

"The Daily Walk Of Baptism"

by Glen Rhodes, Minister of Discipling and Administration

Recently we have had quite a few baptisms here at Arthur Mennonite. Praise the Lord! There is nothing more exciting for a church than seeing someone receive Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior and give witness to that decision through the symbol or sign of baptism. What do you think of when someone says the word baptism? If you have been baptized, what do you remember about that day? For myself I remember that I was 13 years old and was baptized on the Sunday that fell between Christmas and New Years Day at Carlsbad Mennonite Church in Carlsbad, New Mexico in 1981. It was a very meaningful day and I still remember it, but what does that day many years ago represent in my life today?

So often Christians get caught up in the detail concerning the "how" of baptism (pouring, immersion, sprinkling) that we diminish the "why" of baptism that Paul writes about in the 6th chapter of Romans. He writes, "We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life." (Romans 6:4) When we are baptized we are testifying that we are becoming dead to sin, but alive in Christ who forgives our sins. In essence that is the whole message of the Gospel. Our baptism becomes an important part of our life story, and should then be a part of our daily walk in life. It's

not the moment of salvation, that is when we ask Christ into our hearts, but it is an outward sign that we have repented, received forgiveness, renounced evil, and died to sin, through the grace of God in Christ Jesus. Baptism is not just a one Sunday event in our lives. It must become a way of life for us each and every day. William Willimon once said, "Baptism is a lifetime process of God's work in us."

In scripture, water is obviously an important part of baptism. Our Mennonite Confession of Faith says "...Christian water baptism signifies the cleansing of the person from sin and incorporation into the new community of faith. The church may baptize by pouring, immersion, or the sprinkling of water. Baptism is for those who are of the age of accountability and who freely request baptism on the basis of their response to Jesus Christ in Faith."

We are excited to have a Baptism Sunday coming once again at AMC on Sunday, September 24. If you have received Jesus and made Him the Lord of your life, this would be a great Sunday to make that decision known publicly through baptism. We are offering pouring during the morning worship service that day or immersion at the pond later that day during the AMC Fall Festival. Let's celebrate baptism but let us also live it out daily in our lives. It is a daily walk of faith, hope, trust, grace, and salvation.

Minister of Discipling & Administration Glen Rhodes

Minister of Community Life: Nancy Kuhns



Minister of Outreach: Emily Kauffman

Minister of Worship & Youth: Jeff Marner



FIRST FRUITS - Giving God Our Best Stewardship

7.30.23 - \$1,350 | 8.06.23 - \$5,087 8.13.23 - \$4,555 | 8.20.23 - \$3,550 | 8.27.23 - \$4,975

If you would like to give tithes and offerings, please place them in the boxes at the back of the sanctuary or mail your envelope/check to the church at: 710 E Park, Arthur, IL 61911

Please include your envelope so your number can be recorded

oin us lor LL FESTIVAL Sunday, September 24

Join us at Bryan Yoder's pond to enjoy a day of games, swimming, and fellowship together! We will celebrate baptisms in the pond and also enjoy a carry-in fellowship meal. It's always a great time to connect with each other.

- 3 Brittnay Yoder
- 3 Karen (L) Miller
- 4 Drew & Courtney Gingerich
 - 4 Chad & Maria Yoder
- 10 Jamison & Cheyenne Miller
- 12 Darrel & Janet Gingerich
 - 14 Emma Hughes
 - 14 Jillian Marner
 - 14 Les & Marlene Helmuth
 - 15 Bernadine Yoder
 - 17 Makai Marner
 - 20 Becky Gutierrez
 - 22 Delilah England
 - 22 Katrina Taylor
 - 24 Dorothy Kauffman
 - 26 Marie Schrock
 - 29 Andy & Lynn Marner 29 - John & Alta Yoder
 - 30 Cliff Yoder