



Dear Parents,

I'm writing to let you know that your child has expressed an interest in water baptism! Being baptized in water is such an awesome and integral step in your child's Christian life! Even years later, many adults still recall the details of their baptism. What is it that makes it so special? Is it because you are in front of a lot of people? Is it because you are obeying the command of Jesus? Is it because Jesus did it too? I believe it is all of these things, but I believe it is also because of the promise being made before God to serve Him all the days of your life. It is that promise, deep down in the heart, which plants the root of the gospel into a child's soul!

I just wanted to send you a short letter with a few details that I would like you to cover with your children before their baptism. When children are being baptized in water, it is very important to review a few scriptures ahead of time so they will really appreciate what they are doing and what it means in their Christian lives. I especially like to use 1 Peter 3:21, which reads: "This water symbolizes baptism that now saves you also—not the removal of dirt from the body but the pledge of a good conscience toward God." I like to explain that: baptism symbolizes the salvation you have already received; water baptism isn't the removal of dirt from the body, but it reminds us that God has removed our sins; and it is a pledge—a promise—to always live our lives for Jesus. This is what it means when Scripture reads, "The pledge of a good conscience before God." Please read and discuss the significance of this scripture with your children.

I would also appreciate it if you would review the following five concepts with your child before their baptism:

1. Baptism shows we are followers of Christ (Matthew 3:15; 28:19, 20).
2. Water baptism is a visual testimony of our spiritual birth (Romans 6:4; 2 Corinthians 5:17; John 3:4-6).
3. It shows that one has chosen to serve God, not self (Acts 2:38; Romans 6:3, 4, 11-14).
4. It is a symbol that a person's sins have been washed away (Psalm 51:7; Romans 6:3, 6).
5. Water baptism shows one is now dead to sin and alive to Christ (Romans 6:3-11).

On the night of your child's baptism, please arrive 30 minutes before the scheduled service time of 6PM and meet in the Ulestead Chapel (located behind the main sanctuary). Please bring a change of clothes and a towel along with you. You may leave these things in the Ulestead Chapel. There are two bathrooms, located to the left and right of the chapel, which you can use to change. For baptism, please dress your child in loose, comfortable clothing (T-shirt and shorts work fine). If you have any questions please feel free to call me at 515-564-9827. Thank you so much for allowing me to partner with you in your child's Christian Education! I love working with your kids!!!

Much Love,

Pastor Courtney Ostrander