

Do you, parents and sponsors, promise to fulfill these obligations? (Lutheran Book of Worship, p. 121)

Some Further Thoughts on Baptism

PRACTICING YOUR PROMISES The occasion of your child's Baptism deserves your careful, intentional, and honest consideration on how you will fulfill your baptismal promises. This event also gives you an opportunity to reconsider your own Christian life. For your own benefit and for the benefit of your child, please consider the following questions:

When will you pray together? Prayer is the way that we can talk with God. It is also a way for us to share joys and sorrows with each other.

When will you have devotions 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 your child and your relationship.

How often will you worship together? Worship participation with your child is one of the promises you make at Baptism.

How will you and your child participate in Christian education? Christian education is essential for your child as you “provide for instruction in the Christian faith.” The church will help you by providing Sunday School and Confirmation instruction and other opportunities, but we also encourage you to learn more about your faith so that you may be a better teacher for your child.

What are some special things you will do to remember your child's baptismal anniversary? Service toward others is one way we grow into our Baptism and live out our faith. When your child is older, what are some ways you can help others? Celebrating Baptismal anniversaries will be a great help for your child to realize and appreciate their Baptism.

BEING A SPONSOR: 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 made to God and their child. Sponsors, therefore, need to be people 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 needs to be an active member of a Christian church. In addition to the sponsors you may choose, your fellow members at Calvary will also be your child's sponsors and promise to do all these things for your child.

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM AT MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH We give thanks to God should you desire to have your child baptized at Messiah Lutheran Church. Once you have made this decision, please call the church office at 650.369.5201 to speak with Pastor O’Berg. He will provide you with a baptismal booklet, *By Water and the Spirit-Preparing for Holy Baptism*, and will arrange a time to meet with you for planning and scheduling a date. This is a significant event in the life of your family and the Messiah family, and requires some preparation in advance.

Baptism is the means by which we are joined to the life, death, and resurrection and Christ. It also marks our entry into the life of the Christian community. Except in emergency situations, baptisms

are celebrated in the context of congregational worship as parents, sponsors, and church members commit to providing Christian care and nurture for the newly baptized. On the day of the baptism parents and sponsors will again meet briefly with pastor fifteen minutes prior to the time of the service.

In Baptism, God promises to:

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

When your child is baptized, we, your Christian brothers and sisters, promise to:

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

"Child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the Cross of Christ forever." LBW pg. 124