

Baptism Reminders

Baptism Celebrations will be held several times during the year. You will hear announcements weeks in advance leading up to the baptisms.

Please arrive 30 minutes ahead of time for a brief orientation and to answers any questions you may have. Also, bring a bathing suit, towel, shorts and a shirt to wear over your suit.

Edmond Community Church rejoices with you in your decision to follow the Lord Jesus Christ!

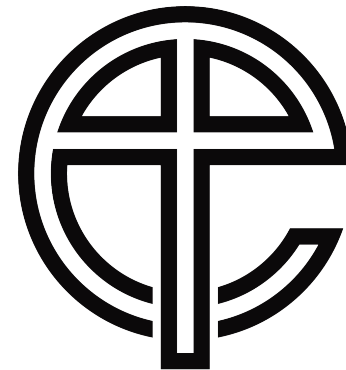
Since we have several locations where we host Baptisms, use this space to write down the address and directions to the location that will host your baptism. Leave blank if undecided or unknown.

Address:

Directions:

Baptism

Information



EDMOND
COMMUNITY CHURCH

**The next step after
choosing to follow Christ.**

Baptism: An Introductory Word

Many elements of ECC exist so that no matter where you are on your spiritual journey, from just starting to check things out to being a follower of Jesus Christ for years, you can participate in as much as you choose to.

Yet there are certain things that the Bible tells people who have made a commitment to following Christ that they are to do. One of these is baptism. As Christ-followers, we are called by Jesus Himself to be baptized, as a public proclamation of this change in our lives.

Still, baptism can be a bit of a touchy subject. Many were baptized as babies and later confirmed as children. Isn't that enough?

We explore tough questions like this in the following pages. If you still have questions after reading these, feel free to call the church or email us at info@edmondcommunity.church.

Baptism Questions

You will find answers to these questions on the following pages.

WHAT IS THE MEANING OF BAPTISM?

WHO SHOULD BE BAPTIZED?

WHY SHOULD I BE BAPTIZED?

WHEN SHOULD I BE BAPTIZED?

WHY IS IMMERSION BAPTISM IMPORTANT?

WHAT IF I WAS BAPTIZED AS AN INFANT?

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WHAT SHOULD I WEAR WHEN I'M BAPTIZED?

IS THERE A FOLLOW-UP TO BAPTISM?

HOW DO I REGISTER FOR BAPTISM?

WHAT IS THE MEANING OF BAPTISM?

It illustrates Christ's death, burial, and resurrection.

"...Christ died for our sins...He was buried...and He rose again."
(1 Corinthians 15:3-4)

"For when you were baptized, you were buried with Christ, and in baptism you were also raised with Christ." (Colossians 2:12)

It illustrates your new life as a Christian.

"When someone becomes a Christian they become a brand-new person inside. The old life has passed away and a new life has begun!" (2 Corinthians 5:17)

"By our baptism then, we were buried with Him and shared in His death, in order that just as Christ was raised from the dead...so that we may live a new life! (Romans 6:4)

Yet baptism doesn't make you a Christian.

Only your faith in Christ does that. Baptism is like a wedding ring; it's the outward sign of the commitment you have made in your heart. (See Ephesians 2:8-9)

WHO SHOULD BE BAPTIZED?

The Bible says that every person who believes in Christ should be baptized. A believer is someone who has realized that their sin has separated them from God. They have given up all personal effort to reach God through good works or religious activity. They have concluded that Jesus Christ's death on the cross for their sins is the only thing that can bridge the gap between themselves and God. A believer is someone who has decided to trust in Christ and Christ alone for salvation. If you have come to that point in your spiritual journey, then you should be baptized. (See Acts 2:41; 8:12-13).

WHY SHOULD I BE BAPTIZED?

First and foremost, it is to follow the example set by Jesus.

"At that time Jesus came from Nazareth and was baptized by John in the river." (Mark 1:9)

In addition, Christ commanded it.

"Jesus said, 'Go then, to all people everywhere and make them My disciples, baptize them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, and then teach them to obey everything that I have commanded you.'" (Matthew 28:19-20)

It demonstrates that you are a believer, a follower of Christ. "We know that we have come to know Him, if we obey His commands." (1 John 2:3)

WHEN SHOULD I BE BAPTIZED?

You should be baptized as soon as you can after becoming a believer.

"Those who believed were baptized that day." (Acts 2:41)
"Then Philip began with the Scripture and told him the good news about Jesus. As they traveled along the road, they came to some water, and the man said, 'Look, here is water. Why shouldn't I be baptized right now?' Philip said, 'If you believe with all your heart, you may.' The man answered, 'I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.' So, they went down into the water and Philip baptized him." (Acts 8:35-38)

Yet it doesn't have to occur the moment you believe.

The Bible teaches that there is no reason to delay your baptism. After becoming a believer, you should participate in the next available opportunity ECC provides for baptism. If you wait until you feel you are a "good enough" believer, you will never feel ready for baptism.

WHY IS IMMERSION BAPTISM IMPORTANT?

It is the method used in Jesus' baptism.

"As soon as Jesus was baptized, He went up out of the water."
(Matthew 3:16)

Every baptism mentioned in the Bible is by immersion.

"Then both Philip and the man 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".

Immersion best symbolizes Christ's burial and resurrection. (See Romans 6:1-11)

The founders of major denomination emphasized immersion.

Martin Luther, founder of the Lutheran denomination, said: "I would have those who are to be baptized to be entirely immersed, as the word imports and the mystery signifies."

John Calvin, the founder of the Presbyterian denomination, said: "The word 'baptize' signifies to immerse. It is certain that immersion was the practice of the ancient church."

John Wesley, the founder of the Methodist and Wesleyan denominations, said: "'Buried with Him' alludes to baptizing by immersion according to the custom of the first church."

WHAT IF I WAS BAPTIZED AS AN INFANT?

In the Bible, we see parents bringing their children to Jesus. He held them and prayed for them and told us to welcome them. But He did not baptize them, and He did not tell anyone else to baptize them.

So, if baptism signifies salvation (as the Bible teaches), only people who have intentionally received salvation should experience baptism. Thus, the Bible would indicate that baptism is for people who have decided to follow Christ.

If you have not experience believer's baptism, even though you have experienced baptism as an infant, the full meaning and significance of baptism has yet to take place in your life. We strongly encourage you to be baptized as an adult believer in Christ.

Some churches practice a "baptism of confirmation" for children. This is a time when parents pledge their commitment to raise their child according to Christian values and beliefs. While a very meaningful event, this is not Christian baptism; it is not mentioned in the Bible.

Adult baptism doesn't belittle your childhood baptism - it is a fulfillment of your parents' hopes when they had you baptized.

CAN OLDER CHILDREN BE BAPTIZED?

All instance of baptism in the New Testament occur following an individual's decision to trust Christ alone for salvation (see Acts 2:41; 8:12; 10:47-48). At ECC, that means we wait to baptize until a child is old enough to believe and understand the true meaning of baptism. When a child decides for Christ, we then joyously baptize them in the Christian faith after discussion with the parents.

WHAT SHOULD I WEAR WHEN I'M BAPTIZED?

Dress in clothes you don't mind getting wet. Women should wear thick shirts; men and women both should feel free to wear shorts. There are changing rooms at our baptism locations. You will want to bring a towel and a change of clothes to wear after your baptism.

We usually have some kind of celebration event after our baptisms to honor and rejoice with you in your decision to follow Christ in Believer's baptism.

IS THERE A FOLLOW-UP TO BAPTISM?

Baptism is a biblical mandate for followers. There are several opportunities ECC provides to help you grow in your relationship with God and maximize your spiritual commitment. For more information you can email ECC at info@edmondcommunity.church.

HOW DO I REGISTER FOR BAPTISM?

To register for our next baptism service, simply complete the registration form at the end of this booklet. Please complete all of the information requested.

Part of the registration process involves writing a few things about how and when you decided to trust Christ alone for your salvation (your personal testimony). This is a great reminder for you to celebrate the difference Christ has made in your life.

Baptism is a public profession of your faith in Christ. During our services we may share excerpts of your testimony. These testimonies play a significant and meaningful role in our services. Believers are encouraged and seekers are challenged by the spiritual journey of others. Many people made the commitment to trust in Christ as a result of an individual's baptism. Someone from the church will then contact you to fill you in on the details of the baptism celebration.

BAPTISM REGISTRATION

Please complete this form and drop it off at church or mail it to:

Edmond Community Church
1050 E. 2nd St. #281
Edmond, OK 73034

Please Print

name

address

city

state

zip

home phone

work or cell phone

email

I have been attending Edmond Community Church
attending since _____

I currently attend a Community Group
leader's name _____

I currently serve on a ministry team
name of service team _____

Please send me information on Community Groups