

BAPTISM AT ZION

Baptism is a gift of God's grace to children and adults. You are welcome to join us and celebrate this gift for yourself and/or your child in the Christian faith. Please contact the church office or talk with Pastor about arranging for a Baptism at worship. Please pray and consider joining us in faith through the water and the words of promise made by God upon our lives. We remember that the mission of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America's mission statement is: *"Marked with the cross of Christ forever, we are claimed, gathered, and sent for the sake of the world."*

Baptism is a source of identity! Developmental psychologists say that shame is developed early on in the life of the child. I don't need to find myself, God has already found me in my Baptism and accepts and approves me. I belong to the body of Christ. Your identity is not rooted in what others say about you or about what you think about yourself. *"I have called you by name and you are mine."* – Isaiah!

Baptism is held in the context of the community because your identity is then rooted in your identity with God's people and not on your own. Baptism is a sacrament of inclusion. The greatest distance in the world is the 18 inches between your head and your heart and Baptism is rooted in connecting the two. You do not find your identity, you are found by God in your Baptism. God finds you in your Baptism and in the community of people called the church.

All of life is sacred and a gift. There are many physical elements in life that are sacred and filled with the grace of God. Human relationships are sacred to us. We have very sacred personal connections with one another that are very special and holy.

What makes Baptism a sacrament is that it has three characteristics. These three characteristics make up the two sacraments in the Lutheran Church, Baptism and Holy Communion.

1. Gift of God's Grace!
2. Physical Element Attached!
3. Commanded by Jesus!

The Gift of God's Grace in Baptism is that we are adopted into God's family. The Physical Elements attached in Baptism is the water and Word. Baptism was commanded by Christ when he told the disciples to baptize.



Sunday Worship - (9:15am (in person and Facebook Live)

Zion Lutheran Church

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Rev. Dr. Michael E. Thomas

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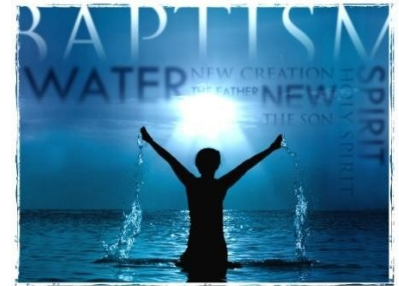
PARENTS AND BAPTISM - Parents have the greatest influence on the faith of the child. Any parent who desires to have their child Baptized into the Christian faith is invited to call the office to make arrangements. We encourage parents to attend worship at least for one month before a Baptism is scheduled & attend a Baptism class. Please talk with Pastor about a date for Baptism. We want to help you support the spiritual formation of your child.

AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM - Parents make a commitment to raise their baptized child in the Christian community in Baptism. We trust that the Holy Spirit will lead that child to a point in their life when they will want to affirm the gift of grace in Christ as their Lord and Savior. We encourage all Christians daily to reaffirm that gift of grace and walk in their Baptism as children of God. We daily give up control and allow the Holy Spirit to lead our lives as disciples of Christ.

BAPTISM SPONSORS - The role of the Baptismal Sponsor is to support the parents in laying down a Biblical foundation in the life of the child. This takes place not just on the day of the Baptism. The Sponsor promises to help with the Spiritual development of the child until adulthood. The Baptismal Sponsor is encouraged to participate in the life of the child by remembering the day of the Baptism every year. Sponsors are encouraged to give their God-child a gift on the anniversary of the Baptism that will help the child learn more about Jesus. The average toy is to be avoided, as most other friends and family members will purchase these items. Consider buying videos (*Veggie Tales, Davie and Goliath*, etc.) or age-appropriate music (refer to local Christian book store) or age-related Bibles. These items will continue to encourage the child to develop a relationship with Jesus as they get older.

THE GIFTS OF BAPTISM

- ⇒ Baptism is a SACRAMENT
- ⇒ Baptism gives us NEW LIFE
- ⇒ Baptism makes us GOD'S CHILDREN
- ⇒ Baptism occurs ONCE
- ⇒ Baptism is for CHILDREN & ADULTS



THE CALLING IN BAPTISM - God continue to call and recall us back to God's promises made in Baptism.

1. God will continue to initiate a calling to get your attention.

“When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you...” - John 16:13

2. We are all called to be priests, called by God to serve others.

“But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.” – I Peter 2:9

3. God will continue to call you back into relationship through the word, others and creation.

“Now the Lord came and stood there, calling as before, ‘Samuel! Samuel!’

And Samuel said, ‘Speak, for your servant is listening.’” – I Samuel 3:10

“Therefore every Christian has enough in Baptism to learn and to practice all his life; for he has always enough to do to believe firmly what it promises and brings: victory over death and the devil, forgiveness of sin, the grace of God, the entire Christ, and the Holy Ghost with His gifts.”

-Large Catechism, Martin Luther

“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I will be with you always, to the end of the age.”

-Matthew 28:19-20

BAPTISM TERMS

- Rebirth - New beginning
- Baptism - Washing away of sin
- Original Sin - all of our have sin from birth
- Resurrection - Jesus was raised from the dead
- Children of God - We are adopted into God's family
- Sacrament - sacred, holy, set apart; an outward sign of the mystery of God's grace and mercy
- Catholic - the universal Christian church for all who believe in Jesus Christ.
- Renew - Daily we can remember our baptism

BAPTISM BIBLE PASSAGES

- Isaiah 53:6 - Like sheep we've go astray
- Psalm 139:13-16 - God knows me
- Jeremiah 1:5 - I knew you in mom's womb
- Matthew 3:16-17 - This is my beloved Son
- Matthew 28:16-20 - Great Commission
- Mark 16:15-16 - Baptize and save
- Luke 15:11-24 - Loving Father forgives son
- John 15:1-7 - Jesus is vine & we are branches
- John 17:11-20 - Jesus protected disciples
- Acts 2:38 - repent and be baptized
- Ephesians 1:13 - Stamped with Holy Spirit
- Ephesians 4:5 - One Lord and one baptism

BIBLE AND BAPTISM

"When we were baptized, we died and were buried with Christ. We were baptized, so that, we would live a new life, as Christ was raised to life by the glory of God the Father." Romans 6:4

"So you are children of God through faith in Christ Jesus. And all who have been united with Christ in baptism have been made like Him." Galatians 3:26-27

"Each of you must turn from your sins and turn to God, and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins." Acts 2:38

TEACHING YOUR CHILD ABOUT BAPTISM

The home has been, is and always will be the primary school of faith. To help families learn about the promises made by God in baptism and build a stronger spiritual bond between parent and child, we encourage a daily check-in....

- 1) **Check-in:** Share *Highs & Lows* for the day (ups and downs?) Pray for your child and for yourself as you serve one another in the home.
- 2) **Read & Reflect:** Read and highlight a verse from this material. Ask, "What does it mean for us?" Read and talk on one of the quotations, questions or terms from this handout.
- 3) **Blessing:** Close by marking one another with a cross on the forehead and say: *"(Name), child of God, always remember that God loves you and so do I."*

You Are Asked To...

1. Watch the Baptism scene from the movie ["The Jesus Film"](#)
2. Memorize the 3 things that make up a sacrament...
3. Read and discuss page Bible passages...
4. Fill out this form and send to Pastor in preparation for celebrating Baptism...

Information		(please return to zionrockford@gmail.com)			
Full name of child (or)					
Full name of adult					
Date of Birth					
City of Birth					
Date of Baptism					
Sponsor/s Name/s					
Sponsor's related to Baptisee	Yes / No	How?			
Parents Full Name					
Parents Full Name					
Parents Marital Status	Married	Engaged	Widow	Divorced	
Parents Members?	Mom?	Dad?			
Address/City					
Home Phone					
Cell Phone					
E-mail					
Participate in Service by:	Flower Dedication (\$35)	In memory/Dedicate to			
	Read Lessons	Who?			
	Light Candles	Who?			
	Other?	Who?			

QUOTES ON BAPTISM

- *"After baptism, original sin is like a wound which has begun to heal. It is really a wound, yet it is becoming better and is constantly in the process of healing."* – Martin Luther
- *"Baptism saves you like a life preserver saves you. It's there. Cling to it."* – Rich Melheim
- *"In Baptism, God is like a big hand coming down to you and claiming you."* - Pastor Mike Thomas
- *"You are Christ's sheep; you bear the mark of the Lord in the sacrament you have received, but you have wandered away and are lost."* – St. Augustine