

Preparing for Baptism at Zion

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.

Presentation, Holy Baptism from *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*

What is baptism in the Lutheran Church?

Baptism is one of two sacraments for Lutherans, the other being Holy Communion. Baptism is the entry rite into Christian faith. It is an act instituted by God, performed using water in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, whereby the baptized is united with Christ. God is the one who acts in Baptism, and we baptize in response to the Great Commission given by Jesus: "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).

What gifts or benefits does baptism grant? (Taken from *Luther's Small Catechism*)

Baptism brings about forgiveness of sins, redeems from death and the devil, and gives eternal salvation to all who believe it, as the words and promise of God declare.

What are the responsibilities of parents, sponsors, and families (for infants and children) and adults who choose to be baptized?

Baptism is not just a single event, but rather a journey that unfolds over a lifetime. Once a person—regardless of age—is baptized, they officially become part of the family of God and of a specific Christian community. Living in community is all about relationships, and so the newly baptized (or parents/sponsors) promise to

- live among God's faithful people in community with one another,
- come to hear the word of God and receive the holy supper,
- learn/teach the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments,
- read and study God's word ("place in their hands the holy scriptures"), and
- be nurtured/nurture in faith and prayer,

As Christians, baptism strengthens us to be able to learn to trust God, proclaim Christ through word and deed, care for others and the world God made, and work for justice and peace.

How do we celebrate baptisms at Zion?

We believe that baptism is a community celebration. The whole family of God takes upon themselves the promise to make the church and the world a place that will offer the newly baptized the love and support needed to live a life of faith to grow to full Christian maturity. For this reason, we celebrate baptism as part of our worship service and not as a special closed session for only family.



ZION
Ministries Under the Cross

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Zion is a Reconciling in Christ (RIC) community, and extends God's radical welcome to all people, because we're all created in God's image.