



YOU ARE CONSIDERING BAPTISM...WONDERFUL!

In Christian baptism some very important promises are made! So that everyone involved in this important sacrament understands and takes these promises seriously, Grace Lutheran Church offers baptism preparation classes with pastor-led instruction on the meaning and responsibilities of baptism. Every family scheduling their first baptism at Grace is asked to participate in baptism preparation. Parents, and sponsors when possible, are asked to plan for this class in advance of the date set for baptism; often parents attend the baptism preparation class before the baby arrives so that greater attention can be given to its significance. If older children or adults are being baptized, discussions are usually arranged with a pastor at another time.

So what are the important promises made in baptism?

- First, we gather for baptism to hear God's promise (through the church and the pastor's words) that we are, in fact, children of God, loved and embraced for all eternity. We baptize infants because this promise of God is given to each person even before they can comprehend what it means. What a gracious and loving God!
- The second promise is our pledge, as parents, sponsors and congregation, to support, nurture and teach each child baptized, about the meaning of God's love, grace and promise. How else will they know? As each child grows in years, the parents, sponsors and congregation agree to "teach them *The Lord's Prayer*, *The Apostles' Creed*, and *The Ten Commandments*...providing for their instruction in the Christian faith..."
- Further, parents and sponsors promise to "bring them to the services of God's house" so that the seed of faith planted in baptism can grow in the warm soil of Christian community.

God's promise...and our pledges make baptism a sacred and very special event in the life of the person, their family, and the congregation of Grace!

Some details to assist in planning:

1. Call the church office at 952-432-7273 to set a date for baptism. Dates for Sunday baptisms and baptism preparation classes are listed in this brochure.
2. Attend the Baptism Preparation. (Child care reservations are required in advance.)
3. Consider who you wish to have as baptismal sponsors. Sponsors or 'God-parents' are persons chosen who will pray for, support and encourage the child in their faith development. One or two persons, or couples, usually serve in this role. (Godparents should be 18 years, or older.)

Remember that this 'supernatural' birthday for your child is a sacrament of congregational importance and is held during one of our Sunday morning or Wednesday evening services. (Out of respect for other worshippers, we ask that cameras and video cameras be used without a flash and by staying seated at all times.) Remember to invite your family and friends and make it a very festive occasion!



BAPTISM PREPARATION CLASSES 2008

Beginning in the fall of 2008 baptism preparation classes will meet every three months (first Sunday) in Koinonia Hall from 12-noon until 2:00 p.m. We invite families to also attend the 11:00 a.m. service prior to the class.

- September 14
(Please note date change.)
- December 7

The class will consist of a light lunch, an introduction and informational piece from the Children's Education Director and the Director of Intergenerational Ministries, and a teaching piece from Pastor Therese Helker on the Lutheran understanding of baptism. Child care will be available during the informational and teaching pieces. (Child care reservations required in advance.)

This means there are no summer classes, so if you want a child baptized this summer, please attend the April or May class, or plan to attend the class on September 14, 2008.

We hope this change will promote more fellowship between parents, will be more conducive to families with small children, and will encourage sponsors to attend, as well.

For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God.

Ephesians 2:8

BAPTISM DATES - 2008

Sundays: 8:20, 9:40, 11:00 a.m.
Wednesdays: 7:00 p.m.

Sundays	Wednesdays
January 13	January 16
February 10	February 13
March 9	March 12
April 13	April 16
May 11	May 14
June 8*	June 11
July 13*	July 16
August 10*	August 13
September 14	September 17
October 12	October 15
November 9	November 12
December 14	December 17

*Summer worship hours yet TBD

07-18-08



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Grace Lutheran Church



Baptism

2008



Water by itself is only water, but with the Word of God it is a life-giving water which by grace gives new birth through the Holy Spirit.

Martin Luther
The Small Catechism
