

and would like to have my child(ren) baptized in the congregation where I was baptized. I can't attend Walking Wet. What do we do?

Flexibility is something we strive for even through the pattern and process of this ministry. Please speak to Pastor Mike about situations like this. Is there a congregation in which you are currently participating in the city in which you live? Do your parents still participate at SSLC? Will they be a significant part of your child(ren)'s lives? There are ways of meeting half way.

Do I have to be a member of SSLC to have my child baptized at SSLC?

The quick answer is, "No."

However, when your child is baptized here, he/she becomes a member of this congregation. The promises that parents make during the baptismal service go like this: "You should faithfully bring your child to the services of God's house and teach him/her the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments. As your child grows in years, you should place in his/her hands the Holy Scriptures and provide for his/her instruction in the Christian faith...". Being connected to the congregation in a vibrant and meaningful way will help you fulfill these promises well, which will not only help your child's growth in Christian faith and practice; it will help yours, as well.

To that end, I would cordially invite you to explore your own membership here at SSLC, as well.

We are preparing for the baptism of a child, and we would like to explore membership. Which Pathfinders group do we attend? Walking Wet or Walking Together (preparing for membership)?

It depends on when you are starting. If you are starting in the Fall, I would recommend you go ahead and start with Walking Wet in anticipation of your child's baptism. It is still a good exploratory start to investigate your own membership, and the other units of Walking Together (The Jesus Story, Enrollment, etc.) will continue to help you explore.

If you are coming into the process later in the year, go ahead and get started with the quarterly offering of Walking Wet right away. Membership preparation (Walking Together) will begin again in the fall of the next year, and you can be a part of the whole process then. In the meantime, start building good worship habits, table prayer, and other daily or weekly practices that will help you grow in Christian faith and practice.

Who provides the meal?

This past summer we experimented with a Dinner Church in which a main dish was planned, and everyone else brought something for support. For example, we had a baked potato bar, and attendees brought the toppings, dessert, beverages, etc.

What about child care?

We want to make this as easy as possible for households with children. **We will provide child care if you alert the church office that you are in need of that.** Children are welcomed to eat dinner with the whole group, but when we begin our adult time, it really is easier to have the children go with the sitter(s). We will ask for a free-will offering from the whole Pathfinders group to pay the sitters.

For other questions and concerns, either specifically or in general about the Pathfinders process—preparing for a child's baptism, preparing for marriage, investigating membership, etc., **please contact Pastor Mike.** No single process fits all situations.

Our Mission:

Teaching the Word, Reaching the World

Our Values & Purpose:

We are a congregation whose core values seek changed lives through the power of the Holy Spirit by forming and sustaining life-long personal faith in God through Christ Jesus.

We practice this by engaging in cross-generational ministry and radical hospitality as it is revealed by God's Word, connecting with our congregation, the community and the world.

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South Santiago Lutheran Church—Clear Lake, MN



SOUTH SANTIAGO LUTHERAN CHURCH

Teaching the Word,
Reaching the World

PATHFINDERS—The preparation ministry of SSLC.

Preparing for baptism.

Preparing for membership.

Preparing for marriage.

WALKING WET



Pathfinders is a ministry of "preparation." It is for people who are *preparing* for baptism; those *preparing* for membership; and those *preparing* for marriage within our congregation. There may be other preparations and milestones, and we anticipate identifying more of those as we travel.

For now, this ministry of preparation...

...helps lay out a *pathway* for organizing and building adequate responses to the persons who inquire about these aspects of our congregation; and
...it also helps to provide those inquirers an identifiable *pathway* to follow in discerning God's presence and call in their lives.

In addition, the pathways we are beginning to build also provide **long-time members...**

...an identifiable *pathway* toward interacting in a deep and abiding way with those newest to our congregation;

...involving them in activities that are deep and meaningful to the individuals who participate in them, as well as needed for the on-going life of our congregation; and

...creating an annual way to invite our congregation into a language and culture of being a disciple of Jesus.

WHAT DOES

PATHFINDERS LOOK LIKE FOR THOSE SEEKING BAPTISM FOR THEIR CHILDREN? WALKING WET!



Our travel itinerary:

1. Preparation for Baptism: Walking Wet—Over the course of the year, we offer **quarterly** units of Baptism Preparation (Walking Wet), 5 sessions each. **Please plan on attending as many of these as possible—at least 3 of the 5 but preferably all of them.**

Each session is intended to do 4 things, in no particular order of importance:

- **Provide knowledge** in reviewing the basics of a Lutheran understanding of baptism, including the role of the household in faith formation;
- **Provide an opportunity to try out** fundamental faith practices vital for growing Christian faith and practice in the household, including Caring Conversation; Devotion & Prayer; Service; and daily Rituals.
- **Build relationships** by offering additional connections to other people in the congregation, including other families preparing for the baptism of their children.
- **Invite you to grow deeper** by providing an invitation for you to go deeper in exploring Christian faith and discipleship through the rest of the Pathfinders ministry.

In order for us to schedule a baptism at SSLC, we need you to be registered, participating, and/or have completed a Walking Wet session. For 2014-15, those Walking Wet Sundays are as follows (choose one session):

Session 1: Sept. 28, Oct. 12, Oct. 26, Nov. 16, & Nov. 30

Session 2: Jan. 4, Jan. 11, Jan. 25, Feb. 8, & Feb. 18

Session 3: Feb. 22, March 1, March 8, March 15, & March 22.

Session 4: (Tentatively—Weds.) May 20, 27, June 3,

June 10, and June 17

These sessions begin at 5 PM and conclude at 6:30 PM.

Dinner is included.

One of these sessions includes the assembly and construction of your child's Faith Chest. Supplies and tools are provided. This becomes the "tool box" for growing faith in your household.

Childcare will be provided **if you notify the office that you need childcare.** A free-will offering is collected among the whole group to help pay for childcare.

The Wednesday summer session will be finalized as we get closer to that time.

2. The Next Leg of the Journey—There are a number of forks in the road after Walking Wet.

- If you are already a member of SSLC, you might want to be come a sponsor family, guiding other young families through the process, growing into those relationships, and attending other Walking Wet units with those families.
- You may also simply want to continue down the Pathfinder way in order to grow in your knowledge, faith, and practice. Talk to Pastor Mike about what that might mean.
- If you are not a member of SSLC, the rest of the Pathfinder ministry equips you to explore that reality better. **If you are having your children baptized, realize that they are now members of SSLC. Why not join them in their growing faith and practice?** (See the brochure on **Pathfinders—Walking Together** for more information.)

NOTE: Participating in the Pathfinder ministry does not commit you to joining SSLC—only to explore what that might mean. **There is a moment in the Pathfinder ministry when you will be given the opportunity to make that decision: to join or (for whatever reason) to wait.** Talk to Pastor Mike about what that might mean.

QUESTIONS

Do we need to have completed Walking Wet in or-

der to schedule a baptism?

No, you do not have to have completed a Walking Wet unit. Generally speaking, a baptism would be scheduled no earlier than the beginning of the unit in which you are participating. For example, if you would like to schedule a baptism in October, we would prefer you be registered for the Walking Wet unit that begins in September.

We want to be flexible with family schedules, but we also believe **STRONGLY** in this process of creating opportunities to work on faith practice and growing relationship. Additionally, to receive baptism and not complete the process would indicate to us that our ministry is not working in the way we would hope.

How do we register for a Walking Wet session?

The on-line registration material can be found at www.sslcmn.org/baptism-request.html. Registration for Walking Wet is simply a part of filling out the form.

Who all should come to Walking Wet?

We would encourage any adult who is going to be a key figure in your child's life to attend as much of Walking Wet as possible—parents (for sure!); godparents; grandparents; important friends; etc.

Why so long and why so much just to get my child baptized?

The point of our Pathfinders: Walking Wet ministry is not to set up obstacles to overcome in order to receive baptism. The point is to create an opportunity to experience a more full, joy-filled reality of God's love given to us in Jesus Christ that can and is supposed to happen in the life of a congregation.

Baptism is not a private ritual, valuable only to the individual and/or family. Baptism grafts us into the very life of Jesus. Baptism grafts us into the very community that Jesus founded. Walking Wet helps us grow as that community, both as a congregation and as individuals connected to that congregation. We shortchange YOU in even implying that all you need for baptism can be covered in 45 minutes. We shortchange our congregation by not providing the opportunity to get to know YOU as the God-given gift you and your household are to the world.

I am a member of SSLC. But I live in another city