



St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church

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CHURCH
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BAPTISM INFORMATION FORM

Date of Baptism:

Time:

Child's Name (First, Middle, Last)

Date of Birth:

City:

Father's Name:

Mother's Name:

Maiden:

Address:

Phone:

Email:

Sponsors (if Lutheran)

Witnesses (if not Lutheran)

The Information on this sheet is correct and I agree to comply with the Biblical directives on the next page of this form.

Name:

Date:

-- PLEASE READ THIS INFORMATION CAREFULLY --

Jesus says in Matthew 28, *"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, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you."*

WHAT DOES THIS BIBLE PASSAGE TELL US?

First of all, it tells us that all people are to be baptized. Why? Because the Bible says that all people are born sinful and are under the judgment of God (even little children who appear to be so innocent and blameless). All people need the washing of forgiveness that God gives in and through Baptism.

Baptism is certainly something special! It is so much more than a quaint ceremony or sentimental tradition. The very power of God is in this Sacrament! Sins are forgiven and faith is actually created in the heart of your child through the Word of God.

Since your child becomes God's precious child in Baptism, your child also becomes a member of Christ's Church. That is why, except for cases of emergency, we ask that your child be baptized during a regular worship service in church. We all want to share this special event with our newest member.

Also understand that by having your child baptized you are handing your child over to Christ and His Church. You are telling God that you willingly give up your right to raise your child as you might please and are agreeing to raise that child as God pleases.

And what pleases God? Simply that your child grow in the Christian faith. Notice that the Bible passage above also talks about "teaching." To have your child baptized and then to neglect teaching your child about the Savior (by neglecting family Bible study, Sunday worship, Sunday School, etc.) is to break a promise that you are making to God on your child's Baptism day.

Jesus died on the cross for your little one. Your child is saved through the faith that the Holy Spirit places in his/her heart. Heaven becomes a certainty for your child! But if your child's Baptism faith is not nurtured with Christian training, the day may very well come when your child will reject and push out that faith.

So the key to understanding the Bible passage above is two-fold: BAPTIZE and TEACH. We rejoice that you are fulfilling God's first command by having your child baptized. And now we lovingly encourage you to strengthen your resolve to fulfill the second command -- to teach your child. We, at St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church, stand ready to assist you in any way that we can.

A WORD ABOUT SPONSORS (GODPARENTS)

The Lutheran Church has had the custom of sponsors or godparents for many centuries. A sponsor is not only a witness to the baptism of your child, but also makes the additional promise to remember your child in his/her prayers, to remind your child of his/her baptism, and to provide a Christian education for your child should you be unable or unwilling to do so. It is only reasonable, then, that sponsors be of the Lutheran faith. Christian Witnesses do not answer on behalf of the child or make these promises, but rather they attest that the baptism was carried out according to Christ's command and in good order.

ON THE DAY OF YOUR CHILD'S BAPTISM ...

- Please arrive at least 15 minutes before the scheduled start of the worship service so that the Elder who is on duty can meet you and help you get situated.
- The Elder will bring you, your child, and your child's sponsors/witnesses to the front of the church for the Baptism during the singing of the last stanza of the first hymn.
- After the Baptism service you will be ushered back to your seats by the Elder.
- If your child is wearing a cap or bonnet, please make sure that it is removed before your child is brought forward for the Baptism.
- Because your child's Baptism is part of the worship service, we ask that no pictures be taken. Please make your guests aware of this. You may video tape, provided the camera remains in the back of the church. After the worship service is over you are welcome to reassemble at the Baptismal Font for pictures.

Because your child's Baptism is part of our regular worship service, we want to make sure that everything is done in a God-pleasing way and in keeping with the reverence of the Divine Service.