

STURGEON BAY COMMUNITY CHURCH



Dear candidate for Baptism.

We are excited that you have decided to follow Jesus in Believer's Baptism. This will be a very special moment in your life, as you identify yourself with Christ in a public and profound way.

There are a few things we want to make sure you know about how we do baptism.

1. Sturgeon Bay Community Church does not have a baptistery in our facility, as many churches do. Instead, we celebrate baptism in the Bay during the Summer months. Traditionally held at Otumba Park on Labor Day Weekend, the final Sunday in August, our baptisms are a church-wide celebration preceded with music & singing and followed by a covered dish lunch.
2. You will want to come dressed in clothes you can get wet. Bathing suits can be a little awkward for the Pastor doing the baptism, so we encourage folks to wear something like shorts & a t-shirt. A change of clothes and a towel will give you the option to change into dry clothing in the bathroom afterwards.
3. You will be asked to respond to two simple questions when you meet the pastor in the water. The first will simply be to tell everyone your name. The second will be: "Why are you being baptized today?" Be sure to give this some thought before you get there ☺. We encourage you to have a simple statement of a sentence or two ready to share with everyone when the pastor asks you why you are being baptized today. Nothing fancy required; just your own words for your church family.

Below you will find our church's statement regarding the theological position we hold regarding baptism. Perhaps you have come to SBCC from another denomination of the Christian faith. It may be that our position is new to you. Please be comforted to know that we welcome any and all Christians into our fellowship with the understanding that we are tolerant of one another's different approaches to the Christian faith on many issues. With regards to the meaning of Baptism when we observe the ordinance through this church, however, we are stalwart in our adherence to the Protestant/Reformed tradition. That position is articulated below.

Baptism

Jesus and the Apostles preached that we should repent of our sin, believe in Jesus for salvation and be baptized to demonstrate it. Baptism simply stated, is an outward symbolic act that demonstrates the inward reality of what God has done in bringing us to faith in Jesus. Just as Jesus died, was buried and rose again, so we too, die to our flesh through faith in Jesus' sacrifice for us on the cross and are given new life in him. Baptism is a Christian's public declaration of their commitment to Jesus. Through baptism Christians celebrate Jesus' transforming work in their lives and show their personal union with Jesus in his death, burial and resurrection.

Sturgeon Bay Community Church practices Believer's Baptism. Believer's Baptism is the act of obedience on the part of a professing, born-again believer in Jesus Christ. The method of Baptism we prefer is immersion (going completely under water) in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. A continuation of the Baptism method of John the Baptist, immersion was the way Jesus Himself demonstrated that His ministry had begun.

Matthew 3:13-17; 28:19-20; Mark 1:9-11; Luke 3:21-22; John 3:23; Acts 2:41-42; 8:35-39; 16:30-33 19:5 Romans 6:3-5 Colossians 2:12.

Thank you for taking some time to read through this letter and prepare yourself for a special moment in your life. We celebrate with you as you participate in Believer's Baptism through Sturgeon Bay Community Church.

Sincerely,

Pastor Shannon Souther and the Elders of SBCC.