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Baptism Info

Water Baptism

The Church at Lake Travis

We are excited that you are interested in baptism. We believe that baptism is an important step of obedience for every person who has made a decision to trust Jesus Christ as the forgiver of their sins and the leader of their life.

Once a person admits that he or she is a sinner and turns to Christ for salvation, the Bible says that a person should proclaim the life change that has occurred. The watching world needs to know. Baptism has always stood as a public testimony for people who have moved from being a “seeker” to being a “believer” in Christ.

Believers are those who have realized that their sin has separated them from God. They have given up all efforts to reach God through good works or religious activity. They have concluded 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 his or her salvation.

If you have come to this point in your spiritual journey, then you are ready to be baptized. Just as a bride and groom tell of their love for one another through the symbol of rings, you should also want to show the world, through baptism, of your union with Christ. Let the miracle that has happened in you show through the sacrament He ordained for you.

What Baptism Symbolizes

Baptism is a way of showing others that you have entered into a relationship with Jesus Christ.

- **It illustrates Christ’s burial and resurrection.** When you are lowered into the water, that’s a picture of Jesus’ death and Him being buried in a tomb. When you come up out of the water, that’s a picture of His mighty resurrection. Baptism doesn’t just tell your story – it tells the story of Jesus.
- **It illustrates new life as a Christian.** When you go under the water, it’s a picture of your old self being washed away. As a Christian, your old life is gone, and you’re a brand new person.
- **Baptism doesn’t make you a believer.** It shows that you already are a believer. Ephesians 2:8-9 teaches us that we are saved by grace through faith, not by any action on our part. Baptism isn’t required for salvation, it’s a symbol that it’s already happened.

Because Jesus instructed us to be baptized, baptism is an act of obedience. While it is not necessary for salvation, it demonstrates submission to God. We immerse at CLT because we believe Scripture shows that Jesus modeled that for us as the way to publicly acknowledge our faith in Him. . We do recognize, however, that some individuals may request baptism by sprinkling because of a compelling physical reason or disability. In these cases, we ask that a brief explanation be given on the registration form.

Infant Christening

Some denominations choose to christen infants. While we recognize the right of other churches to practice infant christening, we understand Scripture to teach that only professing believers qualify for baptism. Baptism does not make you a believer, rather it shows that you already believe.

In the Bible, we find parents bringing their children to Jesus. He held them and prayed for them and told us to welcome them. But He didn't baptize them, and He didn't tell anyone else to baptize them. Baptism is for those who have made a personal decision to trust Christ alone for their salvation.

If you were baptized as a child, it was the intent of your parents that you would one day be a follower of Christ. Your baptism as an adult can be viewed as the fulfillment of your parents' heart. It in no way repudiates the baptism you received as a child.

What's the Process?

If you are ready to get baptized, you will need to complete the following three steps:

STEP ONE: Baptism Registration Form

If you intend to be baptized at CLT, please complete the CLT Water Baptism Registration form.

STEP TWO: Share your Story

Upon completing your Registration form, one of our pastoral staff will contact you to schedule a time for you to share your story in a video interview. We know that some may not be comfortable with this, however, it is so encouraging to our church family and we hope you will share your story with us. It's not a religious hoop to jump through. It's a way for us to document God's activity at our church. If the New Testament hadn't documented things, we may not have the book of Acts!

STEP THREE: Participate In Opportunity For Water Baptism

After receiving your registration form we will contact you about the next available opportunity to follow the Lord in water baptism at CLT. Currently, we have Easter Sunday, April 8 available as an opportunity. So, if you're all set, mark your calendar and plan on it.

The Church at Lake Travis

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2012 Water Baptism CLT

Please register one person per form.

We look forward to this time of celebration as you publicly testify that you have trusted Jesus Christ to forgive your sins and lead your life.

Please complete and submit this form to register. We will contact you if there are any problems or questions regarding your registration form. After submitting your reservation you will receive a confirmation for the upcoming water baptism service.

Participant Information:

First Name: _____ Last Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Email: _____

Please fill out the following information:

1. Please tell us your birth date: (month /day /year) _____

(Because the symbolism of baptism requires maturity, we ask that parents speak with a pastor about their child's readiness to follow Christ in this important decision.)

2. Do you have any special needs or disabilities that might prevent you from participating in an immersion style of baptism? If yes, please explain: _____

3. With which CLT Ministry are you most connected (attending, serving, and participating in)?

4. How long have you been regularly attending CLT services?

5. What, besides the work of the Holy Spirit, has most motivated you to get baptized at this time? Circle One: (Family or friends, Pastoral Teaching, Small Group, Church Announcement, Bible Study)

6. Have you ever made a personal decision to receive Jesus Christ as the one and only forgiver of your sins and leader of your life?

7. Approximately how long ago did you receive Jesus Christ as the one and only forgiver and leader of your life (see John1:12)?

8. I agree to share my story via video and understand it may be used in future services to celebrate God's activity...this isn't mandatory, but we love to celebrate God's work in this way!

3 questions will be asked in the video: 1. What is your name? 2. Why did you want to be baptized? 3. Who would you like to thank for influencing you in trusting Christ and/or being baptized?

9. Give a description of your life (before and after) you decided to trust Christ to cover your sins and lead your life? (Please limit response to 2000 characters)

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