

A graphic of a blue water splash, with water droplets and a central wave-like shape, positioned above the word "baptism".

baptism

Baptism is a time when individuals, their families and the whole Crossroads family celebrate the gift of new life in Christ.

If you have made a commitment to follow Christ as your savior and the leader of your life, then Baptism is an important next step for you. Baptism is for people, ages 12 through adulthood. Learn more at the orientation, online or at the Welcome Center.

Spring 2018 Baptism Schedule

Loveland Campus: May 19-20

During each weekend service: Saturday, 5pm; Sunday, 9am & 10:30am.

Fort Collins Campus: May 20

10am service.

Information and Registration Sessions

Loveland Campus: April 28-29, May 6 and May 12-13

After each weekend service.

Fort Collins Campus: May 6 & 13

After service.

Most people have questions about baptism—things like: *Why should I be baptized? What if I was baptized as a baby? Does it matter if I am sprinkled or immersed?*

Registration materials and a brief introduction to Baptism will be offered on various weekends prior to baptisms. If you are interested in being baptized, please attend one of these sessions. Info sessions are held immediately following each service in the front of the auditorium.

In addition, please read, complete and return this packet. It explains what the Bible teaches about Baptism and contains instructions and registration materials for being baptized at Crossroads.

Please return your completed packet by _____.
We are glad you are considering the important step of Baptism in your life and journey with Jesus Christ and the Crossroads Church family.

Thinking about Baptism

Once a person admits that he or she is a sinner and turns to Christ for salvation, the Bible says the watching world needs to know. Baptism has always served as a means for people to publicly demonstrate their commitment to love and follow Jesus Christ.

Believers are those who have realized that their sin has separated them from God. They have given up all efforts to reach God through good works or religious activity. They have concluded that Jesus Christ's death on the Cross for their sins is the only thing that can bridge the gap between them and God. A believer is someone who has decided to trust Christ alone for his or her salvation.

If you have come to this point in your spiritual journey, you are ready to be baptized. Just as a bride and groom tell of their love for one another through the symbol of rings, we should also want to show the world through Baptism of our union with Christ. In Baptism, we confirm and demonstrate the miracle of salvation and new life in Jesus Christ.

What does the Bible say about Baptism?

Jesus commands His followers to *go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit* (Matthew 28:19-20). Baptism identifies us as Christ-followers.

In passages such as Acts 2:41, 8:12 and 10:47-48, it is clear that Baptism follows an individual's decision to trust Christ alone for salvation. The New Testament records the Baptisms of adult believers. Baptism was never intended to provide salvation for an individual, rather to publicly identify a person with Christ and serve as a meaningful ritual in the life of a person and the community of believers. The worldwide Church understands both Baptism and Holy Communion as *sacraments*—a visible sign of an invisible reality.

In **Romans 6:1-11**, the Apostle Paul explains how the immersion mode of Baptism identifies the believer with the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Going under water represents Christ's death; coming out of the water illustrates His resurrection. It also symbolizes dying to our old life, being born anew into our life with Christ.

The Ethiopian asked Philip, "Tell me, please, who is the prophet talking about, himself or someone else?" Then Philip began with that very passage of Scripture and told him the good news about Jesus. As they traveled along the road, they came to some water and the Ethiopian said, "Look, here is water. Why shouldn't I be baptized?"... Then they went into the water and Philip baptized him.

Acts 8:34-38

Baptism at Crossroads Church

If you are ready to take the step of being baptized at Crossroads, here is what you need to do:

1. **Attend one of our brief, Baptism information meetings.** The schedule and location are described on the front page of this handout. At the meeting, a Crossroads pastor will review the church's understanding of the biblical basis for Baptism, answer questions and explain how you can register and participate. We will also explain the logistics of Baptism services at Crossroads.
2. **Fill out and return the registration form attached to this packet,** which includes space and instructions for you to briefly describe your faith story.

Your Faith Story

As part of the registration process, please write several paragraphs (or more) describing how and when you decided to trust Christ alone for your salvation. You will likely find it meaningful and helpful to remember how God has cared for you and drawn you into the family of God and how you have responded to the gift of salvation that comes through Jesus.

The pastors will read all of these stories and may choose excerpts of your story to read during the Baptism service. ***Identities are kept anonymous.*** The Crossroads family finds these stories encouraging, motivating and a source of celebration.

Your "Faith Story" is a brief description of your coming to faith in Jesus Christ. When writing your story, follow this simple format:

1. What was your life like before you decided to trust Christ?
2. Describe how and when you decided to trust Christ alone for your salvation.
3. How has this decision made a difference in your life?

Thank you for taking time to tell us your story. We are excited to read every word of it! There is space for you to write out your story on page 7 of this packet. If you prefer to tell your story to a pastor instead of writing, please call the office to set up a time.

If you have any questions, don't hesitate to contact one of the pastors (please indicate which campus you attend). You may contact us at 970.203.9201, or email baptism@crossroadscolorado.com.

Baptism Registration Form

Please complete and return pages 5-7. Mail to Crossroads' Offices at 5420 N. Taft Ave, Loveland CO 80538, email to baptism@crossroadscolorado.com, or return in an envelope to the Welcome Center at either campus.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ Zip _____

Cell Phone _____ Home Phone _____

E-Mail Address _____

Your age group? (please check)

Adult _____ High School _____ Middle School _____

Many Baptism participants ask friends and family to join them at the pool for their Baptism. This is not required, and you are welcome to come by yourself. Cameras are also welcome.

While the immersion mode of Baptism best illustrates the work of Christ, the Bible does not mandate how much water should be used. The value of the sacrament of Baptism is in the life and heart of the believer and the grace of God, not in the amount of water used. Because of this, we offer both immersion and sprinkling at Crossroads.

Loveland Campus only: In order to balance the number of people being baptized at each service, we ask that you indicate your 1st and 2nd choice of service. Please write (1) or (2) next to your preferences. Someone will contact you with a scheduled time.

Loveland Campus

Saturday, May 19: _____ 5pm

Sunday, May 20: _____ 9am _____ 10:30am

Fort Collins Campus

Sunday, May 20: _____ 10am

Most people choose immersion, however we offer sprinkling in every service.

I prefer _____ Immersion
_____ Sprinkling

On Baptism day: Sign in at the Baptism table 15 minutes before the service. If you are being immersed, wear comfortable shorts and a dark t-shirt. Please bring a change of dry clothes and a towel.

Please respond to the following questions. (Your answers help us understand your faith journey and connection to Crossroads and do not affect your eligibility for baptism.)

1. How long have you been attending Crossroads Church?

Less than 6 months 6 months – 1 year 1 - 2 years
 2 - 4 years 5 - 7 years 8 - 12 years

2. Who most influenced you to attend Crossroads?

Family member Friend Co-worker
 Ads Other _____

3. How would you describe your spiritual condition when you **first** started attending Crossroads? (Check all that apply.)

Cynic Skeptic Spectator
 Seeker Nominal believer New believer
 Growing believer

4. Approximately how long ago did you receive Jesus Christ as the only forgiver and leader of your life?

Less than 6 months 6 months – 1 year 1 - 2 years
 2 - 4 years More than 4 years

5. Who (besides the Holy Spirit) most influenced you to become a Believer?

Family member Friend Co-worker
 Small group Other _____

6. Are you currently volunteering at Crossroads or for a Crossroad-related project?

Yes No If yes, please describe: _____

7. Which Crossroads programs have you experienced?

Classes Small Groups Support Groups
 Children's Middle School High School

Other _____

8. Were you baptized as an infant? Yes No

9. What has most motivated you to be baptized at this time?

_____ Pastoral teaching _____ Small group

_____ Church announcement

Other _____

My Faith Story

(Directions for this component are provided on page 3. Use additional sheets if necessary. If you prefer, you can print and attach your story or send it via email to baptism@crossroadscolorado.com.)