

Holy Baptism Handbook



*Embraced by God's **GRACE**
through the **WATERS** of Holy Baptism*

Immanuel Lutheran

Church, School & Child Care

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Dear Friends in Christ,

We are excited that you are interested in Holy Baptism and the sacred blessing that it is for those who believe in Jesus! Here God offers you all His promises and blessings stored up in this treasure chest.

While all these blessings are given for those who believe, this gift of faith must be continually nurtured and supported. Immanuel is delighted to partner with you, the Christian home, as we fan into flame the gift of faith by teaching everything that our Lord Jesus Christ has passed on to us in His Word. In this partnership, we will walk the journey of faith together. We will celebrate milestones with each step, until we find ourselves in the presence of Jesus in our heavenly home.

Thank you for the honor of journeying together and for boldly taking this first step in the journey of the Christian faith. May you know His blessings every step as we share in His goodness guiding the way to everlasting life.

Your Immanuel Lutheran family

What Immanuel Believes About Baptism

Holy Baptism is a treasure box of blessings for the Christian and the Christian home! Here, God extends all His promises that they might be held onto by faith; indeed, our Lord Jesus Christ commanded us to make disciples through Holy Baptism and by teaching.

Matthew 28:18–20 ¹⁸ And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

FAITH

In Holy Baptism, God gives the gift of the Holy Spirit! Faith receives the promises of God and makes them your own. This blessed gift is for all nations, including children as God’s Word declares through the Apostle Peter at Pentecost when he says,

Acts 2:38–39 ³⁸ And Peter said to them, “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. ³⁹ For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself.”

Hebrews 11:1 ¹ Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.

Faith holds onto the promised gifts given in Baptism. Luther consistently says that those who believe receive the **forgiveness of sins**, **life** and **salvation** through this sacred treasure box.

FORGIVENESS OF SINS

Those who are baptized receive all the blessings of Jesus’s perfect life and it covers those who have been washed in this cleansing flood with the righteousness of Christ.

Romans 6:3–13 ³ Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? ⁴ We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life. ⁵ For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. ⁶ We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin. ⁷ For one who has died has been set free from sin. ⁸ Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. ⁹ We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. ¹⁰ For the death he died he died to sin, once for all, but the life he lives he lives to God. ¹¹ So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus. ¹² Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, to make you obey its passions. ¹³ Do not present your members to sin as instruments for unrighteousness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and your members to God as instruments for righteousness.

Galatians 3:26–27 ²⁶ For in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith. ²⁷ For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.

All of us need this blessed gift to be rescued from sin, death, and the devil. We are not only born with sin, but continue in it.

Psalm 51:5 ⁵ Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me.

Romans 5:12, 18–19 ¹² Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned— ¹³ for sin indeed was in the world before the law was given, but sin is not counted where there is no law. ¹⁴ Yet death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those whose sinning was not like the transgression of Adam, who was a type of the one who was to come. ¹⁵ But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if many died through one man's trespass, much more have the grace of God and the free gift by the grace of that one man Jesus Christ abounded for many. ¹⁶ And the free gift is not like the result of that one man's sin. For the judgment following one trespass brought condemnation, but the free gift following many trespasses brought justification. ¹⁷ For if, because of one man's trespass, death reigned through that one man, much more will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man Jesus Christ. ¹⁸ Therefore, as one trespass led to condemnation for all men, so one act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all men. ¹⁹ For as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous.

John 3:5–6 ⁵ Jesus answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. ⁶ That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.

LIFE

In Baptism, God raises us from being dead in sin, to being new creations ready to live in accord with the Christian faith. This new life is supported by the work of the Holy Spirit to help us walk in His ways.

2 Corinthians 5:17 ¹⁷ Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.

Ephesians 2:8–10 ⁸ For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, ⁹ not a result of works, so that no one may boast. ¹⁰ For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

Daily we put on this new life and reject the life of sin, (Eph 4:24; Gal 2:20; 1 Cor 6:11) and engage the battle of walking in the faith as this is true spiritual warfare that we are equipped to fight in each and every day (1 pt 5:8-9; Eph 6:10-18).

Ephesians 4:24²⁴ and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.

Galatians 2:20²⁰ I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

1 Corinthians 6:11¹¹ And such were some of you. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.

1 Peter 5:8–9⁸ Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.⁹ Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world.

Ephesians 6:10–18¹⁰ Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might.¹¹ Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil.¹² For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.¹³ Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm.¹⁴ Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness,¹⁵ and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace.¹⁶ In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one;¹⁷ and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God,¹⁸ praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints.

SALVATION

Through Holy Baptism, God adopts us into the family of God and makes us heirs of eternal life.

Colossians 1:13–14¹³ He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son,¹⁴ in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

Titus 3:5–7⁵ he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit,⁶ whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior,⁷ so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

1 Peter 3:21²¹ Baptism, which corresponds to this, now saves you, not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Baptism makes a person a member of the Body of Christ, the church. When a person is baptized, they are now members of the family of God. Being part of God's family invites participation of every member. Together, the family of God at Immanuel, encounters Jesus every day by:

- regularly worshiping together
- working to conform our lives to God's Word and will
- regularly praying
- daily personal and family devotions
- reading God's Word daily
- growing in the faith
- loving one another in Christ

Parents of children baptized into Christ Jesus should continually embody these attributes so that their children can learn from their example what following Jesus looks like, by observing their lives. Fellow members of the family at Immanuel are to serve as fellow witnesses to encourage one another toward love and good deeds (Heb 10:24-25). Together we live in the grace of Jesus as we try to bear His image as we live in faith everyday. If you have any further questions, please feel free to talk with one of Immanuel's pastors.

For a more complete explanation of Immanuel's beliefs regarding Holy Baptism, please click on the link (<https://www.lcms.org/about/beliefs/faqs/doctrine#baptism>).

Holy Baptism Process

Contact Immanuel (anyone expecting a child, have a new born, or anyone else desire this blessing from God) - Informing Immanuel of your desire for baptism of your child or yourself allows us to walk with you in preparation of this blessed gift. Immanuel baptizes infants, children and adults in the public worship service as we promise to walk together in the Christian faith.

Review Immanuel's Baptism Handbook (available in the Church Office or online at www.ImmanuelBrookfield.org/forms) - This guide will answer many of the questions you may have and help prepare you in planning Baptism, but most importantly for your journey in the Christian Faith at Immanuel. Please contact the Church Office (kgraf@ImmanuelBrookfield.org, 262-781-7140) or Pastor Steve (shenderson@ImmanuelBrookfield.org, 262-781-7140) with any questions.

Submit Baptism Application (available in the Church Office or online at www.ImmanuelBrookfield.org/forms) - Once Immanuel receives the baptism application, your date will be secured. To complete the application, you will need to select a date for the Baptism. Holy Baptism is a celebration for the full family, so determine when they can come to celebrate with you. Immanuel normally schedules baptisms at services that do not offer the Lord's Supper to help manage the length of the service, though we can work around this. You can select a Saturday (5pm), Sunday (8am or 10:30am [or 9:30am during the summer]), Monday (7pm), or chapel service (for school children). You can also select sponsors, or godparents, that will support you and your child in keeping the Christian faith active and growing in your life. These individuals should be Christian, preferably Lutheran, so that they can partner closely with you in this journey of faith. If you have any questions, please contact one of the pastors of Immanuel.

Pastoral Visit (the week prior to the Baptism) - One of Immanuel's pastors will visit with you to discuss the blessing of Baptism. At this visit, the pastor will share how the partnership of the Christian home and Immanuel will work together in passing on the faith. Immanuel will provide regular worship, devotional resources, weekly Bible study and Sunday school, and stepping stones that we will meet upon to celebrate the journey of faith. Each of these stepping stones, called Everyday Encounters, will equip you for the great task of passing on the Christian faith to your child as well as your own journey. The first stepping stone of our Everyday Encounters program, helps the Christian home celebrate their baptism and develop the routines of faith as we bring up children in the training and admonition of the Lord.

Frequently Asked Questions

Do I need to be a member of Immanuel?

Baptisms at Immanuel are designed to reflect the faith that we confess as a family. We do expect that those who are baptized at Immanuel, or by her pastors, be connected through membership at Immanuel; however, you do not have to be a member. If you are not a member of Immanuel, the pastors will share the foundational understanding of Baptism through our biblical teachings as well as the responsibilities of Christian parents to pass on the faith to this new child of God.

Can I have a different pastor officiate the Baptism?

Baptism at Immanuel can only be done by ordained Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod (LCMS) pastors in good standing. Please feel free to make your request to the Senior Pastor when you submit your Baptism application to assist in making the appropriate arrangements.

What method of Baptism does Immanuel employ?

Immanuel understands that the power of Baptism is found not in the method, but rather through the power of God's Word. With that understanding, Immanuel will pour water on the Baptismal candidate's head while using God's Word during worship services.

How many sponsors, or godparents, should I have?

There isn't a limit, or a minimum, on how many you can have. Select those who are going to serve well as sponsor or godparent.

How should I select my sponsors, or godparents?

Sponsors, or godparents, are responsible for encouraging you in the raising of your child in the Christian faith. They should therefore be active Christians that ideally share the same confession of faith as you (Lutheran). Mentors in the faith or family members that exhibit a mature Christian faith are ideal candidates.

Baptism Planning Checklist

- Contact Immanuel**
- Review Immanuel's Baptism Handbook** (this booklet)
- Submit Baptism Application**
- Pastoral Home Visit** Date: _____ Time: _____
- Baptism Day** Date: _____ Time: _____

Arrive 5-10 minutes before the worship service.

Contacts

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