

SPONSORS

While sponsors, or Godparents, are most often associated with infant or child baptism, having a spiritual sponsor or others to support you is very valuable and desirable for youth and adults as well. The role of a spiritual sponsor is to aid you in the promises you make to God. They need to be people who view Baptism as a sacramental gift from God, who will regularly pray for you, and who will provide a Christian witness in the way they live. In addition to the spiritual supports you may choose, your brothers and sisters of St Luke's will also promise to do all these things for you.

BAPTISMS AT ST LUKE'S We are happy and excited that you want to be baptized at St Luke's. We take joy in baptisms as a congregational celebration, and therefore prefers to schedule multiple baptisms to occur on the same day of worship, 2-3 times per year. As soon as you know that you would like to be baptized, please call the church office to schedule the next most appropriate date. We also need to know the names of the spiritual sponsors and an approximate number of family and friends who will be attending. Because of the important role the congregation plays in your Baptism, we strongly encourage you to schedule the Baptism during a worship service.

Sometime before the Baptism, please plan to attend the Baptism and Basics classes which are held for both parents of infants as well as youth or adults that are being baptized. Please talk to the pastor if you have already participated in such a class. 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, please do not take flash photos during the service. Discrete videotaping is acceptable, and photos may be taken after the service.

HONORING THE PROMISE

The occasion of your Baptism deserves your careful, intentional, and honest consideration on how you will fulfill your Baptismal promises and your walk in your Christian life. For your benefit, 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 each of us honor the promises made in baptism.

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?*

Devotional times are very important in growing in your faith. Reading the Bible and having daily devotions will help your relationship with God and others. Daily devotion booklets are available for free here at church. *When will you have devotions?*

Worship participation is one of the promises you make at Baptism. *How often will you worship?*

Christian Education is essential for your faith formation. We can help by providing a faith formation ministry for all ages of life, small groups for education and mutual growth, as well as other opportunities. *How will you participate in Christian education?*

Service toward others is one way we grow into our Baptism and live out our faith. *What are some ways you can help others?*

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

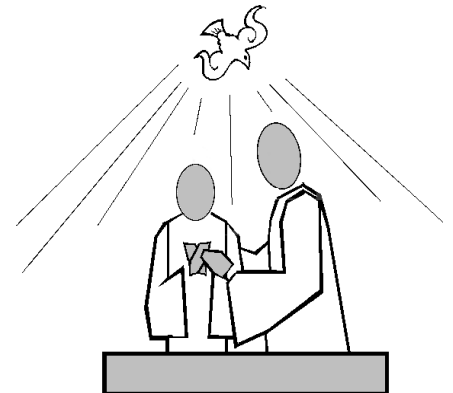


Holy Baptism

(Oct 2016)

Youth and Adult Baptism Rite and Celebration

St Luke's Lutheran Church



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

St Luke's Lutheran Church
11020 NC Hwy 801
Mt Ulla, NC 28125
704-278-2710
www.stlukesmtulla.org

In Holy Baptism our gracious heavenly Father liberates 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, in the waters of Baptism we are reborn children of God and inheritors of eternal life. By water and the Holy Spirit we are made members of the Church which is the body of Christ. As we live with him and with his people, we grow in faith, love, and obedience to the will of God."

(Sacrament of Baptism, Lutheran Book of Worship, page 121)



In Baptism, God promises to:

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

As the pastor baptizes you with water and speaks the Word of God, it is God who addresses you with these promises and who will faithfully accomplish them in you. In this gift from God, you 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 you.

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

"In Christian love you have presented these people for Holy Baptism. You should, therefore, faithfully care for them and help them in every way as God gives you opportunity, that they may bear witness to the faith we profess, and that, living in the covenant of their Baptism and in communion with the Church, they may lead godly lives until the day of Jesus Christ."

(Sacrament of Baptism, Lutheran Book of Worship, page 122)



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

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

When you present yourself to receive Holy Baptism, you take upon yourself the responsibility to tell others of the wonderful promises that God gives in Baptism. You promise to do all that you can to cultivate 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, worship regularly and engage in ongoing faith formation with the congregation.

You need to consider the magnitude of the promises that God gives you in Baptism, promises more valuable than anything the world can give.

"We welcome you into the Lord's family. We receive you as a fellow member of the Body of Christ, child of the same heavenly Father, and worker with us in the Kingdom of God. "

(Sacrament of Baptism, Lutheran Book of Worship, p. 125)



When you are baptized, we, your Christian brothers and sisters, promise to:

- 1) look upon you as an important member of our Christian community,
- 2) remind you of the promises God made to you, and
- 2) support you in keeping the promises that you made at your Baptism.

When you are baptized during the worship service, we, the members of St Luke's Lutheran Church, give you our word that we will help you in the lifelong affirmation of faith.

We offer ongoing faith formation and Christian education for children to adults, as well as opportunities to serve both within the faith community and within the community around us. Through these you are fed with God's Word, and grow in care and concern for others and the world.