

In Holy Baptism our gracious heavenly Father frees 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 reborn children of God and made members of the Church, the body of Christ. Living with Christ and in the communion of the saints, we grow in faith, love, and obedience to the will of God.

Evangelical Lutheran Worship, page 227

GOD'S PROMISES

In Baptism, God promises to:

1. make your child a child of God, for your child will be baptized in God's name (Matthew 28:19),
2. wash your child clean of sin (Acts 22:16),
3. give your child the Holy Spirit, which will enable your child to call upon Jesus as Lord (Titus 3:5),
4. make your child a member of the body of Christ, the Church (Romans 6:5), and
5. grant your child eternal life (Mark 16:16).

As the pastor pours water on you/your child and speaks the Word of God, it is God who addresses you/your child with these promises and who will faithfully accomplish them in you/your child. In this gift from God, you/your child will be born again and begin a whole new life, a life led by Christ instead of a life driven by sin. The baptismal water is the physical sign of this covenant between God and your child. In presenting yourself/your child for Baptism you are doing a wonderful thing. You are permitting yourself/your child to receive a precious gift, God's gift of eternal love. Through Baptism, for the rest of life, your child/you can be sure of God's faithful and unconditional love.

As you bring your children (or as you come yourself) to receive the gift of baptism, you are entrusted with responsibilities: to live with them among God's faithful people, bring them to the word of God and the holy supper, teach them the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments, place in their hands the holy scriptures, and nurture them in faith and prayer, so that your children may learn to trust God, proclaim Christ through word and deed, care for others and the world God made, and work for justice and peace."

Evangelical Lutheran Worship, page 228

YOUR PROMISES

When you present your child or come yourself 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 you/your child in Baptism, promises more valuable than anything the world can give. You also need to consider how foolish it would be for you/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.

People of God, do you promise to support _____ and pray for them in their new life in Christ?

We do.

Evangelical Lutheran Worship, p. 228

We welcome you into the body of Christ and the mission we share: join us in giving thanks and praise to God and bearing God's creative and redeeming word to all the world.

Evangelical Lutheran Worship, p. 231

THE CHURCH'S PROMISES

When you/your child is baptized, we, your Christian brothers and sisters, promise to:

1. look upon you/your child as an important member of our Christian community,
2. support you in keeping God's promises/making God's promises known to your child, and
3. walk with you and your child in this lifelong baptismal walk of faith.

When you/your child is baptized during the worship service, we, the members of Calvary Lutheran Church, give you and your child our word that we will help you in the lifelong affirmation of faith.

At the age of three, we offer a Beginner's Bible for your child. We present Bibles to 2nd graders, and when your child is in 3rd grade, we offer First Communion instruction. Bugs and Ticks is another program of fun and learning we offer for children in Kindergarten to 6th grade. Confirmation instruction begins in 7th grade, and there are many other opportunities for both Junior and Senior High youth.

You and your child's regular attendance at the many worship opportunities we offer will also be an important way to be fed with God's Word and grow in care and concern for each other and the world.

Sponsors, do you promise to nurture these persons in the Christian faith as you are empowered by God's Spirit, and to help them live in the covenant of baptism and in communion with the church?

Evangelical Lutheran Worship, p. 228

HONORING THE PROMISE

The occasion of you or your child's Baptism deserves your careful, intentional, and honest consideration on how you will fulfill your Baptismal promises. This event also gives you parents an opportunity to reconsider your own Christian life. For your own benefit and for the benefit of your child, please answer the questions on this page. It can be a guide for you as you faithfully try to live up to your promises.

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 for you and 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. (Daily devotion booklets geared for adults and for children are available for free here at church.) When will you have devotions together?

Worship participation for you and with your child is one of the promises you make at Baptism. How often will you worship together?

Christian Education is essential for you and your child as you "provide for instruction in the Christian faith." The church will help you by providing Adult Classes and Confirmation instruction and other opportunities, but we also encourage you to learn more about your faith so that you can grown in faith and may be a better teacher for your children. 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 you and/or your child to realize and appreciate your Baptism. What are some special things you will do to remember yours or 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 you/parents in the promises you 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 you/your child, who will remember you/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 Calvary will also be your child's sponsors and promise to do all these things for your child.

BAPTISMS AT CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH

We are happy and excited that you want to be baptized or you want your child to be baptized at Calvary Lutheran Church. As soon as you know when you would like the baptism, please call the church office to check out and 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 you or 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, which at Calvary is held on the second or fourth Sunday of the month.

Some time before the Baptism, please talk to the pastor about meeting with him/her to talk about the baptism and what it means for your and your family. If you are a young person or adult, we ask that you attend new members classes or confirmation classes to learn and prepare for the baptism. Sometimes the pastor will arrange to meet with you individually or in a small group to prepare for the baptism.

On the day of the Baptism, please be at church at least 15 minutes before the service. The pastor will show you where the baptism will take place, go over final details with you, and we will 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.

holy baptism



Child of God,
you have been sealed
by the Holy Spirit and
marked with the
Cross of Christ forever.



619 3RD AVE SW ■ PERHAM MN 56573

218-346-4780

halo@eot.com

www.calvaryperham.com