



SALEM ALLIANCE CHURCH

We're excited that you are considering being baptized at Salem Alliance Church. This is an important step in your faith journey because baptism is a public declaration identifying you as a follower of Jesus Christ.

In biblical times, baptisms were held in public places where family and friends gathered to witness the event. Today, baptism services at Salem Alliance continue in that tradition so Christ-followers have an opportunity to openly express their commitment and allegiance to Jesus. Walking into the water symbolizes the end of your old way of life without Jesus Christ. Coming up out of the water is a picture of our spiritual rebirth in Christ and our victory over sin and death. The Apostle Paul compares this life change to putting on a new set of clothes in Galatians 3:27: "For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ."

It is important that you take time to read through the material in this packet. There are instructions on the next page outlining the steps to be baptized at Salem Alliance Church. Please complete the necessary pages and **bring them with you** to the Baptism Class in order to secure a spot in one of our baptism services.

We are truly excited for all who are ready to make their relationship with Jesus a matter of public record through baptism. This act of commitment and dedication honors God and fulfills the commandment of Scripture given by the Lord Jesus Himself: "Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit" (Matthew 28:19).

May God bless you as you prepare!

Cary Wood & Paige Heffer
Next Steps Team

Adult Baptism

This packet and Baptism Class will help you understand what the Bible says about baptism, give you the steps to being baptized at Salem Alliance Church, and prepare you for the day you enter the water to be baptized.

Before being baptized at Salem Alliance Church:

- Register online & attend the Baptism Class.
- Please complete “My Faith Story”
 - These questions are designed to help you write out your faith story.
 - Your short answers to these questions are used to craft a brief, unique story of your journey with God that features your reason for being baptized. Your answers will be edited to about 6 sentences which will be read as you come up to the platform for baptism.

Baptism Class

Baptism Class on Sunday afternoon includes:

- An introduction.
- A short teaching on baptism.
- Speaking with a Salem Alliance Pastor or Elder who will help determine if this is the right time for you to be baptized.
- Finalizing the details of your baptism, including: date/day/time/baptizer.
- Touring the locations and learning the process of baptism as it occurs during weekend services.
- An opportunity to ask any questions you may have about baptism.

Again, we are excited that you are exploring this next step in your walk with Christ.

Please contact Cary Wood or Paige Heffer (Next Steps team) if you have any questions. They can be reached via email at nextsteps@salemalliance.org or at 503.581.2129.

My Faith Story

Please complete this page and bring it with you to the Baptism Class.

Name: _____

Using this sheet, take some time to reflect on how you became a follower of Christ. In preparation to be baptized, it is important for you to articulate your story and faith in Jesus Christ. Thank you so much for your willingness to share and allow us to celebrate what Jesus has done in you.

We will edit your responses below to come up with a summary, which is read aloud during your baptism.

1. Describe briefly the spiritual realities in your life before you entered into a relationship with God.
2. What happened in your life that brought you into a relationship with God? When and why did you become a follower of Christ?
3. What is your understanding of what Jesus did on the cross?
4. What changes have been happening in your life since you became a Christ-follower?
5. What is something you are learning from Christ right now? What is He teaching you?
6. Why is it important to you to be baptized now?
7. If you could see Jesus, today, how would you react to or interact with Him?

Please give this page to the Next Steps Team at the end of Baptism Class.

BAPTISM: What, Why, Who, When, and How

1) What:

Baptism refers to a one-time event that is life-changing.

- **Matthew 3:11** “I baptize with water those who repent of their sins and turn to God. But someone is coming soon who is greater than I am—so much greater that I’m not worthy even to be his slave and carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire.”
- **Acts 2:38** “Peter replied, ‘Each of you must repent of your sins and turn to God, and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. Then you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.’”

Key Points

Baptism is something I should do (circle one) Often Occasionally Once

Baptism is something that’s (circle one) Life-Changing Merely Interesting Not Important

Baptism does *not* cause forgiveness of your sins. How are your sins forgiven?

Baptism does *not* give you salvation. What gives you salvation?

2) Why:

Obedience to Christ

- **Matthew 28:19-20** “Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.”

Identification with Christ

- **Colossians 2:12** “For you were buried with Christ when you were baptized. And with him you were raised to new life because you trusted the mighty power of God, who raised Christ from the dead.”
- **Romans 6:2-4** “² Of course not! Since we have died to sin, how can we continue to live in it? ³ Or have you forgotten that when we were joined with Christ Jesus in baptism, we joined him in his death? ⁴ For we died and were buried with Christ by baptism. And just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glorious power of the Father, now we also may live new lives.”

Union with Christ's Body (the Church)

- **1 Corinthians 12:13** "Some of us are Jews, some are Gentiles, some are slaves, and some are free. But we have all been baptized into one body by one Spirit, and we all share the same Spirit."

Key Points

Why is it important to be baptized?

What does baptism symbolize?

When we go down under the water, we are _____ with Christ. And when we come back up out of the water, we are _____.

3) Who:

- **Acts 2:41** "Those who believed what Peter said were baptized and added to the church that day—about 3,000 in all."
- **Acts 8:12** "But now the people believed Philip's message of Good News concerning the Kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ. As a result, many men and women were baptized."
- **Acts 18:8** "Crispus, the leader of the synagogue, and everyone in his household believed in the Lord. Many others in Corinth also heard Paul, became believers, and were baptized."

Key Point

In the three Scriptures above, people were baptized. What do all of these people have in common?

3) When:

- **Acts 8:34-38** ³⁴The eunuch asked Philip, 'Tell me, was the prophet talking about himself or someone else?' ³⁵So beginning with this same Scripture, Philip told him the Good News about Jesus.

³⁶As they rode along, they came to some water, and the eunuch said, 'Look! There's some water! Why can't I be baptized?' ³⁸He ordered the carriage to stop, and they went down into the water, and Philip baptized him."

- **Acts 10:44-48** ⁴⁴ Even as Peter was saying these things, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who were listening to the message. ⁴⁵ The Jewish believers who came with Peter were amazed that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out on the Gentiles, too. ⁴⁶ For they heard them speaking in other tongues and praising God.

Then Peter asked, ⁴⁷ ‘Can anyone object to their being baptized, now that they have received the Holy Spirit just as we did?. ⁴⁸ So he gave orders for them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Afterward Cornelius asked him to stay with them for several days.”

Key Point

As you read about the new believers in these Scriptures, what do you notice about them that indicates that they were ready for baptism?

5) How:

- **Matthew 3:16** “After his baptism, as Jesus came up out of the water, the heavens were opened and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and settling on him.”
- **Acts 3:38** “He ordered the carriage to stop, and they went down into the water, and Philip baptized him.”
- **Matthew 28:19** “Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, [a] baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.”

Key Points

Based on the example in the first two verses above, at Salem Alliance, we baptize by (circle one)
 Sprinkling Immersion

In what name(s) should we baptize, according to the Great Commision in Matthew 28:19?

KEY QUESTIONS FOR YOU TO ANSWER:

1. Do you believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God and died for your sins?
2. Have you confessed your sins and asked for forgiveness?
3. Do you desire to be baptized as a symbol of your new life in Christ?
4. Are you prepared to obey Christ for the rest of your life?