

St Luke's Lutheran Church

Baptism Practice

Christian Baptism is the beautiful and priceless gift of the Creator, our heavenly Father, through which he claims you as his own, gives you his Holy Spirit, and declares that you are his loved child who belongs to the family of Jesus—as God's child through Baptism his presence, forgiveness, love, care, provision, and inheritance are all yours (Luke 3:15-22; Acts 1:5; Titus 3:3-7). However, the Father's work of Baptism also has a cutting edge, for it begins the painful death of your old self as you are born again as God's new creation—it embarks you on a lifelong struggle and journey of dying to self and the ways of this world as you are reborn in the Spirit and Way of Jesus (Luke 9:23-25; John 3:3-8; Romans 6:1-14; 2 Corinthians 5:17-20; Ephesians 4:20-24; Colossians 3:1-11).

Because God will not be mocked by us devaluing and making light of his gifts, it is essential that Baptism only be performed when you have appropriately "counted the cost" and are ready to begin the journey of fully submitting to God and letting go of your whole life as you place it at his feet (Luke 14:25-35; Galatians 6:7). As such, the requirements for Baptism in this community are:

- A sober willingness to...
 - ...renounce being a child of this world and living in its Satanic ways (Ephesians 6:11; James 4:7; 1 Peter 5:8; 1 John 3:8).
 - ...fully trust the Father's declaration that you are his child and that he will be with you, protect you, and provide for you in every way (Luke 12:22-34).
 - ...be a lifelong student of Jesus by listening to his life and teachings as the only guide for your life (Luke 8:19-21, 9:35).
 - ...desire the Spirit's work within you—to guide you, challenge you, and transform you into the image of Jesus (Romans 8:2-17).
- A serious commitment to practice and live the faith of Jesus among this Christian community until God calls you elsewhere. This involves the promise, before God and humanity, to regularly participate in the Communion of this community— worship, the Lord's Supper, rebuke and forgiveness, Scriptural study, sharing of resources and life, etc (Acts 2:44-47, 4:32-35; Hebrews 10:23-25).
- A completion of pre-baptismal training with the pastor which will cover the basics of our faith—the Gospel of Jesus and his Way of life.

Therefore, we ask you to diligently pray as you discern undergoing Christian Baptism, for you or your child—please, take the commitment of Baptism very seriously (2 Corinthians 6:1-2). It is our hope that our heavenly Father will open your heart to embarking on this exciting and life-changing journey of putting your whole life into his hands and following Jesus wherever he leads us.