

Baptism is a gift of God's grace to children and adults.

Please pray and consider receiving this gift for yourself and/or your child in the Christian faith.

Please pray and consider your adult baptism and claiming the gift of grace that God is giving you in Christ.

Claimed by God in Baptism

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.



What Is a Sacrament?

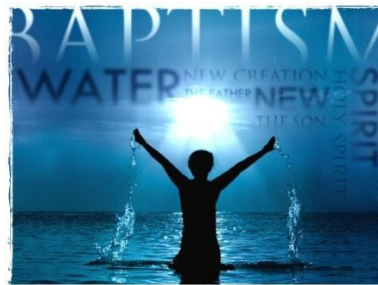
All of life is sacred and a gift. There are many physical elements in life that are sacred and filled with the grace of God. Human relationships are sacred to us. We have very sacred personal connections with one another that are very special and holy.

What makes Baptism a sacrament is that it has three characteristics:

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

These three characteristics make up the two sacraments in the Lutheran Church, Baptism and Holy Communion.

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.



Role of the Baptismal Sponsor/s

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.



Adult Baptism

We encourage teenagers and adults who have not been baptized to attend a New Members Class to learn more about being baptized. Please contact the pastor about your calling to publicly claim the gift of Baptism at worship. We want to celebrate with you at a future worship service your calling to live in the family of God.

Jesus told the disciples that they should, "Go into all the world and proclaim the good news to the whole creation. The one who believes and is baptized will be saved; but the one who does not believe will be condemned (Mark 16:15-16). We pray that the Holy Spirit will lead you to claim the gift that is before you in the grace of Christ.

Affirmation of Faith

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.

"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

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.

Zion Lutheran Church

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Pastor: Michael E. Thomas

SUNDAY WORSHIP

Traditional Worship—8:00am

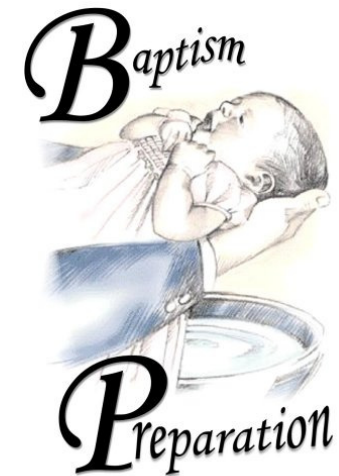
Education Hour for all ages: —9:15am

Festive Worship—10:30am

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Revised: November 8, 2011

Baptism



Zion Lutheran Church

Traditional Worship: 8:00

Festive Worship: 10:30

Lao/Burmese Worship: 10:30

"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