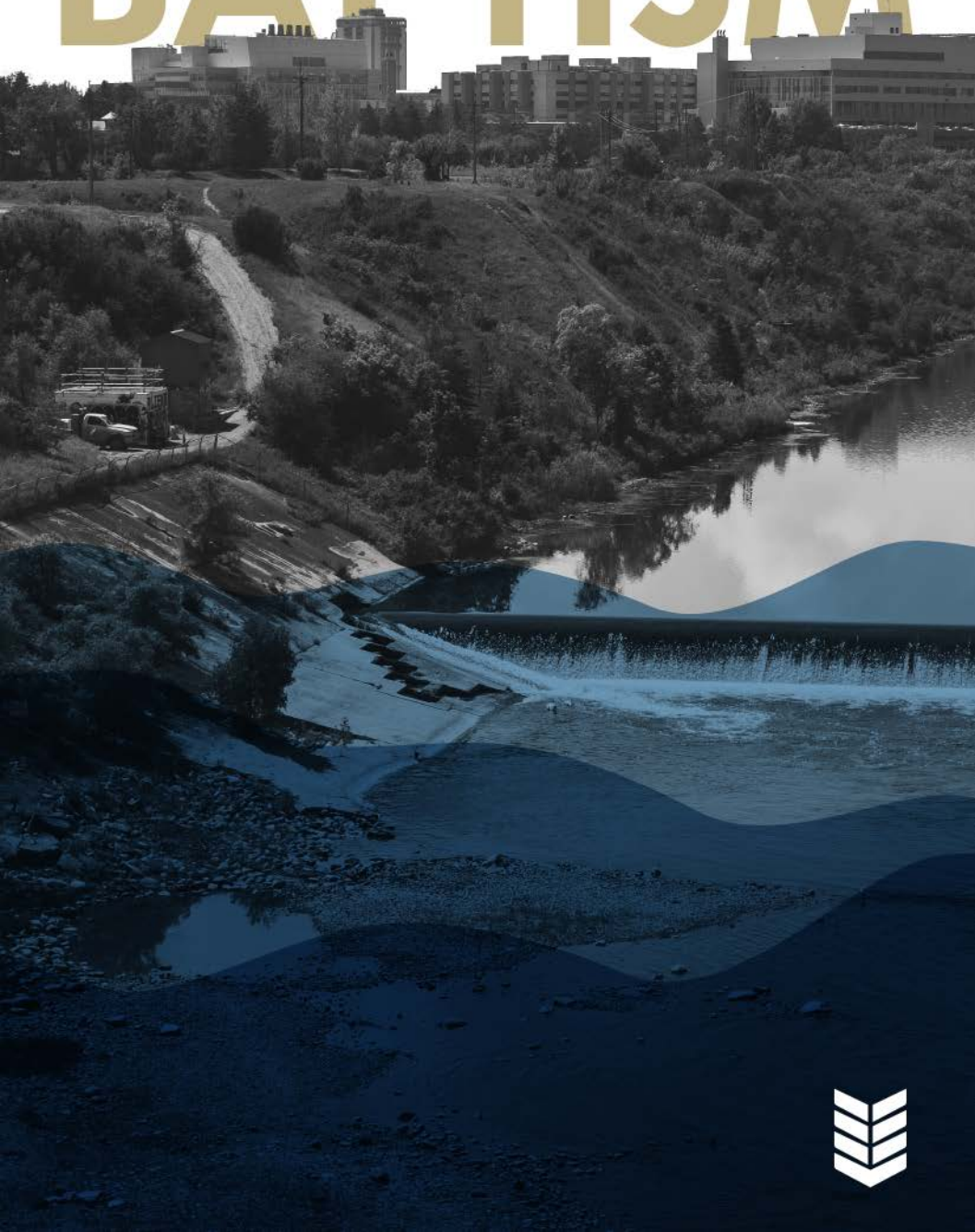
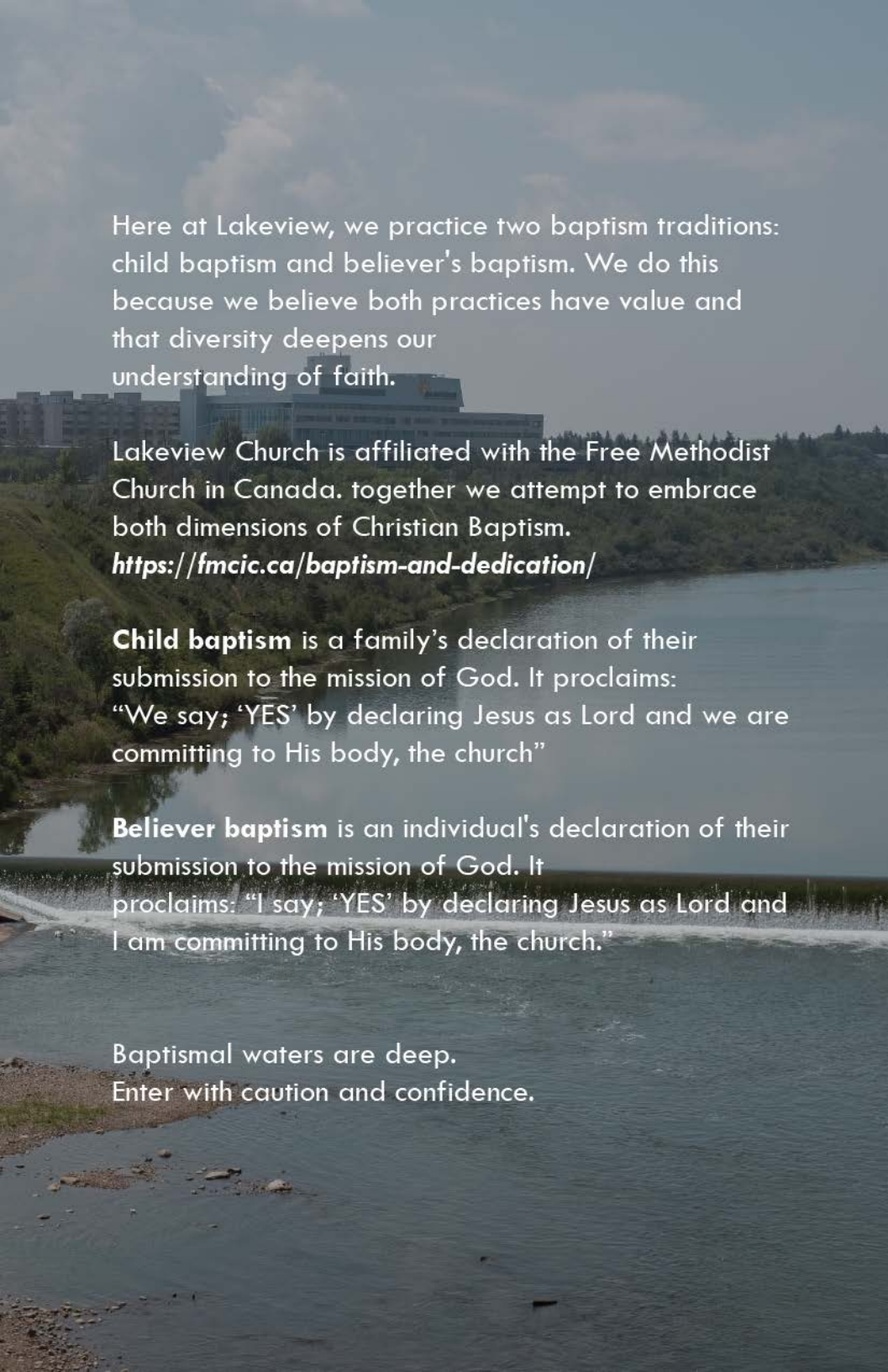


# BAPTISM







A large, modern church building with a prominent steeple is situated on a hill in the background. The foreground features a calm body of water, likely a lake or river, with a small waterfall or dam visible on the left side. The sky is overcast with soft, grey clouds.

Here at Lakeview, we practice two baptism traditions: child baptism and believer's baptism. We do this because we believe both practices have value and that diversity deepens our understanding of faith.

Lakeview Church is affiliated with the Free Methodist Church in Canada. together we attempt to embrace both dimensions of Christian Baptism.

<https://fmcic.ca/baptism-and-dedication/>

**Child baptism** is a family's declaration of their submission to the mission of God. It proclaims: "We say; 'YES' by declaring Jesus as Lord and we are committing to His body, the church"

**Believer baptism** is an individual's declaration of their submission to the mission of God. It proclaims: "I say; 'YES' by declaring Jesus as Lord and I am committing to His body, the church."

Baptismal waters are deep.  
Enter with caution and confidence.

# BAPTISM MEANS:

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The Biblical authors understood the meaning of baptism against the background of the major redemptive historical events in the Bible. For example, Paul in the New Testament links baptism with the Exodus story, and Peter refers to Noah and his family being “brought safely through water” in the ark, connecting this to baptism.

Baptism in the Bible expresses an identification with Christ’s death and resurrection—the old self was crucified with Christ (through the waters of death), and now followers of Jesus have risen with him in “newness of life”

In baptism there is a movement from a former way of life to a new way of life. An exodus, a rescue, a renewing, a birth, a restoration, a means of grace.

Therefore at baptism you are:

- Abandoning all your former first allegiances. Meaning that in baptism, you say “YES” to Jesus, in doing so you declare that Jesus is Lord.  
A declaration which reorders your allegiances, first and foremost to Jesus Christ and His body, the church.
- Identifying with Christ’s death and resurrection—the old self is crucified with Christ (through the waters of death), and as a follower of Jesus you have risen with him in “newness of life”

## **BAPTISM IS A:**

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**Rite not a right** – The act of baptism has deep and significant meaning. There is weight to the act of baptism.

**Symbol** – It is a visible sign of an invisible reality. It does not save but points to the God who does.

**Mystery** – It is the invisible and visible reality of God working in us. In ways we at times can’t fully comprehend.

**Sacrament** – It is a means of grace through faith, a sign of God’s gracious ministry toward us. In the baptism God works within us to quicken, strengthen and confirm our faith.

A man and a woman are performing a baptism in a church setting. The man, wearing a light-colored button-down shirt, is holding a baby over a baptismal font. The woman, wearing a brown coat and glasses, is assisting. The font is covered with a dark cloth and has a stack of Bibles on it. In the background, there is a drum set and a microphone stand.

# CHILD BAPTISM + CONFIRMATION TRACK

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When a family baptizes their child, it is the family's declaration of their submission to the mission of God. It proclaims: "We say; 'YES' by declaring Jesus as Lord and we are committing to His body, the church"

Combined with baptisms' declaration of "YES" to Jesus and to the Church community, there are the expressions of Lakeview Postures: backward, forward, inward and outward. In child baptism, these postures mark the life of the participating family. These postures are not meant to be a checklist of requirements for baptism, but expressions that surround and grow out of baptism.

Child baptism signifies the parent's and community's belief that the child belongs to God and to the community by virtue of belonging to a family that submits itself to God. It emphasizes grace: God is at work in a child's life long before they are able to give their consent.

In child baptism, the family states their allegiance is to God, that they identify primarily as God's people, and that they are committed to the way of transformation. Child baptism is chosen by the parents on behalf of the children up to age 13.

Child baptism is bookended by confirmation when the individual is ready to affirm their baptism. Like baptism, the postures surround and grow out of the act of confirmation. In confirmation, the individual declares, "I choose and say "YES" to Jesus and to this community."

Confirmation is not an end in itself but a welcome to continue choosing Jesus and partnering with Lakeview through personal, communal, ongoing, and rhythmic expression of the postures.



A photograph of a man with a beard and a child embracing. The man is on the right, wearing a black t-shirt and a black watch, with his arms around the child. The child is on the left, wearing a black t-shirt and colorful patterned shorts. The background is dark and out of focus.

# DEDICATION + BELIEVER BAPTISM TRACK

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Dedication is practiced by the parents to declare their intention to raise their kids in the ways of God. The emphasis is on faith: a child will choose to follow God in his or her and God's own time, but parents play a significant part in helping a child respond to God.

Believer baptism is the individual's declaration of their submission to the mission of God. It proclaims: "I say; 'YES' declaring Jesus as Lord and I am committing to His body, the church."



Saying “YES” means I choose Jesus, and I choose His church. I will submit myself to the mission of God as expressed at my local church. It is a declaration of faith that says; Jesus is Lord.

The declaration of “YES” " is expressed in baptism, as well as through the Lakeview Postures. Again, these postures are not a checklist of requirements, but attitudes and atmosphere out of and into which baptism sprouts and then grows.

Baptism is not an end in itself, but a welcome to continue choosing Jesus and partnering with Lakeview through personal, communal, ongoing and rhythmic expression of the postures.

# Child Baptism + Dedication

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Child baptism and child dedication are similar, but they're not the same. The difference is:

- Child baptism is a sacrament that highlights God's initiative to redeem humankind. It affirms that God is at work long before a child has the capacity to acknowledge Him. Child baptism emphasizes God's gracious action through Jesus, and is later affirmed by the child through confirmation.
- Child dedication is for parents who wish to declare their intention to work alongside God and their community to raise their child in the way of Jesus. A child will choose to follow God in his or her own time, marking that future choice through believer baptism.

Whether you choose to baptize or to dedicate your child, you are stating your intention to raise your child in God's ways and acknowledging the importance of the Christian community in your child coming to and growing in faith.

# BAPTISM

## CHILD

**MEANS:**

**WE ARE SAYING  
YES!**

**AGE:**

**<13**

**FOLLOWED  
BY:**

**CONFIRMATION**

**I AM SAYING  
YES!**

## BELIEVER

└ CHILD DEDICATION  
"WE PROMISE"

**MEANS:**

**I AM SAYING  
YES!**

**AGE:**

**>13**



**LAKEVIEW**  
CHURCH