

## **Baptism at Grandview**

We are glad that you are considering taking this step. Your baptism says to the world "*I am a Christ-follower!*"

### **The purpose and meaning of "Baptism"**

The word "*Baptism*" comes from the Greek word "*baptize*", which means "*to dip*" or "*to immerse*". It also means "*to be identified with*". When you are baptized, you are identifying, or inseparably associating yourself with Jesus Christ. By being immersed in the water, you are picturing what has happened to you. You were spiritually dead in sin. But when you are lifted up out of the water, it is symbolic of the new life that you now have in Christ Jesus. You are dead to your old life, habits and ways and are now walking in the way that pleases and obeys Jesus Christ (*Romans 6:4-7*).

### **Frequently Asked Questions about Baptism**

What is required of me in order to be baptized?

In order to be baptized, you must be a "born again" follower of Jesus Christ. Please read John 3:3. Just as you have a physical birth, you must also have a spiritual birth. You must realize that:

- You are a sinner and there is nothing you can do on your own to be in a right relationship with the Holy God (*Romans 3:10-12, 23*).
- The punishment for your sin is death (*Romans 6:23*).
- Instead of you having to pay, Jesus paid the price for your sin. He rose from the dead and His resurrection proves that God accepted that payment (*Hebrews 10:10-14*).

Included in this is "repentance", which means you have a "change of mind" regarding sin. You no longer live your own way, but turn to God as Lord and Master of your life. When you truly acknowledge and accept this message, then you are "born again". At that moment, the Holy Spirit comes to live within you forever (*Ephesians 1:13*).

Evidence of that new birth comes in a change in the way you live your life. In 2 Corinthians 5:17, Paul says "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old is gone, the new has come". You now want the things that God wants and you have a desire to do what He says. One of the things that He asks of you is that you be baptized to demonstrate to others that there has been a change in your life – you are now a "Christ-follower".

In Acts 2:38,41a, Peter declared "Repent and be baptized every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ (because of) the forgiveness of your sins. ....Those who accepted this message were baptized..."

Does Baptism help me get to heaven?

No. Only faith in the work of Jesus on the cross is required in order to go to heaven. Baptism is an act of obedience that stems from your thankfulness and love for Jesus. If you needed something other than faith to be saved, then that would mean that you could earn your salvation and that Jesus' death on the cross did not pay the full price for your sins. Ephesians 2:8-9 says "For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith – and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God – not by works, so that no one can boast.

Faith is the only requirement! Please read John 3:16; John 6:47; 1 Peter 1:8-9; 1 John 5:1; 1 John 5:10-12.

Why should I be baptized?

Baptism was commanded by Jesus himself (*Matthew 28:19*) and the new believers in the early church responded by obeying that command (*Acts 2:41a; 8:12*). In the New Testament, Baptism occurred when a person trusted Christ as Lord and Saviour and obeyed the command to be submerged in water and to rise from it as a picture of the salvation experience that has occurred. If you love Jesus, you will also obey Him (*John 14:15,21*). However, it is up to you to declare your desire to be baptized. No one else should make that decision for you.

When should I be baptized?

As soon as you have confidence in your personal relationship with Christ and when you understand the purpose, meaning and importance of baptism, you should be baptized.

If I was immersed as an infant, should I still be baptized?

Baptism as Jesus commanded is a personal decision. If you were baptized as an infant, you should consider being baptized as part of your own decision to be a Christ-follower.

If I was baptized by a different method, should I be re-baptized?

At Grandview, we encourage Christ-followers to be baptized by immersion. We believe that this method best signifies the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus. It also represents your own rebirth as a Christian: your death to sin, cleansing, and rebirth as a new creation. Please read Romans chapter 5, and 2 Corinthians 5:17.

Can families be baptized together?

Families can be baptized together. However, it is important to remember that Baptism is an individual decision, based on the commitment to a personal relationship with Christ.

## **The Process for being Baptized at Grandview**

### **Step 1 – Participate in the Baptism Class**

Baptism classes are offered several weeks before each baptism. You are required to participate in this informative and helpful two hour learning experience. You will learn what the bible teaches about baptism and you will learn the process of baptism at Grandview. During the class you will be helped through the process. For the next class being offered see the Belonging page.

### **Step 2 - Prepare your God Story**

Your "God Story" is the story of how God is working in your life. When writing out your story, it may help to think of these questions:

- "How did God bring me to Grandview?"
- "How did I come to know Jesus Christ as my personal Saviour?"
- "Who helped me to find Jesus Christ?"
- "Why did I decide to be baptized?"
- "How is God working in my life right now?"
- "What is my favourite passage of the Bible?"

At Grandview, we play a video recording of your testimony before your Baptism. This is to reduce the stress on you – so that you don't have to speak in front of an audience. You will be connected to one of our audio team staff who will help you to find a time when you can come to the church and tape your God story. Please keep your story brief (a maximum of three minutes). If you wish, you may keep this recording after the service. Remember that if you need help with your God story, one of the Ministry Staff will be glad to help you in advance of your taping.

Please start your God story by saying: "My name is...", and then tell everyone your story. Everyone at Grandview will be happy to hear your personal God story – each one is different. Your baptism is a time of celebration for us as a church family.

### **Step 3 - When the day arrives...**

On your Baptism Sunday, please arrive at the church at least 30 minutes prior to the service in which you are being baptized. Come to the Baptism room (backstage in the worship centre, where the Baptism tank is) to meet our Baptism Team coordinators. Our Baptism Team will be your "hosts" for the morning; they will be pleased to help you with the details of the morning.

You will have time to change your clothes in one of the washrooms. You should have a swim suit beneath your clothes, or with you, to wear under the baptismal gown provided. Also, please bring your bathrobe, towel or something to wear over your wet clothes after being baptized. A gym bag or plastic bag will be useful for your wet clothes after your baptism.

Baptism involves being lowered completely under the surface of the water and then being lifted to a standing position again. By allowing this, you picture the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ, and also your desire to be dead to sin and alive to God with your new life in Christ. This Baptism is completed in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit as Jesus prescribed.

Following your Baptism, someone from our Baptism Team will have your towel ready and you can then change into your dry clothes and return to the worship service.

### **We are here for you...**

This is an exciting step in your life and we would love to share it with you. If you have un-answered questions about Baptism, please don't hesitate to contact us at 519-894-5513 or email to [info@grandviewchurch.ca](mailto:info@grandviewchurch.ca)