

Baptism: What? Why? How?

What is baptism? Baptism is not simply water. Instead, it is water used according to God's command and connected with God's Word.

Why do we baptize? As recorded in Matthew 28:19, our Lord Jesus Christ said, "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit."

What gifts or benefits does Baptism grant? It ensures the forgiveness of sins, the presence of Christ and empowerment of the Holy Spirit; a new identity as a Child of God, adopted into the family of Christ; and the promise of salvation and eternal life through the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

How can water produce such great effects? Clearly, the water does not do it. The Word of God, which is with and alongside the water, and faith, which trusts this word of God in the water is what does it. For without the word of God the water is plain water and not a baptism, but with the word of God it is a baptism — a grace-filled water of life and a "bath of the new birth in the Holy Spirit." As Paul says to Titus in chapter three: "through the water of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit. This Spirit is poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life. This saying is sure."

A Critical First Step It is the Church's understanding that baptism is a critical first step in the Christian life of every believer. We believe that baptism brings individuals into the family of God. It forgives our sins and makes us members of God's family. Baptism is the first step on a life-long journey of faith. The faith that begins at baptism must be nurtured and strengthened for a lifetime. This is done through regular worship, fellowship, studying the Scriptures, and service. The Bible reminds us that if this faith is neglected, it may die.

A Meeting with the Pastor Call the church office and ask the Pastor for a time to meet to discuss Baptism with you. At this time, the Pastor will describe the Baptism service in the church. This meeting will help you understand the Baptism Service and the promises that you will be asked to make before God and God's people.


Promises At the time of the baptism, you will promise to take on the responsibilities of living among God's people; bringing your child to hear God's Word and share in the Lord's Supper; teaching them things about God; and nurturing their faith; so that they will proclaim the good news of Jesus in word and deed, serving all people in the manner Christ served.

Sponsors You will be asked to have Baptismal Sponsors present for the Baptism. The Sponsors should be Christian people who are willing to support your child in caring for their spiritual needs and encouraging them in faithful living.

When? Baptisms normally take place during a Christian worship service. Because Lutherans believe that Holy Baptism brings an individual into the family of God, the church needs to be part of this important event. Except in the case of emergencies, private Baptisms are discouraged at Gethsemane because they tend to disconnect Baptism from the wider life of the Church and its people. As you make plans, know that our Sunday worship occurs at 9:00 am between Labor Day and Memorial Day. During the summer months, we may have worship services at other times throughout the week. We prefer to have no more than 3 baptisms in one service. All baptisms are entered into the permanent records of this congregation and you will be issued a certificate.



Baptism Service

 Gethsemane Lutheran Church



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Pastor Amy Janssen

Our Mission is to draw all people to Christ, nurture faith, and fulfill our calling to serve.

Sacrament of Holy Baptism

WE GATHER AT THE FONT

- P God, who is rich in mercy and love, ... and joined in God's mission for the life of the world.
- P Parents, called by the Holy Spirit, trusting in the grace and love of God, do you desire to have your child, *Child's Name*, baptized into Christ? (Parents:) **We/I do.**
- P As you bring your child to receive the gift of Baptism, you are entrusted with responsibilities:
To live with *them* among God's faithful people,
bring *them* to the Word of God and the holy supper,
teach *them* the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments,
place in *their* hands the Holy Scriptures, and nurture *them* in faith and prayer.
so that your children may learn to trust God, proclaim Christ through word and deed, care for others and the world God made, and work for justice and peace.
- Do you promise to help your children grow in the Christian faith and life?
(Parents:) **We/I do.**
- P Sponsors, do you promise to nurture *Child's Name* in the Christian faith as you are empowered by God's Spirit, and to help *them* live in the covenant of baptism and in communion with the Church?
(Sponsors) **I do.**
- P People of God, do you promise to support *Child's Name* and pray for *them* in *their* new life in Christ?
A We do!

PROFESSION OF FAITH

- P People of God, I ask all of you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church.
Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God?
A I renounce them.
- P Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God?
A I renounce them.
- P Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God?
A I renounce them.
- P People of God: Do you believe in God the Father?
A I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.
- P Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?
A I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, And he will come again to judge the living and the dead.
- P Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?
A I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.

THANKSGIVING AT THE FONT

- P The Lord be with you.
A And also with you
- P Let us give thanks for the Lord our God
A It is right to give our thanks and praise.
- P We give you thanks, O God, ... now and forever.
A Amen

BAPTISM

- P *Child's Name*, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit .
A Amen.

PRAYER OF BLESSING

- P Let us pray. We give you thanks, O God, ... the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever.
A Amen.

ANNOINTING WITH OIL

- P (*Using oil to mark forehead with a cross*)
Child's Name, child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever.

PRESENTATION OF CANDLE

- P Let your light so shine before others that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

WELCOME INTO THE BODY OF CHRIST

- P Let us welcome the newly baptized!
A We welcome you into the body of Christ and into the mission we share: join us in giving thanks and praise to God and bearing God's creative and redeeming word to all the world.