



WEST CENTER
Baptist Church

BAPTISM SUNDAY

— November 20, 2022 —



ROMANS 6:3-5

³Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? ⁴We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.

⁵For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his.



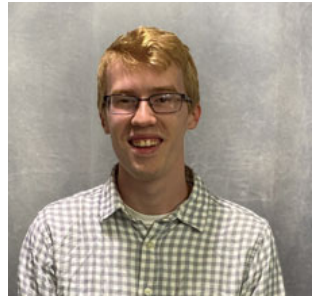
Madeleine Kolbo



I've lived in a Christian home my whole life, and in America where pretty much anything I want, we could just go buy. So, my life really hasn't been that hard. And that made it easy to forget about how much I need God. I didn't really think about him too much until I was pretty old. But a couple years ago, I would lay in my bed at night terrified that I was going to go to hell. I would get my parents up and talk to them about it, and that made me feel better, but God kept working on my heart to trust him instead of my parents or myself. I started praying every night and I started feeling a lot better. I started to regret things I did and hadn't cared about when I was younger, because God was beginning to shape my conscience and make me willing to repent. I do repent and trust in Jesus.

I still worry sometimes about not believing enough, but God is reminding me that it isn't what I do or don't do—it's what Jesus did for me that makes me safe. I know I can trust God to be with me and to help me grow in my faith in Him. In Joshua 1:9 he says, "Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go." He died for me, to save me from my sin, and that is amazing. He is perfect and holy and loving; he loves us more than we could ever love anything. He came to save all who believe that he died on the cross.

Nick Medema



I am greatly blessed to have grown up in a household that knows Jesus and believes He is Lord. My family led me from an early age to learn about Jesus and what He did for me. One of my greatest teachers while growing up was my grandfather, Ted Medema, who was a pastor and someone I believe to be a faithful servant of the Lord. I attended a Christian elementary school as well as high school, which I believe helped instill the gospel in me during a formative part of my life. However, it was still crucial that I make my faith my own and decide to follow Christ. It's easy to become a nominal Christian who doesn't choose to truly live out their faith. I believe that God saved me through the friends and family he put into my life. Proverbs 22:6 says "Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it." I cannot take for granted what a blessing it is to have been given a solid foundation in Christ from a young age. I will choose to follow Christ because through his death and resurrection, I am saved from sin, which brings ultimate hope.

Since coming to college, God has blessed me with an incredible group of Christian friends who love to grow in their faith together. These friends have greatly pushed me to make my faith my own in my adult life. They have shown me Christ's love and constantly encouraged me to grow in my love for Him. Through these friends, God has led me to West Center Baptist to continue to pursue a personal relationship with Christ.

Ryan Morganti



I grew up as an only child in a loving and warm home. I knew about God and the Bible but never really cared or was interested. Throughout my life in middle and high school I put grades, schoolwork, tennis, and plenty of other things as idols in my life. I believed that I wouldn't be happy unless I was performing well in all of these pursuits and exerting myself to my limits.

As I got into college, I found that no one cared about my performance. Along with leaving my friends and family behind, I felt alone. Having gone from a star senior in high school to right back to the bottom, I was lost. I was struggling with identity, fear, and fitting in. That's when God called out to me and welcomed me into His family.

Going to church, meeting with Cru leaders, attending Bible studies, and talking with friends opened my eyes to the goodness of God. And the one verse that I kept coming back to during all of this is Psalm 23:4 "Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I fear no evil, for You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me."

Now as I walk with Jesus, my life has been incredibly changed. The idols I once chased have been replaced with better things. Understanding that I don't need to be anything special for Jesus to love me has brought my life into focus. I can now focus on helping others and loving them instead of focusing on myself and chasing meaningless idols.

Ava Peterreins



Hi! My name is Ava Peterreins. God has always been a part of my life growing up. I have loving parents and three siblings that have always helped and encouraged me in my walk with God. At a young age, I realized that I was a sinner and I needed Jesus in my life.

The first time I accepted Christ into my life was two years ago at church camp and ever since then my faith in God has just kept growing. I'm very thankful for my camp counselor who encouraged me to become a child of God at camp that week.

A few verses that have encouraged me are, "I lift up my eyes to the hills. From where does my help come? My help comes from the lord who made heaven and earth." (Psalms 121:11) Also, "For I know the plans for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." (Jeremiah 29:11)

God loves us unconditionally. That's why I'm here today, to publicly share my love for the God who first loved me.

