

BAPTISM

TRUTHS ABOUT BAPTISM:

1. God's acceptance of us does not depend on it. (Ephesians 2:8,9)
2. Christ set the example by being baptized by John. (Matthew 3:13-17)
3. In baptism we identify with what Christ did for us. (Romans 6:1-11)
4. Baptism is a way for us publicly to declare where we stand with God.
5. Baptism is something we do after we have committed our lives to Christ. (Acts 8:36-38)
6. Christ commands those who have accepted Him as Saviour to be baptized. Hence, it is a way for us to express our love to Him. (Matthew 28:19)

THINGS TO DO:

1. Prepare a short testimony of how you came to accept Christ as your Saviour and why you want to be baptized. A good outline to follow is:
 - Your life before Christ
 - How you came to know Him (be specific)
 - What Christ means to you now
2. Be at the church no later than 10:15 a.m.

THINGS TO BRING:

1. A towel
 2. Shorts and a t-shirt or blouse
 3. Testimony
- Put these items in your change room prior to the service.

If you are interested in being baptized on Sunday, May 2nd, please contact the church office or indicate on the Welcome Card in the pew in front of you.

What is Baptism?

1. It illustrates Christ's Burial and resurrection. Baptism is a visual picture of what Christ has done for us. Jesus died and was buried and rose again three days later. When we baptize someone it represents putting to death and burying our old life, and being raised with a fresh life in Christ.
2. It illustrates my new life as a Christian. It is picture of the fact that you died to an old way of living without Christ and have started a brand new way of living with Christ.
3. Baptism does NOT make you a Christian – it shows that you already believe. Baptism does not “Save” you, only your faith in Christ does that. Baptism is like a wedding ring – it's an outward symbol of the commitment you made in your heart. This is why we don't practice infant baptism – it needs to be the participant's decision.

Why Be Baptized?

1. To follow Christ's example (Mark 1:9, Matt. 3:13-15)
2. Because Christ commands it of those who believe. (Matt 28:19-20)
3. It is an act of obedience. (1 John 2:3)
4. The early church regularly and consistently practiced it. (Read through the book of Acts)
5. Baptism is a requirement for becoming a member of Southridge Community Church.

Who Should Be Baptized?

- Every person who believes in Christ and has chosen to live their life for Him.
- “*Those who believed what Peter said were baptized*” – Acts 2:41
- “*But when they believed Philip as he preached the Good News. . . they were baptized, both men and women*” – Acts 8:12
- In the Bible Baptism always followed believing.
- At Southridge we wait until our children are old enough to believe and understand the true meaning of Baptism before we baptize them at their request.

Although it is not required, if you wish to share your personal testimony with our Southridge Family, an opportunity will be available to do so at your Baptism Service.

There is a booklet in the foyer to work through as a family, if your children are asking about Baptism.