. It pictures Christ's death, burial and resurrection.

Baptism is a picture of salvation, but it does not have the power to take away your sin or put you into God's family.

Baptism does not make you a Christian, just as putting on someone else's ring doesn't make you married to that person. Baptism does not mean you are perfect, but that you have transferred the title of your life to Him and are submitting to His leadership of your life.

Baptism is a way of showing others that you have entered into a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. It symbolizes what took place in your heart at the time of salvation.

- ✓ You became a sharer in His death and resurrection. This is illustrated by going under the water (dead to your old life), then rising again (new life) Romans 6 explains this spiritual baptism, which is what saves you – not water baptism.
- ✓ You trusted Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior and received His life.
- ✓ God's Spirit moved into your life and placed (immersed or baptized) you into the life of Jesus (1 Corinthians 12:13).

Jesus instructed us to be baptized, so baptism is an act of obedience – not just a convenient option. Even though it is not necessary for salvation, it does show our submission to God and our desire to be identified with Jesus.

Preparing for baptism:

Am I Ready to Get Baptized? People who have Jesus in their lives and want to live for Him should get baptized very soon. An important part of baptism is explaining what it means and why you have chosen to do it. We have these resources to help you prepare for baptism and sharing your testimony of faith in Jesus.

1) A Faith Steps coaching session on baptism. We offer a coaching session two weeks before a baptism service on Sunday mornings at 9:36. In this single session we will discuss the meaning of baptism and the process we use as a local church. You will get all the information you need to prepare. Contact the church office to indicate your interest in attending this session.

2) An information booklet on baptism. We will provide a booklet that includes some questions to help you think through your own testimony and a tour-guide of the steps we take during a baptism service.

3) Personal mentoring and support for baptism. We have a group of men and women who would love to talk with you personally and take this step of faith with you. Simply come to the class and, let Pastor Mike know you'd like to have a personal guide.

4) Opportunities for Baptism. Indoor baptism services are offered several times throughout the year. An outdoor baptism service at an area lake is offered in June or July. Mark your Communication Card to inform us of your interest.