



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
Coordinator of Next Steps

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:

- 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 details of your baptism, including: date/day/time/baptizer
- Touring the locations and see 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 if you have any questions. She can be reached via email at nextsteps@salemalliance.org or at 503.581.2129.

Baptism Packet Instructions

Please complete these **At Home Assignments** before the Baptism Class:

- Read through the section in this packet on Baptism with your parent.
- Complete the “BELIEVE AND BE BAPTIZED” section.
- Tell your parent or special adult about when you received Christ as your Savior and have them help you complete the “This Is the Story of How I Came to Know Jesus as My Savior” sheet.
- Ask two people to tell you about when they received Jesus as their Savior. Where were they? How did it happen?
- Complete the “BAPTISM INTERVIEW” sheet with your parent.
- Ask two people to tell you the story about when they were baptized.

Please complete these pages and bring the entire Baptism Packet with you to the Baptism Class.

At the Baptism Class, come prepared to:

- Talk about what you’ve learned from your study of God’s word
- Talk with the middle school pastor, Katie Lander, who will help determine if this is the right time for you to be baptized
- Confirm which service you would prefer your baptism to occur.
- Share your faith story by reading it aloud to the small group at class. You won’t have to read it in front of the whole church though – it will be read aloud by someone else as you come up to be baptized.

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

If you have any questions, feel free to contact:

Katie Lander

klander@salemalliance.org

503.581.2129

Baptism

What is Baptism?

The word “baptize” is borrowed from the Greek language. It was a word used by people who dipped cloth completely under water to change its color.

God chose to use baptism as a picture, or reminder, of what happened when we received Christ as our Savior.

When Jesus was on earth people often came to Him and asked to be forgiven for their sins. Jesus would then have his disciples baptize them. They would go to a river, stream or a pool, gently be put under water, and then be brought right back up again. Doing this showed all the people who were looking on that the person had started a new life clean from sin. We do this today because the Bible tells us to show this same picture to our friends and others.

What does Baptism mean?

Look at a picture of yourself. It is not you, but it is a ‘reminder’ of what you look like. God chose baptism to give people a picture, or reminder, of our new life in Jesus Christ.

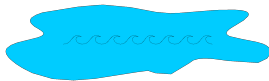
Here’s what the picture of baptism is...

1. Christ died for our sins
2. He was buried
3. He was raised on the third day

GOING DOWN



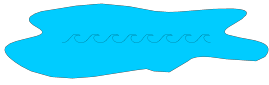
GOING DOWN reminds us Jesus died as the punishment for our sins. We are saying that our old sinful self died and was buried with Him.



COMING UP



COMING UP reminds us that Jesus was raised to new life. As we come out of the water we are saying to our friends and family who watch that we have new and eternal life because of Jesus.



Note: Baptism is your way of telling and showing people who watch that you believe Jesus died for your sins, and you want to live the rest of your life for Him.

Who should be baptized?

Jesus came and told his disciples, "I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth. Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age."
Matthew 18-20

Does this mean anyone who believes in Jesus as their Savior should be baptized?

Yes!! But what does that mean – “believe in Jesus as our Savior”??

Admit

You ADMIT you have sins... and talk to Him – tell Him you’re sorry...

“For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God’s glorious standard.” Romans 3:23

Believe

You BELIEVE Jesus is the Son of God, He paid the price for your sins, died on the cross and was raised again and lives!

“And anyone who believes in God’s Son has eternal life.” John 3:36

Confess

You CONFESS to others about your decision! Tell other people about it!!

If you openly declare that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰ For it is by believing in your heart that you are made right with God, and it is by openly declaring your faith that you are saved. Romans 10:9-10

Be ready to talk about these questions in class:

Will reading the Bible take away your sin? Being baptized? Going to church?

Will having a Christian mom or dad take away your sin?

What do you need to do in order to receive Jesus as Savior for your sins?

Describe what Baptism is.

Why should you be baptized then?

Baptism Bible Study

Fill out and bring with you to class.

Read the story of Philip and the Ethiopian man in Acts 8:26-39. Questions:

1. Who told Philip to go from Jerusalem to Gaza?
2. This was a man was of high importance and he was in charge of all the queen's money and treasures. What had he been doing in Jerusalem?
3. Who told Philip to get close to the man's chariot and listen?
4. What was the important question Philip asked the Ethiopian man?
5. Then what did the Ethiopian man ask Philip to do?
6. Who do you think the Old Testament Scripture was talking about?
7. What do you think the "Good News about Jesus" is in verse 35?
8. When they came to a pond of water, the Ethiopian man wanted to know why he couldn't just be baptized there. What did the man ask – and what was the response?
9. In order to be baptized, what did the man have to do?
10. In order to be baptized, what do you need to do?

Feel free to use the back of this page if you need more space for your answers.

Turn this page in at
Baptism Class!

Baptism Interview/Class

Please answer these questions and be ready to talk about them in class.

1. Describe what you know about God?
2. Who is Jesus? What do you know about Him?
3. What does it mean to be a Christian? How do you become one?
4. Why is it significant to become a Christian? What does it save you from? What are you promised?
5. Describe what baptism is.
6. Tell us about why you decided to be baptized now in your life.

Feel free to use the back of this page if you need more space for your answers.

Please turn this in to your Pastor at class with your completed Final Confirmation

Sheet attached.

My Faith Story

Please complete and bring with you to the Baptism Class.

Turn this page in at
Baptism Class!

Name: _____

In preparation to be baptized, it is important for you to be able to tell YOUR faith story. Think through your answers to the following questions and then share with us how God has been at work in your life. Thanks so much for your willingness to share and allowing us to celebrate with you what Jesus has done for you and in you.

1. Tell us the story of when you came to know Jesus. (Please include – when, how old were you, where were you, who you were with, what was going on in your life/that day that brought you to the point of making this decision)
2. Describe in your own words what Jesus did for you on the cross. Why is that important to you?
3. What changes have been happening in your life since you became a Christ-follower? How is life different for you since making this decision?
4. What characteristics of Jesus are you grateful for? Why?
5. Tell us about what Jesus is teaching you right now.

Feel free to use the back of this page if you need more space for your answers.

Pastor: *Please complete the bottom section of the Final Confirmation and turn in with the last two pages into Cary Wood. Thank you!*