



THE VOWS

Do you confess your faith in our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ?

Do you accept as your duty and privilege to live before these children a life that represents the message of the Bible, to show them godly care, that they may be raised in a home of faith, and give priority to attendance in worship?

Will you try your best to keep these children involved in the ministry of the church until they are old enough to make their own decision to follow Christ and be confirmed as a disciple of Christ's holy church?



PARENTS & FAMILY

Prayer of Blessing

We are excited to share this day with you! We know that baptism is a milestone to be remembered by parents and family members. At this event, each family will be given time to pray a prayer of blessing over their child.

We would encourage you to give some thought to what you might like to pray - blessings over their future, their walk with Jesus, their family relationships. We pray this is a special moment for you and your family.

If choosing immersion:

- Please arrive 20 minutes early so that you have time to change into the Baptism t-shirt.
- Shirts are available in a wide range of sizes and will be located at the check-in table.
- Immersion is done fully clothed, not in a bathing suit (please be sure clothes are modest when wet).
- Water is heated.
- Bring towels and a change of clothes.

cornerstonechurch

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BAPTISM

AT
cornerstonechurch

Please invite friends and family to join you as you celebrate this milestone.



As you prepare for this day as a family, here are a few things you need to know about Baptism at Cornerstone.

1. Baptism is what we call a “sacrament.”

The word sacrament comes from a Latin word for “vow or promise” and from a Greek word meaning “mystery.” Sacraments are rituals that connect us with the mystery of God’s love and grace. They call us to respond to God’s invitation by faith.

Cornerstone Church recognizes two practices as sacraments: Communion and Baptism. Jesus gave specific commands to do these two practices. Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, **baptizing** them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. *Matthew 28:19* Baptism welcomes a person into the family of faith. Communion is symbolic of Jesus nourishing us on the journey of faith.

2. Since the time of Jesus, the Christians have understood baptism two different ways: Believer Baptism and Covenant Baptism.

Believer Baptism can be experienced only by youth or adults who can affirm their relationship with Jesus can be baptized by full immersion. Baptism is a sign of an inward work of God in a person’s life.

Those who believed what Peter said were baptized and added to the church that day—about 3,000 in all. – Acts 2:41

Covenant Baptism can occur at any age. It is a sign that God has made a promise to the one being baptized. Before we even aware of God in our lives, God has initiated salvation.

When we were utterly helpless, Christ came at just the right time and died for us sinners. – Romans 5:6

Baptism became a practice of the early Jewish Christians as a sign of the “New Covenant” initiated by Jesus. Old Testament covenants were always accompanied by a sign as well. The emphasis is on what God does in the person whether they are aware of God at that point or not.

The amount of water is not the main point. We believe in sprinkling, pouring, or immersion. It is not the amount of water that matters but the act itself.

3. Something happens when we are baptized.

We enter into a Covenant with God (not unlike Old Testament Covenants). Baptism is the sign of the New Covenant with Jesus Christ. We celebrate God’s grace in our lives as God draws us to Himself even before we are aware of it.

We confess our sin and become a part of God’s family, the church. We enter into a growing relationship with God through prayer, Bible reading, study, service, and witness in the world, along with openness to the Holy Spirit. Baptism is a statement that we want to follow in Jesus’ way of life.

Baptism is not the end but the beginning of a journey of discipleship.

At Cornerstone a second step called “Confirmation” is built into the life of the church. When a student is in 8th-9th grade, they can be a part of this multi-month process. The student learns about God, Jesus, the Holy Spirit, the church, mission, spiritual practices, and is given time to think through their own faith journey. At the end of that time, the student has the opportunity to “be confirmed” as a disciple and invited into full membership of the church.



4. Parents have an important role in the baptism of children.

None of us can totally make a choice spiritually for another person. A parent is simply deciding to place their child into a positive nurturing environment so that it is a natural choice to say “yes” to Jesus when they can think for themselves. This is simply making the decision to help them grow up spiritually.

If the child is not of an age to decide for his/herself, the parent is actually making these promises for their child. The child is initiated into the family of God, surrounded by parents and church family who will all work together to nurture the child in the Christian faith until he/she can decide to follow Christ by their own decision.

Parents making baptismal vows can further help their child as they grow to appreciate the Bible (reading), prayer, and serving other people by equip themselves to have spiritual conversations with their children while they are growing up.

5. Baptism is not the same as “dedication.”

While some of the language may sound similar, the act of baptism is for all time. It never needs to be repeated. It celebrates the work of God, not the person’s faith. Dedication is only an act of parents dedicating the baby to God and pledging their own dedication. Baptism celebrates the covenant that God is making with the child being baptized. It is more about God than the parents. Dedication is more about the parents than God.

Re-baptism is not recommended or practiced at Cornerstone Church. We believe baptism is something God does. Even if we walk away from God, God never walks away from us. In our tradition, baptism is not repeatable. However, we do offer persons who so desire a chance to publicly renew their baptismal vows. We call this a “remembering your baptism” service.