

Practical Answers about Baptism at LAC

Testimony: Please write a brief testimony about the difference Christ makes in your life. It does not have to be long but concise speaking about your desire to follow the Lord Jesus. The ones I have seen are usually two short paragraphs long. The testimonies will be read while you are getting into the water. If you need help, just ask one of the pastors or a mentor to assist.

Clothing to Wear: Please wear comfortable loose fitting clothes. Some prefer bathing suits or just light pants and a white top. Your modesty is important. Most come wearing what they intend to wear for the actual baptism and then change into dry street clothes after the baptismal service. You will need to bring a washcloth for over your nose and mouth and a heavy towel to hand to the attendant just before being led into the pool.

When you arrive: On your way into church, you can proceed to the restrooms on the preschool hallway where our deaconesses will have robes. You can choose a robe that fits you comfortably. Please put it on and then take a seat on the right front area close to the baptistery with your towel. Please remember to remove all jewelry, wallets, watches, cell phones etc from the pockets. For ladies, it may be best to tie your hair back in a pony tail. You can leave dry clothes and other items with your family or in the choir room behind the stage.

The Service: At the designated time, we will call you by name from the congregation. You will come up on the platform and stand at the top of the steps into the baptistery. Please hand your towel to the attendant.

Process of being Baptized: When it is your turn, we ask you to carefully walk down the steps into the pool. Two of the pastors will be there to help you into the pool. Take it slowly. There is non skid material on the steps but one needs to hold on just to be sure.

Once in the pool, turn towards the congregation and stand beside the pastor. While you are getting into the baptistery, your testimony will be read by our readers. Once you are in position the pastor will ask you if it "is your intention to declare your faith in Jesus and to walk with him in newness of life." Please give your answer in a loud voice.

Then turning to the side, cover your mouth and nose with the washcloth and with the other hand grab the pastor's wrist. He will place his hand over the hand covering your mouth and with the other arm lower you back into the water while saying the words "I now baptize you in the name of the father, the son and the Holy Spirit. Many people find it more comfortable to just bend the knees as we lower you. When you come up out of the water, we will help you proceed up the steps, carefully, where you will be met by an attendant with your towel. You can then carefully walk around behind the modesty curtains and out to the rest rooms in the preschool hallway to change into your dry street clothes. Your baptismal certificate can be picked up in the office.