

BAPTISMAL CANDIDATE

Date of Baptism (circle one):

Service Time (circle one):

2014 Dates:

Sunday, August 24	9:00 10:30 am
Sunday, September 21	9:00 10:30 am
Christ the King: November 23	9:00 10:30 am

2015 Dates:

Baptism of our Lord: January 11	9:00 10:30 am
*Easter Vigil: April 4	7:00 pm
<i>*(please note: this is a Saturday evening)</i>	
Day of Pentecost: May 24	9:00 10:30 am

Baptismal Candidate: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP _____

Phone: _____ Date of Birth: _____

E-mail: _____ M or F

Place of Birth (City & State) _____

Parents' Names (if candidate is a child):

Members of Bethany? Yes or No

Religious Affiliation, if not members: _____

Sponsors:

Please complete this form and return it to Bethany Lutheran Church, ELCA or call the church office at (815)459-2690.

A Handbook on Baptism



Bethany Lutheran Church, ELCA
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815-459-8807 FAX

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Portions of this pamphlet are taken from
"The Use of the Means of Grace:
A Statement on the Practice of Word and Sacrament",
adopted by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, 1997.

WHAT IS BAPTISM?

In Holy Baptism the Triune God delivers us from the forces of evil, puts our sinful self to death, gives us new birth, adopts us as children, and makes us members of the body of Christ, the Church. Holy Baptism is received by faith alone.

WHO CAN BE BAPTIZED?

God, whose grace is for all, is the one who acts in Baptism. Therefore candidates for Baptism are of all ages. Some are adults and older children who have heard the Gospel of Jesus Christ, declare their faith, and desire Holy Baptism. Others are the young or infant children of active members of the congregation or those children for whom members of the congregation assume sponsorship.

DO I NEED TO TAKE CLASSES?

Baptism includes instruction and nurture in the faith for a life of discipleship. When infants and young children are baptized, the parents and sponsors receive instruction and the children are taught as they grow older. With adults and older children, the baptismal candidates themselves are given instruction and formation for faith and ministry in the world both prior to and following their baptism.

At Bethany Lutheran Church, baptism instruction takes place during the month prior to baptism. Please contact the church office at 815-459-2690 for the date of the next baptism class.

WHAT IS A SPONSOR?

Sponsors are sometimes called “godparents.” These are baptized adults who are able to take on the lifelong task to nurture the gifts of Baptism in the life of their godchild. When possible, it is encouraged to select at least one sponsor from the congregation members. Other sponsors may also be chosen by the parents or the candidates themselves.

WHEN DOES BAPTISM TAKE PLACE?

Baptism takes place during community worship. At Bethany Lutheran Church, the normative practice is to baptize on the major baptismal festivals of the church. Please plan ahead and call the church office as soon as possible to schedule your baptism.

WHAT HAPPENS IN THE WORSHIP SERVICE?

Baptism normally takes place either at the beginning of the worship service or immediately after the sermon. The baptismal candidate will be brought to the font, where water will be poured on his/her head, and the candidate will be baptized in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. The pastor then lays on hands and prays for the gifts of the Spirit, makes the sign of the cross on the candidate’s forehead, and anoints the candidate with oil.

Special white baptismal garments may be worn, and a lighted candle may be given to the newly baptized.

The sponsors and the congregation will make public promises to uphold their responsibility to pray, nurture, and educate the newly baptized in the years to come.

BAPTISM = MEMBERSHIP

Since Holy Baptism includes membership at Bethany, and since the vows of parents include bringing the baptized child to the services of God’s house and providing for their instruction in the Christian faith, it is Bethany’s responsibility to assist parents in keeping these vows.

Therefore, those children whose parents live outside of Bethany’s immediate ministry area will be provided with the name(s) of Evangelical Lutheran Church in America congregations near where they live, and the child will be listed as an associate member of Bethany until such time as the parents have affiliated with another congregation. At that time, upon the parent’s request, the child’s membership will be transferred to that congregation.