



# BAPTISM PLANNING

## What is Baptism?

Martin Luther, in his Small Catechism, a pamphlet to help parents teach their children the basics of the Christian faith, declares:

### What gifts or benefits does baptism grant?

It 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 these words and promises of God?

Where our Lord Christ says in Mark 16, “The one who believes and is baptized will be saved; but the one who does not believe will be

condemned.”

### What then is the significance of such a baptism with water?

It signifies that the old person in us with all sins and evil desires is to be drowned and die through daily repentance and on the other hand that daily a new person is to come forth and rise up to live before God in righteousness and purity forever.

### Where is this written?

St. Paul says in Romans 6, “We have been buried with Christ by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.”

## Who can be baptized?

Baptism is a gift from God. All who receive it in faith are ready to be baptized. Adults will be asked to take part in our Christian Basics class so that they are prepared to make their statement of faith with their baptism. Infants and Children who cannot answer for themselves are baptized when their parents and baptismal sponsors answer for them, and then take responsibility for their Christian life until they can answer for themselves at the end of Confirmation Instruction, usually in middle school or early high school.

## Who can be a baptismal sponsor/godparent?

One or more people are designated to participate in the service as sponsor/godparent. Being asked to be a sponsor/godparent is a great honor. It says that parents trust that person to be a model and mentor in the Christian faith for their child throughout their lives. Anyone who is an **active** member of a Christian church can be a baptismal sponsor/godparent. The church doesn't have to be a Lutheran church.

## What do I need to do to be baptized, or to have my child baptized?

Adults and/or parents should at least be regular attenders who have decided that Faith Lutheran Church is going to be the church where they will be active participants. Adults, parents and sponsors make promises in the baptismal service to, among other things, worship

regularly or, in the case of parents, bring their children regularly to worship. It is unlikely that people will keep those promises if they are not living them in their own lives.

### **What if I think I've been baptized before?**

Check with anyone who might know. We do not re-baptize people (see next) but we will baptize someone who doesn't think they have been baptized, but isn't sure, and there is no one to ask.

### **What if I've come to a new appreciation for my Christian faith and want to be re-baptised?**

We rejoice with you in your Christian growth. However, baptism is an act and gift from God. It can be celebrated but not repeated. In addition, we believe that we are not baptized Lutheran, or Catholic, or Baptist, or anything else but as a Christian. A valid baptism, done in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, is a gift that cannot be taken away.

### **Do you do private baptisms?**

No. Baptism is a community event. Like many other things in the Church, it is personal, but not private.

### **When are baptisms scheduled?**

Baptisms can take place at any of our public worship services. We try to do them on non-communion Sundays so the focus can be on one thing: baptism. Check with the church office to see which services are non-communion services. You may also want to check to see if other baptisms are scheduled, though we will do as many as are desired at any given worship service.

### **Do you have any literature about baptism I can look at?**

Yes. We have age-appropriate literature that explains baptism. Just contact us and arrange to get copies.

### **How do I get started?**

Contact Pastor David Berkedal at [dberkedal@faithsd.net](mailto:dberkedal@faithsd.net) or at 909 599-3978 to discuss your baptism and to set a date!

