

Do you, parents and sponsor, promise to fulfill these obligations?

(Lutheran Book of Worship, page 121)

Honoring the Promise

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 rededicate your own Christian life. For your own spiritual benefit and for that of your child please consider the following questions:

Prayer is the way we talk with God and a way to share joys, sorrows, and concerns with each other. *When will you pray together?*

Devotional times with your child are a good way for all to grow in faith. Reading Bible stories and family devotions will help your child's and your relationship with God and with one another as a Christian family. *When will you have devotions together?*

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

Christian education is essential for your child as you "provide for instruction in the Christian faith." The church will help you by conducting Sunday School, Confirmation, VBS and other age-graded opportunities. We also encourage parents to learn more about your faith so that you may be a better teacher for your child. *How will you and your child participate in Christian education?*

Celebrating Baptismal Anniversaries is a great help for your child to realize and appreciate his/her Baptism. That's one reason we give you a Baptismal Candle. *What are some special things you will do to remember your child's Baptismal "Birthday"?*

Sponsors

Parents normally wish to have sponsors, often called "Godparents," for their child. A tradition from the days in which a Christian might be martyred for their faith, a sponsor does not just aid parents in fulfilling their promises to God but also agrees to take over the promises should the parents become unable to fulfill them. Sponsors pray regularly for your child, provide a Christian witness in the way they live, and remember your child's Baptismal Birthday. Therefore, sponsors (as well as parents) need to have been baptized, affirmed their own faith and be active members of a Christian church.

In addition to the specific sponsors you may choose, your brothers and sisters in Hope's Family will love and cherish your child as we support you in fulfilling the promises of Baptism.

Baptisms at Hope

We are pleased that you want your child to be baptized into the family of God through Hope Evangelical Lutheran Church. Please contact the church office to reserve a date for any regularly scheduled Worship Service. (Some special services may not have appropriate time.)

At least two weeks before your preferred date, schedule a meeting with our Pastor to discuss the Sacrament of Holy Baptism and go over details of the liturgy. If possible, it is good to have the Sponsors present also. Your date will be confirmed at this time.

Please arrive at least 10 minutes early the day of your Baptism so you can be ushered to your reserved seats. Because this is a Worship Service we ask that you do not take flash photos. Discrete videotaping is acceptable. Photos may be taken after the Service.



Baptism of our children

*Child of God,
You have been sealed
By the Holy Spirit
And marked with
The cross of Christ
Forever.*

HOPE

Lutheran Church

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In Holy Baptism our gracious heavenly Father liberates us from sin and death by joining us to the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. We are born children of a fallen humanity; in the waters of Baptism we are reborn children of God and inheritors of eternal life. By water and the Holy Spirit we are made members of the Church which is the body of Christ. As we live with him and with his people, we grow in faith, love, and obedience to the will of God.

(Lutheran Book of Worship, page 121)

In Christian love you have presented your child for Holy Baptism. You should, therefore, faithfully bring your child to the services of God's house, teach your child the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments. As your child grows in years, you should place in your child's hands the Holy Scriptures and provide for instruction in the Christian faith, that, living in the covenant of your child's Baptism and in communion with the Church your child may lead a godly life until the day of Jesus Christ.

(Lutheran Book of Worship, page 121)

We welcome you into the Lord's family. We receive you as a fellow member of the Body of Christ, child of the same heavenly Father, and workers with us in the Kingdom of God.

(Lutheran Book of Worship, page 125)

Welcoming!

God's Promises

Your Promises

Hope's Promises

In Baptism, God promises to —

- † Wash your child clean of sin (Acts 22:16)
- † Give your child the Holy Spirit making him/her a child of God (Romans 8:15)
- † Join your child to the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. (Romans 6:5)
- † Bring your child into the one body, the Church. (I Corinthians 12:13)

Through the pastor's words and actions, it is God who speaks to your child with these promises. In this gift from God, your child will be given a new Christ-like nature to guide his/her life instead of his/her old, sinful nature. The baptismal water is the physical sign of this covenant between God and your child.

In presenting your child for Baptism you are permitting your child to receive the precious gift of God's eternal love. Through Baptism your child can be certain of God's faithful and unconditional love for eternity.

When you present your child for Baptism, you promise God to —

- † Help your child grow in faith by the devotional prayer life in your home.
- † Help your child grow in faith within the community of the faithful, the Church.
- † Take every opportunity to show your child God's steadfast love and mercy given in Baptism.

When presenting your child to receive Holy Baptism, you take upon yourself the responsibility to tell your child of the wonderful promises God gives in Baptism. You promise to cultivate the seed of faith planted by the Holy Spirit through such things as reading the Bible with your child, worshipping regularly, and teaching him/her about the Christian faith.

Holy Baptism is not a cultural naming ceremony; it is a life-giving Sacrament based not upon our ability to fulfill our promises but only upon the grace and faithfulness of God. However, it behooves us to honor God by making promises we truly intend to keep.

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 you make to rear your child in Christian faith through word and example.

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

Our youth-oriented opportunities include —

- † age 3 through grade 5 Sunday School.
- † 2nd grade Bible presentation.
- † grade 5 First communion instruction.
- † grades 6-8 Confirmation instruction.
- † grades 6-12 Java, Praise, & the Word.
- † grades 9-12 Oasis fellowship.

Your family's regular participation in our many worship opportunities will also be an important way to be fed with God's Word and grow in care and concern for each other and the world.