



Remember the first gift you gave to your child?

Their name. It is uniquely theirs. It identifies them with your family, forever. You didn't wait years to see how they were going to turn out or wait to see if they wanted to be a part of your family. You gave them a name and made them a part of your family on day one.

The same thing is true with our Heavenly Father. One of the most wonderful characteristics of God is that He takes the initiative with us. He wants us to be a part of His family (1 Timothy 2:4). He doesn't wait for us but rather calls us to be His own! Faith itself is a gift from God, not something you can earn or work toward (Ephesians 2:8-9).

Frequently Asked Questions

Do I have to have sponsors?

No. Sponsors once served as legal custodians if something were to happen to parents. Today they serve as people who promise to encourage your child to grow in their faith. It is completely optional.

Can you do immersion?

Yes. Because we do not have the facility for that it would have to be done off campus. We believe that it isn't the amount of water but rather God that makes it powerful.

Do I have to be a member of Salem?

No. While we would love to be able to encourage your whole family to enjoy a relationship with Jesus, membership is not necessary. If you are interested in learning more about joining Salem, please contact the church office.

My child was baptized at another church, does that count?

As long as they were baptized in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, that is a valid baptism and there is no reason to be re-baptized.

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BAPTISM

What is Baptism?

Baptism is a gift from God where He calls us to be His own. In essence, He adopts us into His family (1 Corinthians 12:13). It is God who gives us faith to believe. It is given when you hear God's Word, the Bible (Romans 10:17). It is also given at baptism (Acts 2:38).

Is Baptism really for children?

Jesus always invites the children to come to Him (Matthew 19:14). He also said that they could believe (Matthew 18:16). We are saved by the undeserved gifts of His grace through faith. While you don't have to be baptized to be saved, Jesus told us to baptize all nations, including infants and children (Matthew 28:19). Knowing that God is making a promise and bringing us into His family, a better question to ask is, why wait?

What happens at Baptism?

While what takes place at a baptism is profound (*the Creator of the Universe makes a promise to one that He has created*) the process is simple:

1. We ask the child (and/or parents if they are too young to be able to answer for themselves) simple questions that have been asked at baptisms for 2000 years. Do you believe in God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit? Do you renounce the devil and all his works and ways? Do you want to grow in your faith that God has given to you?
2. We baptize them by sprinkling water over their head in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Where do I go from here?

If you would like more information or if you would like to speak with someone about the great gift of baptism, please contact the church office. A staff member would welcome the privilege of talking with you.

We offer baptisms at our weekend services and at special school chapels. For those who are not members of Salem, we will have an informational Q&A session prior to your baptism. Please contact the church or school office to schedule a baptism.

Baptism is new life!

*Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come:
The old has gone, the new is here!*

—2 Corinthians 5:17