



ST. PETER'S LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL

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"Follow me and I will make you fishers of men"
Matt. 4:19

WHAT WE BELIEVE ABOUT BAPTISM

Baptism is a sign of God's love and His will that we be reborn in the image of Jesus Christ. It is NOT something that we do for Him; rather, it is an ACT OF GOD whereby He unites us with the risen Christ and makes us members of God's family. All that we need ever do to receive this gift of eternal life with Him is to accept and believe in Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior. Baptism is a deed by God that helps enable us to live according to the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

In Old Testament times there were ceremonies in which people washed themselves with water to purify their bodies in obedience to God's laws. John the Baptist also baptized people but he added a new dimension to the earlier Hebrew practice. John's baptism called people to repent of their sins, and in this way people were being prepared for the coming Messiah who would forgive their sins. John also baptized Jesus, NOT as an act of repentance since Jesus was sinless, but rather to demonstrate the need for people to be obedient to God's will. After the resurrection Jesus gave this COMMAND: "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit." (Matthew 28:19) We baptize because Jesus told us to do so.

Baptism assures us of victory over death. It is the door to life in Jesus. In baptism we receive God's promise of salvation, and we are assured of the forgiveness of our sins when we accept Him as Lord and Savior. Baptism also unites us with others in His Church, and we become true parts of His family. Thus, baptism unites the element of water with God's Word to give us life, forgiveness and salvation.

Since baptism is God's gift of love to us, we baptize children and also adults who have never been baptized before. Infants and children are baptized so that they may receive the benefits of God's grace which frees us from the bondage of sin when we accept Jesus through the guidance of the Holy Spirit. We baptize adults, who have never been baptized as a child, after a period of instruction and a profession of faith so that they, too, may receive this gift of new life.

To Lutherans, baptism is a sacrament. It is a command of Jesus and it changes us within. It is the key to a Christian life free from guilt and confusion. It opens the door to love both in terms of receiving God's love and responding to it by showing love to others. Thus, it is vital that we understand its true meaning, that we participate in the celebration of baptism whenever possible, that we look to our own baptism for daily renewal, and that because of what He has done for us we share our faith in God with others.

THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF LUTHERAN CHURCHES

THE ROLE OF PARENTS AND SPONSORS

Baptism is a joyful celebration for all members of Christ's Church. It is also a sacred obligation meant to be shared by the family, sponsors and godparents as well as by the whole church community. Thus, the following information is necessary for all those who wish to be baptized or have their child baptized at St. Peter's Lutheran Church, Elk Grove, California.

THE ROLE OF PARENTS

Parents **MUST** care for the spiritual needs of their children. They have **PRIMARY** responsibility to provide for their child's baptism, to build a family based on the spirit of kindness, respect and forgiveness, to teach them to pray and help them learn the basic teachings of the Christian faith, and to nourish their children's spiritual growth by encouraging active participation in worship, education and in the church's work.

With this understanding, I (we) desire to have my (our) child baptized into the Christian faith and provide the following information for this purpose:

FULL NAME OF THE CHILD (OR ADULT) TO BE BAPTIZED: _____

REQUESTED BAPTISM DATE: _____ (We try to avoid 1st & 3rd Communion Sundays)

WHICH CHURCH SERVICE (circle one) 8:30am 11:15am 6 pm

MALE ___ FEMALE ___ DATE OF BIRTH: _____ PLACE OF BIRTH: _____

MOTHER'S MAIDEN NAME (For Child): _____

NAME(S) OF PARENT(S) _____

ADDRESS: _____ PHONE: _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP: _____

PARENTS SIGNATURE(S): _____

THE ROLE OF SPONSORS

Sponsors help the baptized person bear witness to Christ. In the case of infants, they often present the candidate at the baptismal font, and set an example of Christian life and service for the newly baptized person. Sponsors also pray for the person baptized and encourage him or her to lead a Christian life.

With this understanding the following individual(s) agree to serve as sponsors for the above named candidate for baptism:

NAME OF SPONSOR(S): _____

ADDRESS OF SPONSOR(S): _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP: _____

SIGNATURE OF SPONSOR(S): _____

Please return this form at least one week prior to date of Baptism.

IF YOU HAVE A PASTORAL PREFERENCE FOR THE BAPTISM: (Please circle one.)

Pastor Eddy

Pastor Salge

Pastor Lundblom

NOTE: NO photographs or videos are permitted during the Baptism Service since this distracts from the worshipful nature of the Sacrament. If photographs or videos are desired, they may be taken at the Baptismal Font following the worship service. Please advise all family members and friends of this policy.