

Holy Baptism
Evangelical Lutheran Church

We are happy and excited that you want to, or you want your child to be baptized at Evangelical Lutheran Church (ELC). Baptism is a beautiful gift we receive from God and this gift is for all ages. You may be an adult looking to be baptized, or you may desire to have your child receive this gift.

Baptism is more than just water. It is water used according to God's command and joined with God's Word: "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

We love celebrating baptisms and are excited to celebrate this concrete expression of God's love with you!

Holy baptism is filled with God's promises - your promises - and the church's promises.

In Baptism, **God promises** to:

- Make you/your child a child of God, for you/your child will be baptized in God's name (Matthew 28:19)
- Wash you/your child clean of sin (Acts 22:16)
- Give you/your child the Holy Spirit, which will enable you/your child to call upon Jesus as Lord (Titus 3:5)
- Make you/your child a member of the body of Christ, the Church (Romans 6:5)
- Grant you/your child eternal life (Mark 16:16)

In birth, we join a broken and messy human family. In baptism, we are brought by God into His family, there to be loved, cared for, and nourished by God. As the pastor pours water on you/your child and speaks the Word of God, it is God who addresses you/your child with these promises and who will faithfully accomplish them in you/your child. In this gift from God, you/your child will begin a whole new life, a life led by Christ instead of a life driven by sin.

In Baptism, **you promise** to:

If Adult being baptized:

- Grow in your faith by the devotional and prayer life.
- Grow in faith within the community and the church.

- Take every opportunity to show others God's steadfast love and mercy given in baptism.

When you decide to receive Holy Baptism, you take upon yourself the responsibility of growing in your faith and learning about the wonderful promises that God gives in Baptism. You promise to do all that you can to cultivate 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, worship regularly within a community of faith, and learn about the Christian faith.

Your child being baptized:

- Help your child grow in faith by the devotional and prayer life in your home.
- Help your child grow in faith within the community of faith and the Church.
- 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 take upon yourself 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 within a community of faith, and teach them about the Christian faith at home.

In Baptism, we, **your Christian siblings of ELC promise** to:

- Look upon you/your child as an important member of our Christian community.
- Support you in making God's promises known to yourself/your child.
- Support you in keeping the promises that you make to yourself/your child at Baptism.

When you/your child is baptized during the worship service, we, the members of Evangelical Lutheran church, give you and your child our word that we will help you in the lifelong affirmation of faith.

One of the ways that our church and its members help parents in passing on the faith is through a program called Milestone Ministry. Beginning with baptism and at various milestones in your child's life, you and your child are invited to attend faith learning events at ELC and participate in worship celebrations marking each milestone and reaffirming the promises of baptism. The first of these milestones after baptism is called the Anniversary of Baptism and is celebrated on Baptism of our Lord Sunday (usually

the first Sunday in January). As your child grows in years, you will be invited to participate in other milestones such as beginning Sunday school, receiving a Bible, first communion and confirmation.

Steps to consider when planning your/your child's baptism:

- 1) Parents or persons desiring to be or have their child baptized are encouraged to contact the church office as soon as possible so that a date for the baptism can be arranged. Our phone number is (715) 284-4213.
- 2) Parents or persons will also need to schedule a pre-baptism appointment with our pastor. The pastor will assist you in filling out the baptismal information sheet, provide instruction on the meaning and benefits of baptism, and answer any questions you may have about the service.

On the day of baptism, seating will be reserved for you, your family, and friends in the front of the church. Please be at the church at least 15 minutes before the service begins so that the pastor can go over the final details with you. Immediately preceding the baptism, parents, child, and sponsors will be invited to gather around the baptismal font facing the congregation.

Because baptism is a worship experience, please no flash photography during the service. Photos may also be taken after the service and are encouraged to celebrate this glorious event.

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 make to God and their child. Sponsors, therefore, need to be baptized Christians 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. This usually means that a sponsor is an active member of a Christian church.

Spiritual growth for you and your family:

The occasion of your child's Baptism deserves your careful, intentional, and honest consideration of how you will fulfill your Baptismal promises. This event also gives you an opportunity to evaluate your own Christian life.

The following questions are a guide to assist you as you prepare to live a faithful life to God.

Prayer is a way that we can talk with God. “When will you make time to pray as a family?” “What prayers will you use regularly in your home?”

Worship participation with your child is one of the promises you make at Baptism. “How often will you worship 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 you and your child strengthen your relationship. “When will we make time to read bible stories?” “What daily devotional resources will you use?”

Christian education is essential for your child. The church will help you by providing Sunday School, Milestone Ministry, and other youth 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 I grow in my faith?” “What adult educational opportunities fit my interest in learning?”

Service for others is one way we grow into our Baptism and live out our faith. “When your child is older, how will you show the importance of helping others?” “In what ways can you and your family volunteer and participate in service events?”

We welcome you into our ELC family as blessed children of God.