



A Baptism Explanation for Parents



from your family at
Gloria Dei Lutheran Church



Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. Acts 2:38





Baptism. What a beginning! In baptism God puts an arm around us and speaks to us like he spoke to Jesus at his baptism in the Jordan River by stating that you are my much-loved child. I am so pleased with you. You have come into my family at this time and place—you were born and now in baptism you are reborn. It is the event in which we are joined with Jesus Christ in his death and resurrection in God's plan of salvation.

Baptism gives us the courage to move into life to face all that lies ahead. It gives us an identity to be God's people in the world. It assures us that God is at work, keeping promises and keeping us!

Through baptism God makes us his children, forgives our sins, brings us to faith, and promises to be with us into eternity. Baptism saves us. We pray this information will help you, as parents, understand the meaning and significance of the Sacrament of Baptism.

Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.” Matthew 28:18-20

As parents, you have done what the Lord has asked you to do—you have brought your child to the waters of baptism. It is a more profound event than the first day of school and even more important than all the wonderful plans you have for your child. What happened on your child's baptismal day carries into eternity.



It's easy to remember the day your child was born, what a miracle of life! It is just as important to remember your child's baptismal birthday, when the Holy Spirit moved over the waters of baptism to claim your child as a member of God's family.

You received a baptismal certificate at your child's baptism. Consider framing it to help you remember the date and to help you remember that in baptism God has pledged us everlasting love.

Baptized in the Name of the Trinity

Your child was baptized in the name of the Trinity – the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit. In baptism, the pastor poured water over your child's head and pronounced those words.

Remember how carefully you chose your child's name? You considered many possibilities. Perhaps it was a family name or the name had a special meaning. Finally you settled on the one your child bears. It is a perfect name for your child.

When the pastor baptized your child in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, your baby joined God's family and received God's promise to be with him always and to call him back when he strays.

From the Word of God we learn that we are born sinful, we stray from the path God sets us on, and we are in need of forgiveness.

“For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.”

Romans 3:23

We would be lost forever if God had not sent his Son to die for the whole world. John 3:16 says

“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish, but have eternal life.”



The Gift of the Holy Spirit

At baptism your child received the gift that Jesus promised when he ascended into heaven: “But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” Acts 1:8

On the Day of Pentecost, fifty days after Jesus ascended into heaven, the Holy Spirit filled the hearts of his followers. That’s what happens in baptism. Because Jesus doesn’t live in human form on earth anymore, in baptism he gives us his Holy Spirit, as a Comforter. Through baptism your child now has the gift of the Holy Spirit, who guides, protects and inspires us all through life.



Renouncing the Devil

You, as parents, along with your baby's sponsors, were asked by the pastor, "Do you renounce the devil and all his wicked works and ways?" You answered, "I do." This proclamation is a casting off of the devil and all his works.

You answered for your child because he or she is too young to give an answer. You answered in the affirmative because you know that being baptized in Christ means we have victory over sin, death and the devil.



The devil's ways are subtle, but his goal is to create disharmony and distance between the baptized person and God. When Jesus was tempted by Satan (Matthew 4:1-11), his defense was God's Word. It is our defense, too.

Indeed, the devil is defeated every time we remember whose we are. Remind your child he or she is a child of God.

Water's Wonders

Water washes, cleanses, nourishes and renews life. We know that it is essential for all of life. Without it our earth would be bare, and living things would not survive.

The water used in your child's Baptism is not just plain water. It is the Word of God in and with the water. It is also the faith which trusts this word of God. That simple water becomes a life-giving water, rich in grace, and a washing of new birth in the Holy Spirit.

Sealed Forever

What a beautiful promise the pastor pronounces, "Sealed with the cross of Christ forever," and makes the sign of the cross over your child's forehead and heart. What do those words mean?

Your child through baptism now has been connected to Christ. Baptism works forgiveness of sins, rescues from death and the devil, and gives eternal salvation to all who believe this, as the words and promises of God declare.

A Child of God

At your child's birth, you were in awe when you heard that first cry. What a miracle of God's making!

At your child's baptism you promised to pray for your child, remind him or her of his baptism, teach him or her Bible stories and of the knowledge of God.

As your child grows, look for opportunities to recall his or her baptism. Where will you keep the candle your child received at baptism? Lighting it on your child's baptismal birthday is a great way to remember this special day.



Responsibilities

You are aware that your child's spiritual needs are just as important as all of his or her other needs. Coming to worship, Bible reading, and daily prayers are essential, too, for your child's spiritual growth. Making these things part of your lives requires a commitment on your part.

Home life is just as important. You have many things you hope for your child and some of them are easily practiced. Tucking your child in bed every night and listening to prayers is the perfect end to every day. It's a good time, too, to talk over the day's happenings and to answer questions your child will have about spiritual things.



If you have questions about baptism,
please call the church office at 276-1700.

We will be glad to help in
anyway that we can.

Enjoy your child!



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