

BAPTISM FAQ

WHEN SHOULD I BE BAPTIZED?

As soon as you have believed.

“Those who believe...were baptized...that day!”
– Acts 2:41

“...Philip told him the Good News about Jesus. As they rode along, they came to some water, and the eunuch said, ‘Look! There’s some water! Why can’t I be baptized?’ He ordered the carriage to stop, and they went down into the water, and Philip baptized him.”
– Acts 8:35-38

There is no reason to delay. As soon as you have said ‘YES!’ to Jesus, you can and should be baptized.

CAN FAMILY AND FRIENDS BE BAPTIZED TOGETHER?

Yes! If each person understands fully the meaning of baptism, and each one has personally placed his/her trust in Christ for salvation, we encourage families to be baptized at the same time. It is a wonderful expression of commitment.

However, it is important to remember that baptism is a personal statement of faith, not a family or group tradition. It is usually not wise to delay your baptism while waiting on others to join you. This puts an undue pressure on them, and delays your obedience.

WHAT SHOULD I WEAR WHEN I AM BAPTIZED?

Women should wear shorts and a top or a modest swimsuit. Men may wear shorts or a modest swimsuit. Bring a change of clothes, a towel, and a plastic bag for your wet clothes. We will also give you a baptism t-shirt to wear during your baptism!

WHAT SHOULD I EXPECT?

At the beginning of the service, a pastor will briefly explain the meaning of baptism. Each person will have the opportunity to give a one line statement of their testimony; we will print more detailed information in a booklet for people to read your story.

You’ll wait in the area which has been specified until your turn to be baptized. The Pastor will introduce you, you’ll give your statement, and then be briefly lowered just under the water before resurfacing.

Later you will receive your baptism certificate. We encourage you to invite your friends and family to attend your baptism.

WHAT DO I DO IF I WANT TO BE BAPTIZED AT RIVERSIDE?

Visit [MYRC.CHURCH/BAPTISM](https://myrc.church/baptism) and follow the simple step-by-step instructions.



BIG LAKE CAMPUS
20314 Co Rd 14 NW, Big Lake, MN 55309

BUFFALO CAMPUS
1004 Commercial Dr, Buffalo, MN 55313

SAUK RAPIDS CAMPUS
1702 Highview Dr W, Sauk Rapids, MN 56379

MYRC.ONLINE.CHURCH
8:45am, 10:30am, & 12:05pm

MYRC.CHURCH 763.263.2410

BAPTISM

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

WHY BE BAPTIZED BY IMMERSION?

Because Jesus was baptized that way.

"After his baptism, as Jesus came up out of the water..." – Matthew 3:16

Every baptism in the Bible was by immersion.

(Example) *"...they went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water..."* – Acts 8:38-39

The word "baptize" means "to dip under water."

The Greek word "baptizō" means "to immerse or dip under water."

It is best symbolized by a burial and resurrection!

The founders of denominations agree:

"I would have those who are to be baptized to be entirely immersed, as the work imports and the mystery signifies." (Martin Luther)

"The word 'baptize' signifies to immerse. It is certain that immersion was the practice of the ancient church." (John Calvin)

"Buried with Him, alludes to baptizing by immersion according to the custom of the first church." (John Wesley)

*Making my
faith known.*



WHAT IS THE MEANING OF BAPTISM?

It illustrates Christ's burial & resurrection.

"...Christ died for our sins...He was buried, and he was raised from the dead..." – 1 Corinthians 15:3-4

"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."
– Colossians 2:12

It illustrates my new life as a Christian. Baptism doesn't make you a believer - it shows you already believe. Baptism does not "save" you, only your faith in Christ does that. Baptism is like a wedding ring - it's an outward symbol of the commitment you make in your heart.

"This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!" – 2 Corinthians 5:17

"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." – Romans 6:4

"God saved you by his grace when you believed... it is a gift from God. Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it." – Ephesians 2:8-9

WHO SHOULD BE BAPTIZED?

Every person who has believed in Christ.

"Those who believed what Peter said were baptized..." – Acts 2:41

"...the people believed Philip's message of Good News...and the name of Jesus Christ. As a result, many men and women were baptized. Then Simon himself believed and was baptized..." – Acts 8:12-13

At Riverside, we wait until our children are old enough to believe and understand the true meaning of baptism before we baptize them.

Some churches practice infant baptism; this is a meaningful tradition in many families. The Bible teaches that baptism is symbolic of faith and repentance, something young children or infants are not able to do yet. At Riverside we dedicate our children and later encourage believer's baptism.

Every fall Riverside begins a year-long discipleship class for 4th and 5th graders called "No Limits" (**MYRC.CHURCH/NOLIMITS**). Kids are invited to be baptized as part of the spring graduation celebration.

WHAT IF I WAS BAPTIZED AS AN INFANT?

You should also participate in believer's baptism.

The New Testament teaches that baptism was the first thing a new Christ follower did after accepting Jesus as their personal Savior. We believe those who have accepted Jesus should engage in believer's baptism as a next step in becoming a fully devoted follower of Christ.

As modeled in the Bible, baptism is an act of obedience Christ expects of every believer.

