



Baptism

We believe the over-arching purpose of the church is to see ourselves being conformed to the image of Jesus for the sake of others. As such, we understand Scripture to call us to two ordinances (or commands of Christ) that help open us up to the transforming power of Christ in our lives: Baptism and the Lord's Supper.

Baptism is sometimes called the "initiatory ordinance" of the church because it signifies the beginning of a person becoming a Christian, while the Lord's Supper is referred to as the "continuing ordinance" signifying the ongoing, growing relationship we have with Christ.

While we affirm the strength and beauty of Christian baptism traditions other than our own, our understanding of Scripture is that the baptism of believers by immersion best conforms to the pattern of the New Testament's teaching.

Baptism is an opportunity to publicly identify ourselves as followers of Christ and his church, and to consecrate ourselves to his service. As such, it involves a personal confession of faith followed by immersion through which we identify with Christ's suffering and death for our sin. Our emergence from the water symbolizes for us our hope in our Lord's resurrection to new life.

Baptism is an act of worship that takes place within the community of the church, for those with whom we share the life of faith are greatly encouraged in their own spiritual journey by witnessing the baptism of another.

Baptism of believers by immersion is the only form of baptism practiced by our church. Baptism by immersion is encouraged of all who desire to affiliate with the church, but it is not a requirement for membership. Those interested in baptism are encouraged to contact the pastor for a time of further instruction.

Our position on Baptism was adopted in the Emmaus Constitution in 1985 and reaffirmed when the Emmaus Constitution was revised in 2008