

Do you promise to help your children grow in the Christian faith and life?" Evangelical Lutheran Worship, p. 228

HONORING THE PROMISE

The occasion of your child's Baptism deserves your careful, intentional, and honest consideration on how you will fulfill your Baptismal promises. This event also gives you an opportunity to reconsider your own Christian life. For your own benefit and for the benefit of your child, please answer the questions on this page. It can be a guide for you as you faithfully try to live up to your promises. As a church, we will also offer an event each year to help you and your child in "Honoring the Promise."

Prayer is the way that we can talk with God. It is also a way for us to share joys and sorrows with each other. When will you pray together?

Devotional times with your child are not only a time to share your faith together, but they are also a good way to grow in faith. Reading Bible stories and having daily devotions will help both your child and your relationship. When will you have devotions together?

Worship participation with your child is one of the promises you make at Baptism. How often will you worship together?

Christian Education is essential for your child as you "provide for instruction in the Christian faith." The church will help you by providing you and your child opportunities to grow in faith but we also encourage you to learn more about your faith so that you may be a better teacher for your child. How will you and your child participate in Christian education?

Service toward others is one way we grow into our Baptism and live out our faith. When your child is older, what are some ways you can help others?

Celebrating Baptismal Anniversaries will be a great help for your child to realize and appreciate their Baptism. What are some special things you will do to remember your child's Baptismal anniversary?

SPONSORS

People often wish to have sponsors, sometimes called "Godparents," for their child. The role of a sponsor is to aid parents in the promises they made to God and their child. Sponsors, therefore, need to be people who view Baptism as a sacramental gift from God, who will regularly pray for your child, who will remember your child on the Baptismal anniversary, and who will provide a Christian witness in the way they live. This usually means that a sponsor needs to be an active member of a Christian church. In addition to the sponsors you may choose, your brothers and sisters of Lutheran Church of Hope will also be your child's sponsors and promise to do all these things for your child.

BAPTISMS AT LUTHERAN CHURCH OF HOPE

We are happy and excited that you want your child to be baptized at Lutheran Church of Hope. As soon as you know when you would like your child to be baptized, please call the church office to confirm the date. We also need to know the names of the sponsors and an approximate number of family and friends who will be attending. Baptisms are normally scheduled during our 8:00am or 10:30am worship liturgies. Please contact the Pastor if you have any questions about scheduling a baptism.

Sometime before the Baptism, please plan to attend one of our Baptism Orientation classes held quarterly. On the day of the Baptism, please be at church at least 15 minutes before the service. The pastor will go over final details with you, and the ushers will then direct you to the seats reserved for you near the Baptismal font.

Because Baptism is a worship experience, 'discrete' videotaping and photography is acceptable, and photos may be taken after the service. In addition, the church does request one picture taken with the Pastors for our 'Splashed with the Promise' Picture Board.

Splashed with the Promise...

The Sacrament of HOLY BAPTISM



*"Child of God,
you have been sealed
by the Holy Spirit and
marked with the
Cross of Christ forever."*

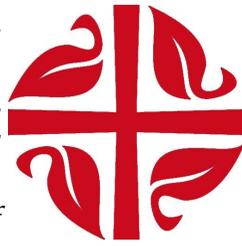


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"In baptism our gracious heavenly Father frees us from sin and death by joining us to the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. We are born children of a fallen humanity; by water and the Holy Spirit we are reborn children of God and made members of the church, the body of Christ. Living with Christ and in the communion of saints, we grow in faith, love, and obedience to the will of God."

Evangelical Lutheran Worship, p. 227



"As you bring your children 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.*

Evangelical Lutheran Worship, p. 228

"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."

Evangelical Lutheran Worship, p. 231



God's Promises

In Baptism, God promises to:

1. make your child a child of God, for your child will be baptized in God's name (Matthew 28:19),
2. wash your child clean of sin (Acts 22:16),
3. give your child the Holy Spirit, which will enable your child to call upon Jesus as Lord (Titus 3:5),
4. make your child a member of the body of Christ, the Church (Romans 6:5), and
5. grant your child eternal life (Mark 16:16).

As the pastor pours water on your child and speaks the Word of God, it is God who addresses your child with these promises and who will faithfully accomplish them in your child. In this gift from God, your child will be born again and begin a whole new life, a life led by Christ instead of a life driven by sin. The baptismal water is the physical sign of this covenant between God and your child.

In presenting your child for Baptism you are doing a wonderful thing. You are permitting your child to receive a precious gift, God's gift of eternal love. Through Baptism, for the rest of life, your child can be sure of God's faithful and unconditional love.



Your Promises

When you present your child for Baptism, you also make very important promises. You promise to:

1. help your child grow in faith by the devotional and prayer life in your home,
2. help your child grow in faith within the community of faith, the Church, and
3. take every opportunity to show your child God's steadfast love and mercy given in Baptism.

When you present your child to receive Holy Baptism, you take upon yourself the responsibility to tell your child of the wonderful promises that God gives in Baptism. You promise to do all that you can to cultivate in your child the hope, peace, joy, love, and meaning that is part of the life of a child of God. You are promising to do such things as read the Bible with your child, worship regularly, and teach him/her about the Christian faith at home, as well as at church. Research has shown that a child's biggest faith mentors are their parents.

You need to consider the magnitude of the promises that God gives your child in Baptism, promises more valuable than anything the world can give. You also need to consider how foolish it would be for your child to live even one day without knowing God's love shown in Christ and through Baptism. Truly, the promises you make when you present your child for Holy Baptism are the most important promises that you will ever make to your child.

Church's Promises

When your child is baptized, we, your Christian brothers and sisters, promise to:

1. look upon your child as an important member of our Christian community,
2. support you in making God's promises known to your child, and
3. support you in keeping the promises that you make to your child at Baptism.

When your child is baptized during the worship service, we, the members of Lutheran Church of Hope, give you and your child our word that we will help you in the lifelong journey of faith formation. We believe that growing in faith is a partnership of both the home and congregation.

As a congregation, we offer ministry events from time to time to equip you as parents to talk about and live the faith in your home. The church partners with you as your present to your child their Bible in third grade, and when your child is ready, we offer a First Communion workshop for both you and your child. Many milestones of both faith and life are recognized and celebrated along with the way, including Confirmation and high school graduation.

You and your child's regular attendance at the worship opportunities we offer will also be an important way to be fed with God's Word and grow in care and concern for each other and the world.