

The Dawn of New Life with God



***Baptized
unto the Lord***

Saint Thomas Lutheran Church

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CONGRATULATIONS ON RECEIVING THIS GIFT OF NEW LIFE



God has been good to you as parents, placing a precious life under your care. This child will be depending on you for many years to provide food, clothing, shelter, guidance, and a host of other things too numerous to list.

We at Saint Thomas Lutheran would dearly like to help you as your child grows to meet your increased responsibilities for this new life. Your child is entirely dependent upon you to help him/her come to Jesus.



To help you with your Christian parenting responsibilities, Saint Thomas stands ready as family to pray for you and your child, to provide you with the spiritual nourishment you need, to nurture your faith in sound, Scriptural Bible studies, and to assist you in educating your child in the Christian faith through a variety of excellent Christian programs.

We see ourselves as partners in bringing your child to a knowledge of forgiveness and salvation through faith in Jesus Christ, from cradle to grave.



When you have finished reading this booklet, and have filled out the application, you may call the church office to schedule an appointment with the pastor. The pastor can, at this time, offer open days and times for a baptismal date. Please bring the application with you to the meeting.

YOUR RESPONSIBILITIES AS A CHRISTIAN PARENT

Baptism is the beginning of God's action in a person's life. But what follows Baptism is just as important. God's saving action is always to be followed by growth in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ (2 Peter 3:18). As the clipping from a houseplant is placed in the rooster to get roots, so Baptism gives the child roots in the family of God. However, the plant clipping, once rooted, must be put in the soil for growth and nurture to bring forth its fruit. So also, the Baptism rooting of a child must be followed by Christian growth and nurture in the soil of God's love in Christ (Col. 2:6-7). Obviously both the rooting and the growing are important. God has provided for such nurture of infants primarily through parents, with the church standing alongside to assist and guide.

One of your first responsibilities as Christian parents is the choice of suitable sponsors. The best time to plan your child's baptism is TODAY. We encourage you to consider the importance of choosing mature, Christian sponsors to assist you in the Christian training of your child. This important responsibility should not be a way to reward friendships or satisfy family obligations. (See "Responsibilities of Christian Sponsors" later in this brochure.)

Take time to choose the person or persons that share your faith in the Triune God, who believe as you do about the nature and purpose of Baptism.

A BIBLICAL ILLUSTRATION ON THE BLESSINGS OF BAPTISM

In Romans 6:1-11, St. Paul graphically depicts the gift of baptism. In the connection of God's Word to the baptismal waters, we are:

1. ***“Crucified together with Christ Jesus”*** (v.6). Through our baptism, the penalty of our sins were paid by Jesus Christ (Isaiah 53:5). He took them all up to the cross, and delivered us (Matthew 20:28) from the wages of our sins (Romans 6:23). “For God made Him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in Him, we might become the righteousness of God” (2 Corinthians 5:21).



2. ***“Baptized into Christ's death”*** (v. 3). He suffered the eternal death for us on the cross. Through our baptism, the eternal benefits of Christ's death are credited to us. “Just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all men, because all sinned... just as sin reigned in death, so also grace might reign through righteousness to bring eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord” (Romans 5:12, 21).
3. ***“Buried with Christ into death”*** (v.4). Through our baptism, the sting of death is buried with Christ, for “death has been swallowed up in victory... ‘Where, O death, is your sting?’ The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God! He give us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ” (1 Corinthians 15:54-57).
4. ***“Raised to New Life to the glory of God the Father”*** (v.4). Through baptism, God imparts the new life necessary for entrance into His kingdom (“No one can enter the Kingdom of God unless He is born of water and the Spirit”, John 3:5-6), “putting on the new man, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness” (Ephesians 4:24).
5. ***“United with Jesus in His Resurrection”*** (v.5). We are given the assurance that in the end we will see God face to face (Revelation 22:4) with our own eyes (Job 19:27) and we are assured we will be with Him forever (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18).
6. ***“Freed from sin”*** (v.7). Although all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God (Romans 3:23), including infants (who too are sinful- Psalm 51:5; 58:3; Genesis 8:21; Job 14:4), God has redeemed us from the curse of the law, by becoming a curse for us (Galatians 3:13) and freeing us, through the faith given us in baptism, from the bondage to sin (John 8:31-36).

As you can see, God richly blesses us through the gift of baptism, supplying us with an abundance of heavenly blessings. It is our joy, here at Saint Thomas, to serve you. We greatly appreciate the opportunity- through baptism- to bring your child into the family of God. We would therefore joyously anticipate the privilege to provide the means to *keep* your child in His kingdom.

THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF CHRISTIAN SPONSORS

During the Baptism, the sponsors will be required to respond to certain questions that confirm the common belief in the nature and purpose of Baptism. They will be expected to confess:

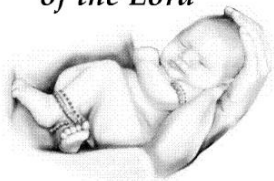


1. Faith in the Triune God, who has revealed Himself as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit (Matt. 28:19-20).
2. An understanding of Baptism as a way in which the Holy Spirit makes the blessings of forgiveness, life, and salvation our own (Means of Grace).
3. That through Baptism the child receives and possesses saving faith (1 Peter 3:21; Acts 22:16; Acts 2:38-39; Mark 16:16).
4. That through Baptism the child renounces the devil and all his wicked works (Gal. 3:26-27).
5. A willingness to remind the child of his/her Baptism and remember him/her in their prayers.
6. A willingness that in the case of an emergency, they will insure the Christian training of your child on your behalf.

Talk to those you consider mature enough to take on this responsibility soon, and may God bless you in this very important choice.

THE DAY OF BAPTISM

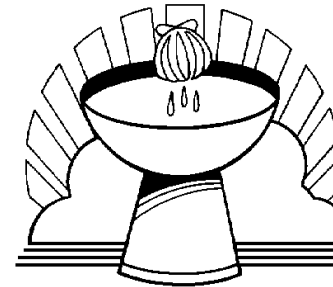
*Baptized
in the name
of the Lord*



In making arrangements for your child's baptism, you are following the command of Jesus to "go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them...". You also trust his promise "he that believes and is baptized will be saved". It is good that you have shown concern for the spiritual rebirth and growth of your child, for it is through baptism that he/she also becomes a child of God through faith.

A few simple suggestions to make the day pleasant and meaningful to you:

1. Try to arrive at least 15 minutes before the service. Notify an usher that you are to have a child baptized, and ask him to direct you to the "Cry Room", room 200.
2. The baptism normally takes place early in the service. The pastor will provide you with a script and walk you through the service before you take your seat in the sanctuary.
3. At the appropriate time, the sponsors and parents will be invited to join pastor at the font. It is suggested that you bring your script with you so that you may follow the service and know when to respond to the questions which will be asked.
4. In the baptismal ceremony, a question will be asked of the parents and sponsors in which you indicate your willingness to follow the baptism by teaching the child God's Word and bring him/her up as a Christian.
5. The Apostles Creed and Lord's Prayer are found on the inside cover of the hymnal.
6. The baptism itself consists of water being poured over the child's head in the name of the Triune God. After the blessing and welcome, sponsors and parents may return to their seats.
7. Before you leave, be sure you have the certificate, along with the other mementos provided by our congregation.
8. Please refrain from taking flash pictures *during the worship service*. You may take them after the service. If you are interested in videotaping the baptism, please speak with the pastor.



Worship Times

Sundays @ 9:30 a.m.

Mondays @ 7:30 p.m.

Private Baptisms arranged upon request