

# Welcome To Drive-in Church At Southland!

## Baptism July 17

**Intro:** Stefan Duerksen, Associate Pastor

### Celebration:

- 25 people getting baptized next week – exciting!
- Four Winds Groups have started again and have been meeting here at the church Thursday evenings. Let's be praying that people find a new sense of hope, belonging and healing within their lives and relationship with Jesus!
  - If you want more info about joining, please email Teena at [fourwinds@mysouthland.com](mailto:fourwinds@mysouthland.com)
- Kids Camp coming up! 268 kids signed up and 84 leaders! Praise the Lord!
  - We need a few more male leaders. If you want to get involved please contact Brock or Monique at [brockp@mysouthland.com](mailto:brockp@mysouthland.com) or [moniqued@mysouthland.com](mailto:moniqued@mysouthland.com)
- Guess how many people are now signed up for membership? 70! That's another 40 people since the last time I announced a few weeks ago.
  - Sept 26 we are celebrating and accepting NEW members!
- Family Ministry!! A few exciting things starting up in Fall!
  - Prayer Groups for Moms and Grandmas!
  - Once a month family nights .
  - Intentional Discipleship for parents – we want to help parents disciple their kids and feel confident as they pass on their faith to the next generation.

### Church-Wide Prayer Request:

- Growing in passion for Jesus: the Word, worship & prayer (Romans 12)
- *"Heavenly Father, we ask that you would create a passion in our hearts your Son, Jesus, for the Word, worship and prayer. That this would spill into our lives and result in lives that were lived in simply obedience and worship to you. We invite your Holy Spirit into our church, families and personal lives and ask that you would create a harvest of righteousness in us and use us to advance your purposes on the earth. In Jesus Name, Amen."*

### Baptism:

The topic of baptism is of utmost importance to Christians. It is a practice and command found throughout the entirety of the New Testament.

#### A. What is Baptism?

The Greek word translated "baptize" is the verb baptizo. According to most contemporary lexicons, the meaning is "to dip, plunge, immerse." In our case, we immerse them in water.

**What is baptism?** It is a Christian rite ordained by Jesus where we immerse a confessing believer in water in the Name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit and raise them from the water to walk in a new life. It is the outward act that signifies the inward decision of the believer.

The idea of physical signs and ceremonies that were expected amongst God's people was not new to the Jewish people. In the OT the Lord ordained that the Jewish people and any who desired entrance in the covenant relationship with him be circumcised.

Circumcision was an outward sign of a heart decision that the people had made to follow God in faith and to walk with him in obedience.

### **Romans 2:25, 29 (ESV)**

<sup>25</sup> For circumcision indeed is of value if you obey the law, but if you break the law, your circumcision becomes uncircumcision... But a Jew is one inwardly, and circumcision is a matter of the heart, by the Spirit, not by the letter. His praise is not from man but from God.

Circumcision was an important sign of the entry into a covenant relationship with God. It didn't save the person, that was a matter of the heart. But it symbolized the decision that a person had made.

Under the New Covenant, we are told that circumcision was no longer required.

### **1 Corinthians 7:18-19 (ESV)**

<sup>18</sup> Was anyone at the time of his call already circumcised? Let him not seek to remove the marks of circumcision. Was anyone at the time of his call uncircumcised? Let him not seek circumcision.

<sup>19</sup> For neither circumcision counts for anything nor uncircumcision, but keeping the commandments of God.

**With the NEW COVENANT** a NEW ceremony was ordained, BAPTISM. Which had believers, upon confession of their faith, be immersed under water for a moment in the name of the Father, Son and Spirit and raised to walk in a new life.

### **B. Baptism is necessary...**

The Biblical order of "believe and be baptized" is clear throughout Scripture.

### **Great Commission – Matthew 28:18-20 (ESV)**

<sup>18</sup> And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.

<sup>19</sup> Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup> teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

**As you can see here, baptism was commanded by Jesus himself. This is the PRIMARY reason we do it.**

### **1. Is baptism necessary for salvation? NO.**

#### **Romans 3:28 (ESV)**

<sup>28</sup> For we hold that one is justified by faith apart from works of the law.

#### **Ephesians 2:8-9 (ESV)**

<sup>8</sup> For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God,

<sup>9</sup> not a result of works, so that no one may boast.

## 2. Is baptism necessary for the disciple/follower of Jesus? YES.

In the Great Commission Jesus commands, or ordains us, (thus “ordinances”) to GO make disciples of the nations and then defines that by saying: 1) baptize them & 2) teach them to obey Jesus.

Baptism is one of two ordinances, ceremonial rites instituted by Jesus himself, that we follow as believers. The other being Communion.

**Ordinance simply means: to establish or order by appointment, decree, or law.**

Jesus commands those who become disciple to be baptized.

### **Ephesians 4:4-6 (ESV)**

<sup>4</sup> There is one body and one Spirit—**just as you were called** to the one hope that belongs to your call—

<sup>5</sup> one Lord, one faith, one baptism, <sup>6</sup> one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

### **Acts 2:38-39 (ESV)**

<sup>38</sup> And Peter said to them, “Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

<sup>39</sup> For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself.”

### **Examples of BELIEVE & BE BAPTIZED:**

- 3000 baptized on Pentecost – Acts 2:41
- Samaritan believers baptized – Acts 8:5, 12-13
- Ethiopian eunuch baptized – Acts 8:38
- Cornelius baptized – Acts 10:48
- Lydia and household baptized – Acts 16:15
- Phillipian jailer and family baptized – Acts 16:33
- Coverts at Corinth baptized – Acts 18:8
- Cispus, Gaius and household of Stephanas baptized – 1 Cor 1:14-17

Jesus himself went into the waters of baptism... and went out of his way to do it! He traveled 90KM's by foot to be baptized by John!

### **Matthew 3:11-17 (ESV)**

... And when Jesus was baptized, immediately he went up from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened to him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming to rest on him; and behold, a voice from heaven said, “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.”

### **C. The purpose of baptism...**

Many think of baptism as simply a symbol. Which is true, but incomplete. It is a symbol, YES. But it is more than that.

**The main purpose achieved when we follow Christ's command to be baptized is IDENTIFICATION.**

## **1 Corinthians 10:1-2 (ESV)**

<sup>1</sup> For I do not want you to be unaware, brothers, that our fathers were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, <sup>2</sup> and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea,

**They were identified with Moses.**

**John baptized for repentance...** those baptized by John were identifying with **repentance towards God as they waited for the upcoming Messiah!**

- **Acts 19:1-6 (ESV)**

<sup>3</sup> And he said, "Into what then were you baptized?" They said, "Into John's baptism." <sup>4</sup> And Paul said, "John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in the one who was to come after him, that is, Jesus." <sup>5</sup> On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.

**Those baptized in Christ Jesus identify with...**

### **1. We identify with Jesus' death & resurrection**

#### **Romans 6:3-6 (ESV)**

<sup>3</sup> Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death?

<sup>4</sup> 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. <sup>5</sup> For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. <sup>6</sup> We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin.

As a person is lowered into the water, this symbolizes their old way of life is being put to death and buried, no longer slaves to sin, but more than that... we are laying down our dreams, rights, sin, hopes, our EVERYTHING. We are dying to self. When that person comes back up out of the water, this symbolizes the NEW LIFE they are walking in as NEW CREATIONS with a NEW MASTER...

### **2. We identify with Christ as our Functional Lord & only Savior.**

That we belong to him. (Rom. 6:1-6). We identify with the Body of Christ, His Church and as a part of Christ's Body.

CHRISTIAN BAPTISM is an identification. **We are identifying publicly with Jesus Christ.** We are declaring our personal faith in Him. We are acknowledging that we are depending upon Jesus Christ and His death alone for our salvation. We are saying, **"I am a believer. I belong to Jesus Christ. I am on His side."**

#### **Matthew 10:32-33 (ESV)**

<sup>32</sup> So everyone who acknowledges me before men, I also will acknowledge before my Father who is in heaven,

<sup>33</sup> but whoever denies me before men, I also will deny before my Father who is in heaven.

**2 Corinthians 5:21** For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

When Jesus was baptized by John. He identified with the sin of those he came to save, he identified himself with sinners.

In response... how could we NOT want to follow Jesus in obedience into the waters of baptism and so find our NEW identity in Christ as we identify with his death, resurrection, the forgiveness of our sins, and publicly declare him as Lord in our lives!

When we identify with Jesus, we receive a NEW identity. We now find our identity in Christ alone.

#### **D. Qualifications for baptism**

##### **Acts 2:38 (ESV)**

<sup>38</sup> And Peter said to them, "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

The only requirements for baptism is REPENT & BELIEVE. Once we repented from our old ways of living and accepted Jesus as our Lord and Savior, we are qualified to be baptized.

There is a case to be made for waiting... and this is on the basis of UNDERSTANDING your salvation and what it means. It is important that the person being baptized understands the commitment they are making.

**For example:** marriage... when people get married they make all sorts of outlandish promises that they have no idea about! Ha! But we let them get married, as long as they understand the covenant they are making... if a man said I am marrying Suzy, but plan on having other girlfriends on the side, we would NEVER marry them! NO! we would make sure that he understood the marriage cov FIRST...

At Southland, we baptize people as young as 12. But for those under 16 we do encourage parents to be involved to ensure the one desiring baptism understands what they are doing.

**The cost of following Jesus:** though salvation cannot be earned. It can only be received. There is a cost to following Jesus. By receiving him as Savior, you also receive him as your functional Lord. This means, that you lay down your life. Not just figuratively, but literally. Your relationships, hobbies, dreams, work, time, money. Your ALL. And by so doing, you find your TRUE LIFE in Christ alone.

##### **Mark 10:17-31 (ESV)**

<sup>21</sup> And Jesus, looking at him, loved him, and said to him, "You lack one thing: go, sell all that you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me." ...<sup>26</sup> And they were exceedingly astonished, and said to him, "Then who can be saved?" Jesus looked at them and said, "With man it is impossible, but not with God. For all things are possible with God."

This is the cost of following Jesus. We are called to give Jesus everything, to lay down our lives, pick up our crosses, an instrument of death, and follow Him whole heartily. and those who follow in this way discover Eternal Life – which is KNOWING GOD in this life and the next!

**PRACTICAL EXERCISE:**

- For those who have been baptized. Are you living out the declaration you made? Is your relationship with Jesus marked by LOVE & OBEDIENCE?

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- For those who have never been baptized. I encourage you to count the cost. Take a moment and reflect on your time, relationships, work, money, life... are you willing to forsake all your rights and follow Jesus in His death and by doing so, following him into newness of life declaring him as functional Lord and Savior in your life?

- If you have never received Jesus as your Lord and Savior. You can pray this prayer, *“Jesus, today I recognize that I am a sinner in need of saving. I believe that you are the Son of God, that you came, died for my sins and were raised back to life, paying my debt for me. I ask you to be my Lord and Savior. Thank you for saving me. In Jesus Name, Amen.”* If you prayed this prayer for the first time, please contact us at the church and we will help you with next steps. 😊  
[info@mysouthland.com](mailto:info@mysouthland.com)
- If you have received Jesus as your Lord and Savior and want to be baptized, please go to the website and sign-up for baptism next week! We will make it happen. You can follow the steps of Jesus and MANY believers before you into the waters of baptism.  
<https://mysouthland.com/baptism>

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- If no, would you consider setting aside some time this next week to pray, possibly fast, and really examine your heart and life and seek the Lord for direction in next steps for your life.

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## **MAP CHALLENGE:**

### **Week 6: Passage of the Week: Matthew 28:18-20, Mark 10:17-31, Acts 2:36-41**

M – memorize Matthew 5:8. Read it, write it, pray it, say it.

A – 1) do you feel you are living out your commitment to Christ currently? Why or why not? REMEMBER you are saved by GRACE through FAITH. NO one reaches perfection, but we need to be headed in the correct direction.  
2) who is someone that needs encouragement in your life? Pray and ask God for a word of encouragement and then share it with the person.

P – pray for yourself to have a rekindled love for Jesus and for the Spirits power to enable you to live for him whole heartily. Then pray for the person you are going to encourage this week. Pray that they would experience the unmerited grace and love of God. Pray also for our church to grow in love for Jesus and discipling others.

## **CLOSING SONG & PRAYER**

[Prayer@mysouthland.com](mailto:Prayer@mysouthland.com)

[Care@mysouthland.com](mailto:Care@mysouthland.com)

## Song Lyrics

### What A Good God

Each time I doubt Your goodness  
You show me You are with us  
Your presence makes the difference  
I've seen it every time

*Chorus:*

*What a good God  
Bringing me back to life  
Opening up my eyes  
God of every blessing  
Standing by my side  
Calling me by name  
I won't be afraid  
Faithful to Your promise  
You will make a way*

No wall can stop Your kindness  
No place Your love won't find us  
Mercy is right behind us  
I've seen it every time

*Bridge:*

I've seen it, I've seen it  
I've seen it every time  
I've seen it, I've seen it  
I've seen it every time  
You're faithful, You're faithful  
You're faithful every time  
You're faithful, You're faithful  
You're faithful every time  
I've seen it, I've seen it  
I've seen it every time  
You're faithful, You're faithful

# You Keep Hope Alive

Days may be darkest, but your light is greater  
You light our way, God, you light our way  
When evil is rising, you're rising higher  
With power to save, with power to save

Chorus:

*You keep hope alive, you keep hope alive  
From the beginning to end, your word never fails  
You keep hope alive, because you are alive  
Jesus, you are alive*

*Death had a stronghold, but your life was stronger  
Rose from the grave, rose up from the grave  
When evil is rising, you're rising higher  
With power to save, with power to save*

Bridge:

There's hope in the morning  
Hope in the evening  
Hope because you're living  
Hope because you're breathing  
There's hope in the breaking  
Hope in the sorrow  
Hope for this moment  
My hope for tomorrow

## Our Living Hope

How great the chasm that lay between  
us

How high the mountain I could not climb  
In desperation, I turned to heaven  
And spoke your name into the night

Then through the darkness  
Your loving kindness  
Tore through the shadows of my soul  
The work is finished, the end is written  
Jesus Christ, my living hope

Who could imagine so great a mercy?  
What heart could fathom such  
boundless grace?  
The God of ages stepped down from  
glory  
To wear my sin and bear my shame

The cross has spoken, I am forgiven  
The king of kings calls me His own  
Beautiful savior, I'm yours forever

Jesus Christ, my living hope

Chorus:

*Hallelujah, praise the one who set me  
free*

*Hallelujah, death has lost its grip on me*

*You have broken every chain*

*There's salvation in your name*

*Jesus Christ, my living hope*

Then came the morning that sealed the  
promise

Your buried body began to breathe

Out of the silence, the roaring lion

Declared the grave has no claim on me

Then came the morning that sealed the  
promise

Your buried body began to breathe

Out of the silence, the roaring lion

Declared the grave has no claim on me

Jesus, yours is the victory