



THE
CHURCH
AT POLARIS

BAPTISM

What is the biblical purpose of baptism?

Jesus' disciples baptized his followers (John 4:1,2), and Jesus called on all Christians to baptize those who respond to the gospel (Matthew 28:19). Throughout the book of Acts, the early Christians followed Jesus' instructions. The pattern is always the same: first, people put their faith in Jesus as their Savior—and then they were baptized to publicly state their faith (see Acts 2:41; 8:12,36-38; 9:18; 10:44-48; 16:14,15,30-34; 18:8; 19:4,5).

Christian baptism, then, is not what causes you to become a Christian—it is something you do because you have become a Christian. It is not something you do to earn God's acceptance—it is something you do because you have received the free gift of God's acceptance through faith in Christ.

What Baptism Symbolizes

Baptism is a way of showing others that you have entered into a relationship with Jesus Christ. It symbolizes what took place in your heart at the time of salvation:

- Accepted Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior.
- Shared in His death and resurrection, illustrated by going under the water (dead to your old life), then rising again (new life).
- Were symbolically washed clean and sins were forgiven by His death on the cross.

Because Jesus instructed us to be baptized, baptism is an act of obedience. While it is not necessary for salvation, it demonstrates submission to God. We immerse at The Church at Polaris because we believe Scripture shows that Jesus modeled that for us as the way to publicly acknowledge our faith in Him.

Infant Christening

Some denominations choose to christen infants. While we recognize the right of other churches to practice infant christening, we understand Scripture to teach that only professing believers qualify for baptism. Baptism does not make you a believer, rather it shows that you already believe.

Why should you be baptized?

If you have personally received Christ, you are accepted by God whether you get baptized or not (Romans 8:1; Colossians 2:13,14). However, there are some excellent reasons why you should be baptized.

First of all, Jesus asks us to get baptized (Matthew 28:19). Since he is the Lord, and since his will is always good, this should be reason enough for us.

Being baptized is an excellent opportunity for you to spiritually influence others in a positive way. Non-Christian friends and family members usually attend our baptisms, and they are often deeply struck by the testimonies of those who get baptized. Christian friends are also built up by this and motivated to continue in sharing the message of Christ.

What do I do if I want to be baptized?

Those who would like to be baptized should:

- Call the church at (614)436-1117 to tell the receptionist or leave a message that you would like to participate in the baptism service. You can also respond to info@churchatpolaris.com.
- On the following page, complete a brief bio of how you came to know Christ and who influenced you. Please bring this bio to the service.
- Bring appropriate clothes for the baptism and a towel. Long pants or shorts are fine. A dark shirt or t-shirt is recommended.
- Please come to the service 15 minutes early for priority seating.

My Story

Name _____
Date _____

One of the most helpful things a Christian can do is write out his or her personal story of faith. This exercise will help you think through in your own mind what God has done in your life and will prepare you to share your story simply and clearly with others. It is particularly helpful in presenting Jesus Christ to relatives and close friends, usually the most difficult people to whom to share your faith. Do not feel that you need to write a lot. Three or four sentences under each heading may be enough to summarize what God has done in your life.

BEFORE I CAME TO CHRIST:

HOW I CAME TO FAITH IN CHRIST:

SINCE I CAME TO CHRIST: