



PATHWAY NEWSLETTER

IN THE KNOW

APR-JUN 2025

baptism



MARK THE CALENDAR

Church Picnic & Baptism
Church Event

June 8, 2025

Volunteer Celebration
Church Event

June 22, 2025

Pathway at the Movies
Community Event

July 16, 2025



THE STARTING PLACE

WALTER DUECK

Christian baptism is the immersion of a believer in water in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Baptism does not accomplish anything by itself. It is an outward profession of what has already transpired in our life when we surrendered our life to Jesus Christ and became a follower of Him. In baptism we physically and visually portray what happened spiritually when we received Christ as our Saviour.

Baptism symbolizes a believer's identification with Jesus Christ and is a public declaration of faith. It represents the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

1. Baptism is commanded by Jesus

Baptism is a command of Jesus as recorded in Matthew 28:19-20 – Jesus planned it, it was His idea. He said we should do it as an ongoing practice in the church. Jesus told us to do this until he comes back. He says, "... baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. . . And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age." So, as long as this age exists, till Jesus comes back again, we are to be making disciples by teaching what Jesus taught, baptizing people in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

2. Baptism expresses union with Christ

In the act of Baptism, we express union with Christ in his death and resurrection.

Romans 6:3-4,

"Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death?" We were buried with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life."

This does not mean that water baptism, the actual going into water, is the means by which we are united to Christ. It's faith that is the means by which we are united to Christ and justified by him. But we show this new life by publicly declaring that faith with the act of baptism. Faith unites us to Christ; baptism publicly declares our union with Christ.

A possible analogy would be the exchanging of rings at a wedding ceremony. When the couple declares to each other, "With this ring I thee wed" doesn't mean that the putting on of the rings creates the marriage. The ring simply symbolizes the covenant that was made when the couple said their vows. But the covenant, the actual marriage moment and union, was the covenant vows that they made to each other.

When we trust in Christ, his death counts as our death; his resurrection counts as our resurrection. In baptism, we outwardly portray what happened spiritually when we received Christ. Our old self of unbelief and rebellion and idolatry died. And our new identity, a person of faith and submission to Christ, came into being — all that through faith. And that's what we confess through baptism, that's what we symbolize when we go down into the water, as though we were being buried with Christ, and then come up, raised to newness of life.

So, baptism is important. It is clearly commanded and ordained by the Lord Jesus Christ until He comes. It was universally practiced and administered by Christians in the early church and has been all through the centuries. It seems like Paul took it for granted that Christians who had chosen to become followers of Jesus would be baptized.



One more comment: baptism was closely connected to being involved in a local church. In the mind of the apostles, to be united to Christ by faith through baptism was to be united to the body of Christ. Local churches are the manifestations of the universal body of Christ. To be a Christian, therefore, is to become active in a local church.

Baptism was a sacred expression of faith, a faith that unites you to Christ and his people — a particular people, God's people, the church. The local church is a place where you can be nurtured and held accountable as the New Testament teaches.

If anyone would like to take this step of publicly declaring their faith in Jesus Christ and be baptized, please contact the church office at info@pathwaycc.net

- Pastor Walter

Kids & Baptism

"Dad, can I get baptized?" My seven-year-old daughter asked me this question rather unexpectedly one day as we were driving in the car. It was a question that I was happy to hear and glad to have asked but one that I had not thought about how to answer in the context of my own child asking it. It is a question that I have heard many times from others around me that I have answered many times. "Can I get baptized?" As adults, it seems easy that the answer is an immediate, "Yes!" and we go forward without much discussion. When our children ask us, many times we aren't sure of what the correct answer is. Whether we have grown up in a tradition that says children can't be baptized until they are a certain age or, we are uncomfortable with them getting baptized because of the heavy meaning of baptism, we tend to treat children a little different when it comes to baptism.

What is most important for anyone who wants to get baptized is for them to be able to understand why they are doing it. It is not something to do just because our friends do it, no, it is a public declaration that I understand that I was dead in my sin and lost without hope, but Jesus died on the cross to forgive me of my sins and restore relationship between me and the Father. Age has less to do with that as much as discipleship and clear communication between you and your children. As parents, it is important that we disciple our children into that relationship with Christ and, when the time comes, encourage them to get baptized and declare their faith in Him. At Pathway, we even encourage the parents to take part in the baptism of their children.

While there are many opinions on when someone ought to be baptized, (ranging from infant to adult) what we recognize is that there should be an understanding of the need for a Savior. Once that understanding has happened and a desire to follow Christ is there, baptism is encouraged. What I asked my daughter was if she understood what Jesus did on the cross, why she needed that forgiveness, and if she wanted to live a life in obedience to Him. Once she confirmed those things, we baptized her right away.

I encourage you to have these conversations with your children. Don't wait for them to bring it up. Actively show them and disciple them in what it means to be baptized into Christ's family. If you aren't sure about how to do that or where to start, reach out to us and we would be happy to give you a resource we have created that walks you and your child through what baptism is.

- Pastor Andrew

Join us in praying for those being baptized on June 8th

Adam Petersen
Ally Dyck
Esther Wiebe
Ethan Dyck
Jordyn Peters

Ketema Wall
Lauren Ens
Raina Peters
Riley Peters
Tim Hiebert

