

TUPTON EVANGELICAL – BAPTISM POLICY

Welcome and congratulations! Please read this information carefully so that you are certain you are comfortable with our policies and beliefs.

In order to reserve a baptism date, you will need to:

- Contact the church office and fill out the application forms
- Your requested baptism date will not be confirmed until after you have an initial meeting with and approval by one of our leaders.
- The office will verify that your date is open and reserve it if your application has been approved.

Baptism requests from non-members will be considered at the discretion of the leaders of the church, on a case-by-case basis.

The Reasons Behind Our Baptism Policy:

Baptism is designed by Christ to reassure us that acceptance with God belongs to those who trust in Christ's death. Baptism does not convey regenerating grace, but is a sign of union and fellowship with Christ in His death and resurrection. We do not believe in infant baptism, as the Bible tells us in Acts 2:38, to "*repent and be baptised*". We believe it's a conscious choice, made after one has come to believe in the life, death and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ.

We believe in baptism through full immersion. The Greek word βαπτίζω (baptizo) literally means to plunge, submerge or immerse. We believe the representation of union in Christ's death and resurrection is best expressed through immersion, and the surrounding context of baptisms in the Scriptures suggests baptism by immersion.

Why Should a Person Be Baptized?

1. To obey the commands of Christ.
2. To evidence that a person is a disciple of Christ.
3. To follow the example of Christ.

Before your baptism

You will be asked to meet with one or more of the leaders of the church for a small course on the ordinance of the Baptism. We want you to be fully informed before you go ahead.

How will it be done?

You will be able to choose one of the following;

- Having your baptism within our regular Sunday service
- Having a separate Baptism service

You will be asked to share your testimony as part of your declaration of faith.

There will be moments of prayer and worship in the service.

You will be able to have some input into song choice for the worship, and you will need to approach the worship team regarding any requests you may have.

We do not have a baptistry at Tupton Evangelical, so we use an inflatable pool.

There will be time for fellowship before and after the service.

Although baptism is to be by immersion in normal circumstances, due allowance should be made for the well-being of the candidate who is being baptised (consult the principle of Mark 2:27, "*Then he said to them, "The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath."*").

We will allow services conducted by pastors not from our church, but any ceremony in our sanctuary needs to be consistent with the values and beliefs of our congregation, and approved by our church leaders.

Please understand that this process is not intended to be a rigid system. There will always be situations that create exceptions. These guidelines have been carefully constructed to provide the best possible preparation not just for your baptism day, but for a lifetime of walking with Christ. Please talk to one of our leaders concerning any exceptions.

Audio/Visual:

Tuption Evangelical can accommodate PowerPoint presentations. Please have the church leaders approve your show one month prior to the baptism. This allows enough time for us to review it and make sure that it is compatible with our computers and equipment. Tupton Evangelical does not offer audio or visual recordings of baptism ceremonies.

Décor:

- Before decorating, please discuss your plans with the church.
- Only temporary decorations that do not cause damage are allowed.
- You may decorate one day in advance of your baptism if there are no scheduling conflicts.

Photographs:

We encourage you to allow the congregation and your guests to take photos or video of your baptism. To prevent distractions during the ceremony, the photographers should be unobtrusive and not become "part of the ceremony". If there are any questions about this, please ask one of the church leaders.

General Policies:

- Permission must be received before moving any furniture or property before or after the event.
- No pets are allowed in the building, except for official service animals.
- You are responsible for communicating these guidelines to your guests.
- Saturday baptisms are to be scheduled before 6 p.m. to allow for cleaning and setup of the facility for Sunday morning worship service.
- If you are using a musician/vocalist, they will need to arrange a time to practice before the baptism service, to make sure the equipment we have is compatible with theirs.

ACTS 22:16

And now what are you waiting for? Get up, be baptized and wash your sins away, calling on his name.