

NEXT STEPS

KNOW TWIN LAKES CHURCH & YOUR FAITH ON NEW LEVELS





THANKS FOR CHOOSING TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT

TWIN LAKES CHURCH

The four-week Next Steps course is the basic introduction to our church family. Since we have attenders from many different religious backgrounds (including no religion at all!) this class was designed to clearly explain who and what our church is, what we believe, and how we can help you grow spiritually.



WEEK 1

Learn TLC's history and central message. At the end of this class you'll be given an opportunity to sign up for baptism.



WEEK 2:

How to read the Bible for all it's worth



WEEK 3:

Essentials of prayer & spiritual growth



WEEK 4:

Core doctrines at TLC & what it means to be a member. At the end of the fourth class, you'll be given an opportunity to consider membership.

NEXT STEPS WEEK ONE



WHO WE ARE

“So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.” Galatians 3:26-28

At TLC, we have attenders who are from all sorts of backgrounds.

What makes us one in Christ?

What is our common “family background” as a local church?



1890	“Little Brown Church by the Sea” is established as a chapel for a Baptist retreat center. It is built on 7th Avenue between Seabright Lake (which later became the Santa Cruz Harbor) and Schwann Lake. The neighborhood bordered by these lagoons, the beach, and the railroad tracks became known as “Twin Lakes”.
1920’s	Church building is closed for most of this decade
1930	Renamed “Twin Lakes Baptist Church” by 11 people who restart the congregation
1943	Roy Kraft begins 47-year pastorate
1946	New 7th Avenue building
1965	Property next to Big Basin State Park becomes Camp Hammer, TLC’s conference center
1973	Church begins move near Cabrillo College in Aptos
1991	Roy Kraft retires
1993	René Schlaepfer begins pastorate
1996	Renamed “Twin Lakes Church”
2016	2020 Vision Phase One: New children’s building, playground, expansion of preschool, etc.
2020	Anticipated completion of Phase Two: Coffee House and College ministry and building.

NOTE: For every building constructed on our Aptos church campus, a building project in an underdeveloped part of the world has also been funded!



WHAT ARE WE HERE FOR?

THE FIVE PURPOSES OF THE CHURCH

“They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. All the believers were together and had everything in common. They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.” Acts 2:42-47

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

The aim is not church _____ but church _____:
A balance of all five biblical purposes.





WAYS TO PLUG IN & GROW!

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDIES

Various times throughout the week (kim@tlc.org)

MOTHERS OF PRE-SCHOOLERS (MOPS)

(gina@tlc.org)

MEN'S BREAKFASTS / BIBLE STUDIES

Saturday mornings (jim@tlc.org)

ADULT MIDWEEK CLASSES

Classes on marriage, parenting, theology, finances & more (paul@tlc.org)

SUNDAY MORNING CLASSES

9 or 10:45am (carrie@tlc.org)

JUNIOR HIGH YOUTH GROUP

Tuesday nights (jessica@tlc.org)

HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP

Wednesday nights (steve@tlc.org)

COLLEGE AND YOUNG ADULTS

Thursday nights (kyle@tlc.org)

MIDWEEK CHILDREN'S CLASSES

Wednesday nights (yolanda@tlc.org)

RECOVERY GROUPS

Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday groups (jim@tlc.org)

PRESCHOOL: CHILDREN'S ENRICHMENT CENTER

(suzanne@tlc.org)

GRADE SCHOOL AND JUNIOR HIGH: TWIN LAKES CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

(mimel@tlcs.us)

OUTREACH TEAMS

(robin@tlc.org)

SMALL GROUPS

(jim@tlc.org)

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE A CHRISTIAN?

WHY AM I HERE?

1. God created us to _____

“God so loved the world...” John 3:16a

2. We often long for God’s presence and love _____

“My soul thirsts for God, for the living God.” Psalm 42:2

MY PROBLEM

1. We sense a separation caused by our innate _____.

“We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way...”
Isaiah 53:6

“I don’t really understand myself, for I want to do what is right, but I don’t do it.
Instead, I do what I hate.” Romans 7:15

The Bible calls this attitude “_____”.

“The trouble is that your sins have cut you off from God.” Isaiah 59:2

2. When we try to eliminate our self-centeredness through religion and self-effort,
we become even _____.
Self-directed religion is self-defeating.

“I discovered that the law’s commands, which were supposed to bring life,
brought spiritual death instead.” Romans 7:10

“Don’t handle! Don’t taste! Don’t touch! Such rules are mere human teachings that deteriorate as we use them. These rules may seem wise because they require strong devotion, pious self-denial, and severe bodily discipline. But they provide no help in conquering a person’s evil desires.” Colossians 2:21-23

(Jesus said) “The religious teachers crush people with unbearable religious demands and never lift a finger to ease the burden.” Matthew 23:4

Religion, rather than help us reach God, often drives us further away because it causes us to focus on our own behavior. So I become even more self-centered than before! My selfish pride just turns into religious pride.

The solution is to focus not on myself, but on something outside myself:

_____ and _____

GOD’S SOLUTION

1. He came Himself not only to show the way, but to _____ the way

“All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and all are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.” Romans 3:23,24

“The religious law was unable to save us because of the weakness of our sinful nature. So God did what the law could not do.” Romans 8:2

“I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.” John 14:6

2. This is the way to have a relationship with God that is not focused on my own behavior: I simply _____ His grace!

“God saved you by his grace when you believed. And you can’t take credit for this; it is a gift from God. Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it. For we are God’s masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago.” Ephesians 2:8-10

HOW DO I DO THAT?

1. _____ you've been sinfully self-focused and ask Him to forgive you

"If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive our sin and cleanse us from every wrong." 1 John 1:9

2. _____ that Jesus died to pay for your sins and rose again to impart his powerful new life to you

"If you confess that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved." Romans 10:9

3. _____ your life to God

Surrender to him in complete trust. Turn your life over to His loving care and leadership.

"To all who believe him and accept him, he gives the right to become children of God. They are reborn—not with a physical birth resulting from human passion or plan, but a birth that comes from God." John 1:11,12

You can take these steps by praying a simple prayer of commitment to God:

"Dear Lord, thank you for making me and loving me, even when I've ignored you and gone my own way. I realize I need you in my life and I'm sorry for my sins. Thank you for dying on the cross for me. Please help me to understand it more. As much as I know how, I want to follow you from now on. Please come into my life and make me a new person inside. I accept your gift of salvation. Please help me grow now as a Christian."

"Whoever calls upon the name of the Lord will be saved." Romans 10:13



BAPTISM: THE WAY CHRISTIANS SHOW THEY HAVE RECEIVED GOD'S GRACE

BAPTISM IS AN OUTWARD EXPRESSION OF AN INNER REALITY

God knows we need transitional celebrations to mark big changes in our lives. Baptism gives you a time and place to which you can point.

BAPTISM FAQs

WHY BE BAPTIZED?

- To follow the example set by Christ
“At that time Jesus came from Nazareth and was baptized by John in the river...”
Mark 1:9
- Because Christ commanded it
“Jesus said, ‘Go then to all people everywhere and make them my disciples, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit...’”
Matthew 28:19-20
- In the Bible it’s consistently the next step after people believe
“...many of the people who heard him believed and were baptized.” Acts 18:8
- Because it is a helpful witness to others
When people see you proclaiming your trust in Christ, it motivates them to do the same; it gives them a sense of hope.



WHAT DOES BAPTISM MEAN?

It shows my identification with Christ's _____ and _____, and my _____ as a Christian!

“For when you were baptized, you were buried with Christ, and in baptism you were also raised with Christ.” Colossians 2:12

Baptism doesn't make you a believer; it shows that you have already made a choice to believe. Baptism does not “save” you; God does that by His grace to you. Baptism is the outward, public symbol of a commitment you made in your heart to trust in Him.

WHY DOES TLC USUALLY BAPTIZE BY IMMERSION?

- Because Jesus was baptized that way
- Because every baptism in the Bible is by immersion
- Because the word “baptize” means to soak or immerse in water
- Because it best symbolizes a death, burial, and resurrection!

WHEN SHOULD I BE BAPTIZED?

“Those who believed... were baptized that day!” Acts 2:41 (See Acts 8:35-38)

If you wait until you are “perfect”, you’ll never feel good enough. Baptism is not a sign you are sinless or perfectly holy; it’s a sign of your complete trust in God’s grace to you in Christ, and your desire to follow Him the rest of your life.



WHAT ABOUT MY KIDS?

At TLC we wait until our children are old enough to believe and understand the meaning of baptism before we baptize them. We have baby dedications where we pray for infants and their families, but these are not the same as baptism. Some churches have a baptism for children. This custom began about 300 years after the Bible was completed. This is different than the baptism talked about in the Bible, which was only for believers.

TLC offers baptism curriculum for younger children.

WHAT IF I WAS BAPTIZED AS A BABY?

If you were baptized as an infant, your subsequent “believer’s baptism” does not somehow invalidate or trivialize your parents’ intent when they had you baptized. Your adult baptism is a confirmation of what they had hoped for: You are making a conscious choice to follow Christ. We encourage adult believers’ baptism for everyone who has committed themselves to Christ for this reason.

CAN OUR FAMILY BE BAPTIZED TOGETHER?

Of course! But it is important to remember that baptism is a personal statement of faith. It’s not usually wise to delay your baptism while waiting on other family members to accept Christ, particularly children. This puts undue pressure on them, and delays your obedience.

THE NEXT BAPTISMS AT TLC ARE: _____



WHERE DO I GO FROM HERE?

In our next three sessions, you'll be given tools for your spiritual life and the responsibilities for membership will be explained.

Basically, membership is a way to ensure that all those who serve in leadership at TLC are on the same page: They have committed their lives to Christ, are growing with Him, and support the mission of TLC. At the end of the fourth session, you will be given an opportunity to become a member of Twin Lakes Church.

These sessions meet weekly from 10:45 am to noon for the next three weeks. They are designed to be a fun learning environment where you can expect to meet new people, grow closer to God, and share a few laughs and insights with some of our pastors.

TLC is totally committed to helping you grow spiritually and relationally, and we believe these classes are part of that journey! But there are no "have-to's", only "want to's". We don't want you to feel pressured to continue to these classes. See them instead as an opportunity for growth!

