HONORING THE PROMISE

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 answer the question on this page. It can be a guide for you as you faithfully try to live up to your promises. As a church, we will also offer an event each year to help you and your child in “Honor[ing] the Promise.”

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 pray 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. When will you have devotions together?

Worship participation with your child is one of the promises you make at 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 providing Faith Steps 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. How will you and your child participate in Christian education?

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. What are some special things you will do to remember your child’s Baptismal anniversary?

SPONSORS

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 brothers and sisters of Hope will also be your child’s sponsors and promise to do all these things for your child.

BAPTISMS AT HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH

We are happy and excited that you want your child to be baptized at Hope Lutheran Church. As soon as you know when you would like your child to be baptized, please call the church office to confirm the date. We also need to know the names of the sponsors and an approximate number of family and friends who will be attending. Because of the important role the congregation plays in your child’s Baptism, we strongly encourage you to schedule the Baptism during a worship service. (If this is absolutely impossible, you will need to make special arrangements with a pastor. Due to time constraints, we try not to schedule a Baptism at a Communion service. If the Baptism needs to be held then, we encourage you to celebrate it at the last service of the morning. With the outdoor summer services, we encourage you to try to schedule the Baptism at the 10:45 service.)

Sometime before the Baptism, please plan to attend one of our Baptism Orientation classes held on the first Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. On the day of the Baptism, please be at church at least 15 minutes before the service. The pastor will go over final details with you, and the ushers will then direct you to the seats reserved for you near the Baptismal font.

Because Baptism is a worship experience, please do not take flash photos during the service. Discrete videotaping is acceptable, and photos may be taken after the service.
“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)

“When you present your child for Baptism, you also make very important promises. You promise to:

1) help your child grow in faith by the devotional and prayer life in your home,
2) help your child grow in faith within the community of faith, the Church, and
3) take every opportunity to show your child God's steadfast love and mercy given in Baptism.

When you present your child to receive Holy Baptism, you take upon yourself the responsibility to tell your child of the wonderful promises that God gives in Baptism. You promise to do all that you can to cultivate in your child the hope, peace, joy, love, and meaning that is part of the life of a child of God. You are promising to do such things as read the Bible with your child, worship regularly, and teach him/her about the Christian faith at home, Faith Steps, Confirmation instruction, and any other way you can.

You need to consider the magnitude of the promises that God gives your child in Baptism, promises more valuable than anything the world can give. You also need to consider how foolish it would be for your child to live even one day without knowing God's love shown in Christ and through Baptism. Truly, the promises you make when you present your child for Holy Baptism are the most important promises that you will ever make to your child.

When you present 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 worker with us in the Kingdom of God.”

(Lutheran Book of Worship, p. 125)