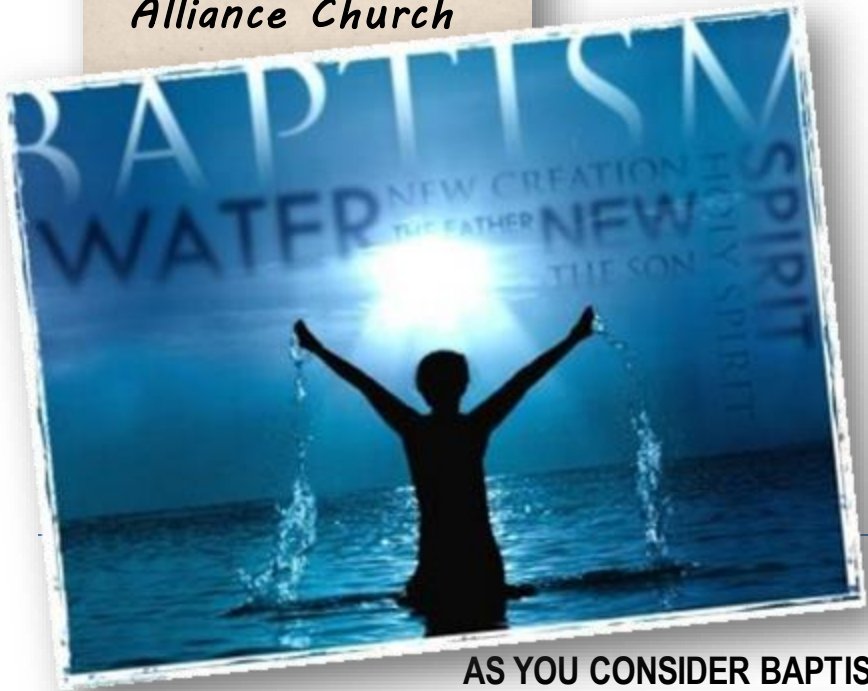




*Grande Prairie  
Alliance Church*



**AS YOU CONSIDER BAPTISM**

We're excited that you are interested in baptism! At Grande Prairie Alliance Church, we believe that **baptism is an important step of obedience for everyone who has accepted Jesus Christ as his or her Saviour.**

The following pages have been designed to explain baptism at our church and the steps necessary for being baptized at an upcoming service.

If you have further questions after reading through this material, feel free to contact the church office:

[office@gpalliance.ca](mailto:office@gpalliance.ca) or call us at 780-532-8836

We consider it a privilege to walk with you as you take this next step on your spiritual journey.

Baptism is for anyone who has a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. It is for those who believe that Jesus Christ died on the cross for their sins; that He has forgiven their sins and that Jesus alone can save them from their sins. John 3:16 states:

*“For God loved the world so much that he gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life” (NLT)*

If you have asked for forgiveness for your sins, believe that Jesus died for your sins and you have accepted Him as your Lord and Saviour, you are ready to be baptized.

If you would like more information on having a personal relationship with Jesus, contact one of the GPAC pastors at [gpalliance.ca](http://gpalliance.ca) or call the church office at 780-532-8836 to speak with a pastor.

## Baptism ... what is it?

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In believing in Jesus Christ, you made an inward decision to trust Him as your Lord and Saviour. Romans 10:9-10 states:

*“If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is by believing in your heart that you are made right with God, and it is by confessing with your mouth that you are saved.” (NLT)*

One of Jesus' closest followers, Peter, explained baptism as follows, *“Each of you must turn from your sins and turn to God, and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins.” (Acts 2:38 NLT)*

Baptism is the physical acknowledgement of the inward decision to make Jesus Christ Lord of your life. Baptism is a demonstration of life change and the difference Jesus has made and is continuing to make in your life.

Baptism is a symbolic act, a public acknowledgement of the change that has happened in your life when you accepted Jesus Christ into your heart. In baptism, you go under the water to signify death to your old self and you come up out of the water to signify a new life, a changed life. 2 Corinthians 5:17 says;

*“...anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person.  
The old life is gone; a new life has begun. (NLT)*

Baptism is also an act of obedience. In accepting Jesus as our Lord and Saviour, we are now followers of Jesus Christ and His life is our example to follow. The Bible teaches us in Matthew 3:13-15, that Jesus himself was baptized:

*“Then Jesus went from Galilee to the Jordan River to be baptized by John. But John tried to talk him out of it. ‘I am the one who needs to be baptized by you,’ he said, ‘so why are you coming to me?’ But Jesus said, ‘It should be done, for we must carry out all that God requires.’” (NLT)*

In Matthew 28:19-20, Jesus tells His followers to teach others about Himself and to then baptize them:

*“Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you.”*

Through these scriptures, we see that Jesus gives us the example of baptism and shows us that we are to believe in Him and then be baptized.

## **Baptism ... How we do it**

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There are many forms of baptism from sprinkling to pouring to immersing. Different denominations use differing methods. At Grande Prairie Alliance Church, we baptize by immersion believing this way to baptize is based on God’s Word and that Jesus himself was baptized by immersion. Colossians 2:12

*“For you **were buried** with Christ when you were baptized. And with him you were raised to new life because you trusted the mighty power of God, who raised Christ from the dead.”*

The original meaning of the ancient Greek words “Baptisma” and “Baptizo” mean to dip or immerse. It should be noted that most Bible scholars agree that in the primitive church baptism was by total immersion or burial, as we see in the verse above.

# Baptism Day

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We are looking forward to your baptism weekend and want to provide you with some simple steps in advance. Rest assured that you need not worry about being in the right place at the right time - someone will be guiding you every step of the way.

## **Before the Service**

Please meet in front of the church office area, with family or encourager(s), 20 minutes before the start of the service. We will review the order of service and physically walk through the baptism logistics. Some prefer to arrive dressed for baptism.

At the appointed time in the service, you and your family/encourager(s) will be invited onto the stage.

## **Baptism Attire:**

We ask that you wear dark knee length shorts or pants and a dark t-shirt. You should plan to bring anything that you will need to change into dry clothes afterwards (a towel, a brush/comb, and any other personal items you think you may need).

If you did not come with attire for baptism, various sizes of dark pants, tee shirts, and there will be plenty of towels available.

# Your Baptism

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## **Be Assured**

There will be people praying for you. You may feel apprehensive but God will give you strength and grace for this important spiritual step. We encourage you to invite all your family and friends to attend your baptism.

## **Encouragers**

You may have a few family, friends, and those who have been a significant part of your spiritual journey. Invite them to join you on the baptism day for prayer and on the stage as you are baptized.

## In the Baptism Tank

The pastor will ask you a few questions to confirm your faith and baptism decision. The pastor will then declare the words of baptism and you will be baptized.

Once you have been baptized you will exit the tank to celebrate with family and friends.

## You're Baptized ... now what?

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How should we live? What are the characteristics of our new life? Romans 6:2-4 tells us:

*"Since we have **died to sin**, how can we **continue to live in it**? Or have you forgotten that when we were joined with Christ Jesus in baptism, we joined him in his death? For we died and were buried with Christ by baptism. And just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glorious power of the Father, now we also may **live new lives**." (NLT)*

The Bible also tells us in Colossians 3:1-17,

*<sup>1</sup>"Since you have been raised to new life with Christ, set your sights on the realities of heaven, where Christ sits in the place of honor at God's right hand. **Think about the things of heaven, not the things of earth**. For you died to this life, and your real life is hidden with Christ in God. **And when Christ, who is your life, is revealed to the whole world, you will share in all his glory.***

<sup>5</sup>So **put to death the sinful, earthly things lurking within you**. Have nothing to do with sexual immorality, impurity, lust, and evil desires. Don't be greedy, for a greedy person is an idolater, worshiping the things of this world. Because of these sins, the anger of God is coming. You used to do these things when your life was still part of this world. But now is the time to get rid of anger, rage, malicious behavior, slander, and dirty language. Don't lie to each other, for you stripped off your old sinful nature and all its wicked deeds. **Put on your new nature, and be renewed as you learn to know your Creator and become like him**. In this new life, it doesn't matter if you are a Jew or a Gentile, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbaric, uncivilized, slave, or free. Christ is all that matters, and he lives in all of us.

<sup>12</sup>Since God chose you to be the holy people he loves, you must **clothe yourselves with tenderhearted mercy, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience**. Make allowance for each other's faults, and forgive anyone who offends you. Remember, the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others. **Above all, clothe yourselves with love**, which binds us all together in perfect harmony. And let the peace that comes from Christ rule in your hearts. For as members of one body you are called to live in peace. And always be thankful.

<sup>16</sup>**Let the message about Christ, in all its richness, fill your lives**. Teach and counsel each other with all the wisdom he gives. Sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs to God with thankful hearts. <sup>17</sup> **And whatever you do or say, do it as a representative of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through him to God the Father**. (NLT)

In giving your life to Jesus you verbally demonstrated that you don't want to live life on your own terms anymore. In being baptized you outwardly demonstrated that Jesus Christ is Lord of your life; that you are dedicating yourself to God. We are now followers, or disciples, of Jesus Christ. Our new life is characterized by Jesus and living the way that He lived. The life of Jesus is our example to follow; our lives need to be modelled after him.

## Next Steps

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Your Spiritual Journey is a process of taking steps toward spiritual maturity. You have taken the **first step**.

## **STEP 2: CONNECT IN COMMUNITY**

As part of a family, you will get the most out of your journey at GPAC if you do it with others. LIFE Groups at GPAC are groups of 8-12 people who “do life together”.

- *Join a LIFE Group*

Become a member of GPAC.

- *Membership classes are held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of each month. This class will help you learn about the meaning of committing to the purpose, vision, and core values of your church family.*

## **STEP 3: GROW YOUR HEART**

Becoming a “fully mature” follower of Christ takes personal commitment to grow.

This will involve a number of choices to learn and experience new levels of freedom and relationship with God

- **Hearing God** is a 6-week course to help you start to learn ways that God desires to communicate with you and guide you to know Him more.
- **Set Free Retreat** is a weekend course that will help you break free from things that hold you back spiritually
- **Soul Care** is a deep dive course into uncovering, and finding healing from, experiences and wounds as you walk into spiritual and emotional freedom based on the profound healing tools of God.

## **STEP 4: SERVE OTHERS**

We are uniquely designed to contribute to accomplish Christ’s purposes.

- *Discover opportunities to serve with your time and talents*

## **STEP 5: REACH YOUR WORLD**

Our goal is to reach people next door or around the world to “*Make Jesus Known*”!