



**LIVING STONES CHURCH**  
Baptisms



## *Welcome to the Baptism Class!*

We are excited to know that you're interested in being baptized at Living Stones Church.

In this document you will find information about baptism, what's required in order to be baptized, and what baptism practically entails, along with some next steps that you can take in order to continue following Jesus.

You can find out more information about our church - including our beliefs, vision, and values - by going to our website at [www.LSchurches.com](http://www.LSchurches.com) or by pointing your smartphone camera at the QR code below.



*Point your smartphone camera  
here to visit our website*

## *What is Baptism?*

### **Sacrament (Romans 6:4-11)**

Baptism is one of two sacraments (communion being the other) practiced by the church as an act of obedience to the command of Jesus in Matthew 28:18-20. The sacraments are visible signs and seals that we are bound together as a community of faith by the death and resurrection of Jesus. By our use of them the Holy Spirit more fully declares and seals the promises of the gospel to us.

Baptism is an act of obedience to Jesus, declaration of faith, and identification with Jesus as one's Lord and Savior. Baptism is also a means by which God conveys grace to us, centering on what He does and has done.

## *You are here because you believe:*

***You believe in the virgin birth of the Son of God (Luke 1:27,31,35, Isaiah 7:14, Galatians 4:4).***

Sin is the great destroyer and is passed from parent to child so that all perish. But Jesus Christ, the eternal son of God, was conceived by the Holy Ghost in the virgin Mary; hence, He was not contaminated by sin (Hebrews 2:17, 4:15). He had a sinless birth, lived a sinless life and died a sinless substitute (2 Corinthians 5:21, Hebrews 4:15). One who denies the virgin birth of Christ cannot believe in the sinless Son of God is an indispensable foundation to Christianity.

***You believe that Jesus died in your place for your sins (Matthew 20:28, 1 Peter 3:18, John 6:51, Romans 5:6-8, 8:32, 1 Timothy 2:5, Hebrews 2:9).***

Jesus identified with us and we with Him in death. He became sin for us and in return we were made righteous (2 Corinthians 5:21, Romans 3:24-25). As a substitute, Jesus died for the sinner and suffered the just penalty for our sin. Without the blood of Christ a sinner could not be forgiven, redeemed, or declared righteous in God's sight.

***You believe in the physical resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead*** (Romans 4:25, Acts 2:23-24, Matthew 28:5-7, 2 Corinthians 15:4,14).

If Jesus had remained in the grave, then the benefits of His death as well as His promises were unfulfilled. But Jesus physically resurrected on the third day, as He predicted and demonstrated His victory over sin and death. The physical resurrection is an absolute necessity to complete the plan of salvation (1 Corinthians 15:17). Therefore, it is a foundational to the Christian faith.

***You believe that Jesus Christ will physically return to earth to fulfill all that He promised*** (Acts 1:11, John 14:1-3, 1 Thessalonians. 4:13-17).

The plan that God began must be completed. Christ is coming for His people. He will judge the sinner and reward the saint. His promises to His people will be fulfilled and those who are saved will live with Him forever in the new creation, free from all sin, evil, and suffering.

## *New Lord, New Life, New Family*

**All who trust in Jesus alone for salvation freely receive a *new Lord*, a *new life*, and a *new family*.**

### **New Lord**

Baptism tells the world that you now have a new Lord, Jesus Christ. A lord is a supreme master, someone who has ultimate authority in a person's life. Through baptism you are declaring that the things you once viewed as most valuable in your life are no longer of ultimate value. You are demonstrating that Jesus, because of who He is and what He has done, is most valuable in your life and you desire to live for Him by obeying and enjoying Him.

### **New Life**

When you have a new Lord, a new life follows. Baptism is a declaration that you not only have a new Lord but you will also live a new life. When you live life obeying and enjoying Jesus, many aspects of your life change, including how you *view* and *approach* your identity, relationships, and rhythms. Everything changes because you no longer live for your wants or desires but for the glory of Jesus.

### **New Family**

Baptism is also a proclamation that you have a new family. Christ's blood unites all Christians as family members. Although you once were an enemy of God, you are now an adopted child of God and have received a new family (Romans 8:14-16). The Apostle Paul states that Christians are "baptized" the Body of Christ, which is the family of God (1 Corinthians 12:13). This is why our church applauds, shouts for, and publicly affirms those being baptized; this is our church's way of celebrating and welcoming home those who are being baptized.

## *Who should be baptized?*

Since baptism is an act of obedience to Jesus, declaration of faith, and identification with Jesus as one's Lord and Savior, those who are baptized must trust in Jesus alone for salvation, affirming the belief statements articulated above. Those being baptized should be old enough to articulate the Christian faith that was "once for all delivered to the saints" (Jude 3).

## *Pastoral contact*

For those desiring to be baptized, a pastor will call you the week prior to your baptism to hear your story. He will specifically be listening for your desire to be baptized as well as evidence of repentance (admitting sin to Jesus) and faith (trusting in all that Jesus has done for you). This is also a great opportunity for the pastor to answer any questions you might have about baptism or our church.

## *Common Questions About Baptism*

### **What should I wear? Should I bring a change of clothes?**

We ask that you wear dark clothing for your baptism. Most people wear dark shorts and a dark t-shirt. It's best to wear your baptism clothes to service so that you're not having to leave to change into them.

You should bring a towel for drying off as well as a change of clothes for post-baptism. You'll be able to change in the church's restrooms after your baptism.

### **When in the service does baptism take place?**

Baptism takes place at the last quarter of our gathering, after the sermon and immediately after communion.

### **What questions will I be answering during my baptism?**

During the baptism ceremony you will answer "Yes" to the following questions:

- Do you believe in God the Father, Creator of heaven and earth, whom you have sinned against?
- Do you believe in Jesus Christ, His Son, our Lord, who through His life, death and resurrection has reconciled us to God?
- Do you believe in the Holy Spirit, who empowers and renews us, and do you commit to serving and belonging to God's church?

*After you answer these questions, your pastor will turn to your new church family and ask the following question:*

- Church, do you now receive [    ] into the church family?

*After answering these questions, your pastor will say out loud, "Based on your public proclamation of faith, I baptize you in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit."*

### **How will I be baptized?**

Your pastor will have you hold your nose with one of your hands as he supports you by placing his hand on your back with one hand while also holding your arm with his other hand. For support, you will then grab his forearm as he lowers you into the water, symbolizing the death of your old life with Jesus. Your pastor will then pull you out of the water, symbolizing your new life with the resurrected Jesus.

### **If I have already been baptized, can I be re-baptized?**

If you have been previously baptized in the Christian church the question is, "Were you truly trusting in Jesus alone for salvation when you were baptized?" There will be ups and downs in the life of a Christian. Believers must not be re-baptized if they have fallen away from Jesus and then return to the church. In this case, he or she should celebrate God's grace in this season through enjoying communion.

However, if you believe that your original baptism was prior to you truly trusting in Jesus as Lord and Savior, you should pursue obedience in this area of your life by being baptized now.

### **Can I invite my friends to the service?**

Absolutely! When you are baptized, you are invited to go and share your story with others and share how Jesus has changed your life. Your baptism is a great opportunity to do this.

### **I've been baptized. Now what?**

Now that you have been baptized into the family of God, God designed you to live in relationship with His people. There is a danger in coming to a church without being connected to that church. God has uniquely gifted each of us for the building up of others and the church as a whole (see 1 Corinthians 12-14). Therefore, we strongly encourage you to not just attend Living Stones but be an active member of the church by actively participating in a Community Group and joining a Serving Team.

Community Groups meet weekly to pray, share life, study the Bible and care for one another. We do these things to help people thrive in their relationship with God and others.

Serving Teams are groups of people that help with the facilitation of the ministries of Living Stones. There are varying serving opportunities available in the following categories:

- Behind the Scenes
- People Interactive
- Tech
- Music/Liturgy
- LS Kids
- LS Students



If you would like to get connected to a Community Group or Serving Team, please let us know! If you're not sure you are ready to connect to Living Stones in this way, we would encourage you to attend Starting Point to hear more about our church and meet some of our staff, pastors and Community Group leaders. Starting Point is held the first Sunday of every month after each gathering.

Finally, the pastors are here to serve you and would love to meet with you to get to know you and answer any questions you may have.

*We were buried therefore with Him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.*

Romans 6:4