

Baptisms at Journey Lutheran Church

What is Holy Baptism?

In Holy Baptism, our gracious heavenly Father liberates us from sin, death, and the devil by joining us to the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Baptism is something God does to us: In the waters of the sacrament, God puts us to death on the cross with Christ and then raises us to new life. Baptism is God's way of acting to make us a part of his family.

Baptism is for children and adults

While infant Baptism is practiced in the Lutheran church, it is recognized that many have not grown up in the Lutheran Church and may have never been baptized in the name of the Trinity. Adults and children, alike, who have never been baptized in a Christian Church, are welcomed in the Christian community through the sacrament of Holy Baptism.

Baptism is done once in a person's life

The Christian life calls the baptized to return to Christ daily. Christians do this by claiming the promises God makes in Holy Baptism. Because God is the actor in Holy Baptism, the baptized trust his actions to be true and faithful. For this reason, Lutheran Christians and other mainline Christian Churches, do not baptize a second time.

Baptisms are events of the congregation

Baptism is always a public event in the Church. When a person is baptized, he/she is baptized into the body of Christ, which is the Church, the gathered community of faith. For this reason, the community has a stake in every baptism.

Private baptisms are appropriate only in emergency situations when it is not possible to gather the community of faith. In keeping with the protocol of the Lutheran Church, this congregation may act on behalf of another to celebrate baptism, at the discretion of Journey Lutheran's pastor. Celebrating a baptism "in proxy" of another congregation shall only happen at the request of the pastor of the church where the baptismal candidate is already involved. In such a circumstance, the membership of the newly baptized shall be transferred immediately to the congregation where he/she is active.

The Pastor presides at Baptism

In the Lutheran Church, it is typically the responsibility and joy of a pastor who has been called to a particular congregation to preside at all baptisms of that congregation. Visit with the pastor if you have a reason to involve another member of the clergy in the baptismal service. The pastor will work with you to schedule the date for the baptism and make this a special day for the one being baptized, for you, for your family and friends and the entire congregation of Journey Lutheran.

Preparing for Baptism

The pastor will meet with the parents and sponsors/godparents early on to teach about the understanding of baptism. Another meeting will take place closer to the baptism to go over the particulars of the service.

Baptism and church membership

When a person is baptized, he/she becomes a member of the church in which they are baptized. If the household of the newly baptized does not hold membership in this congregation, the newly baptized will remain a member of Journey Lutheran and their baptism will be recorded in the permanent records of Journey Lutheran from the information you provide.

Selecting sponsors/godparents

Sponsors/godparents are people of faith who actively participate in a Christian Church of their choice. They are charged with the responsibility of helping the newly baptized grow in the faith. Should you have concerns (age, religion, commitment) regarding your choice of sponsors, please discuss this with the pastor.

Baptisms in emergencies

When an unbaptized person is near death and baptism is desired, it is appropriate to call the pastor. Such baptisms can happen at home or in the hospital or institutional setting. Baptisms done outside of the congregation will be recognized in a worship service when appropriate and the baptism will be recorded at Journey Lutheran.

Photos and videos

As this is a worship service, no flash photography is allowed as it distracts from the worshipful nature of the occasion. However, we do encourage you to have someone take non-flash photographs or video of your child's baptism. This is a good teaching tool and a wonderful way of sharing your memory of your child's baptism as they grow older. More importantly, we encourage you to tell them the story of their baptism and what it means in their faith development. Flash photography is most certainly allowed following the service.

Fees

This congregation does not charge a fee to celebrate baptism. It is a ministry of the church and a sacrament freely given by God.