



What is: Baptism?

Baptism is one of the Sacraments of the Christian Church. Jesus instructed the Apostles to go forth and Baptize all nations (adults and children) in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. It is what we in the Lutheran Church call a “means of Grace.” In other words, it is a means by which our sins are forgiven and we become recipients of God’s gift of Salvation.

How can Baptism forgive sins?

Think of the forgiveness of sins in this manner: The Word of God declares to me, a sinner, that my sins are forgiven. Wherever the Word of God is present, the forgiveness of sins must be present too! This means that when we Baptize, the Word of God is present as is His Holy name. Because His name and Word are present, the forgiveness of sins is also present.

Can I be re-baptized as a Lutheran?

In a simple word: No. This is because one Baptism is all you need. If we were to re-baptize anyone, we would be rejecting our own confession that God’s Word is present in Baptism and does all the work. God’s Word is God’s Word, regardless of who is Baptizing, God is the One who does the real work and fulfills His promise.

Do I have to be Baptized?

The better question is: Should I want to be Baptized, or should I desire to Baptize my child? That answer is yes! Though the thief on the cross was forgiven without Baptism, and faith can be present without Baptism, our Lord clearly instructs – even commands - that we should be Baptized. It is another means through which our Lord comes to us and works His gifts in our lives. It is a gift given for our benefit, for the forgiveness of sins, and therefore we should eagerly receive it, and ensure that our children receive it too.



Aren’t there people who fall away from faith after Baptism though?

Just as we can reject faith, we too can despise our own Baptism. Baptism is not an insurance policy for the unfaithful. It is a means of

forgiveness of sins, it establishes and promotes faith. Faith must be nourished, and that means as parents, we must raise our children in the faith to ensure that God’s Word is being received. Adults who are Baptized, must also receive the Word of God to be nourished and grow deeper and stronger in faith.

What about Sponsors/Godparents?

The popular trend with Godparents is to pick a friend or family member for the purpose of expressing a relationship or bond between individuals. The role of a Sponsor or Godparent in the Christian sense is very different. These individuals are in charge of ensuring that the child or adult who is Baptized is growing and maturing in the faith during their journey in this life.

I want (my child) to be Baptized, what should we do?

The first thing you will need to do is speak with the Pastor to arrange a date for the Baptism. On the day of the Baptism, it is best to have any family, sponsors, and those involved present 15-20 minutes before service to meet with the Pastor for a brief explanation of the service. *It is also advisable to inform attending relatives and friends of our practice of Closed Communion.* Baptisms traditionally take place at the beginning of a Worship service, unless another arrangement is made. (Cont. >)

The Baptismal Liturgy which is found in our Hymnal will be used. For infant/child Baptisms, parents and sponsors will speak on behalf of the child or children. The family and sponsors will gather around the Baptismal font, and will follow along with the Liturgy, responding as necessary.

At the appropriate time the Pastor will pour water over the head of the one being Baptized and use the Triune Name: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. A lit candle will be presented, as will a certificate. At this time you and the family will take a seat and the worship service will proceed as usual.



How much does a Baptism cost?

As with all matters of faith, Baptism is a gift that is freely given. There is no cost or fee involved with a Baptism. During the Divine Worship Service collection plates are passed around. If you desire to give, a special Thanksgiving

offering may be given then. Envelopes for Thanksgiving offerings are located in the pews.

Is there anything else we should do after a Baptism?

The Christian faith is more than an act or statement; it is a lifelong journey – from the womb to the tomb. Our entire lives as Christians should be focused upon learning the Word of God, receiving the Sacraments, being in fellowship with our Christian family, and when our journey here is complete - safely entering into life eternal in our Heavenly Father's Kingdom.

What does Lutheranism have to offer?

In the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod we have a regular worship schedule, confirmation class/adult inquirers, and plenty of Bible studies to feed the spiritual hunger of every Christian. All Christians should attend Church regularly, learning and getting to know their Christian family, doctrine, and faith. Baptized Children when reaching the appropriate age should attend Sunday School (age 3+) in order to be better prepared for confirmation. In Confirmation (5-7th grades) they will learn the 10 Commandments, the Apostles Creed, the Lord's Prayer, as well as about the Sacraments. Beyond the Confirmation years are the Teen Youth Group and once into adulthood there are numerous committees and groups to join.

Questions about Baptism?



Baptism in the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod.
A simple answer guide to the common questions that people ask.

"For this reason let everyone esteem his Baptism as a daily dress in which he is to walk constantly, that he may ever be found in the faith and its fruits, that he suppress the old man and grow up in the new."

– Martin Luther