

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. In addition to the sponsors you may choose, your brothers and sisters at St Luke's will also be your child's sponsors and promise to do all these things for your child.

BAPTISMS AT ST. LUKE'S We are happy and excited that you want your child to be baptized at St Luke's. We take joy in baptisms as a congregational celebration, and therefore prefer to schedule multiple baptisms to occur on the same day of worship, 2-3 times per year. As soon as you know you would like your child to be baptized, please call the church office to schedule the next most appropriate date. If this is absolutely impossible you will need to make special arrangements with the pastor. We also need to know the names of the sponsors and an approximate number of family and friends who will be attending. Because of the important role the congregation plays in your child's 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 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 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 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. (Daily devotion booklets geared for children are available for free here at church.) *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's faith formation. The church will help you by providing children's and youth faith formation ministries, Confirmation instruction and other opportunities, 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?*

(OCT 2016)

Infant 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

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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)



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.

"In Christian love you have presented your child for Holy Baptism. You should, therefore, faithfully bring your child to the services of God's house, teach your child the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments As your child grows in years, you should place in your child's hands the Holy Scriptures and provide for instruction in the Christian faith, that, living in the covenant of your child's Baptism and in communion with the Church, your child may lead a godly life until the day of Jesus Christ."

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



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 accept 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, participate in ongoing faith formation with the congregation, and any other way you can.

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. 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.

"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)



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 St Luke's, give you and your child our word that we will help you in the lifelong affirmation of faith.

We begin by giving you a children's Bible to read with your child. We offer ongoing faith formation and Christian education for children to adults. Instruction about Communion is offered at many different ages, with a special First Communion instruction series when you and your child are ready. Contact the pastor for more information.

You and your child's regular attendance at the many 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.