

Holy Baptism ... What God commands us!

In the Book of Matthew chapter 28 verses 18-20, Jesus is recorded as coming to His disciples and saying, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 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, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age." (ESV)

It is based upon this command or "mandate" from our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ that the Christian Church practices Holy Baptism.

The Forgiveness of Sins ... Needed by everyone!

Holy Scripture tells us that all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God (Romans 3:23) and that we are in need of this forgiveness from our very conception (Psalm 51). We are all therefore in need of God's forgiveness.

Holy Baptism ... What God does for us!

It is through the waters of Holy Baptism that God offers to us the complete forgiveness of all our sin. We find this wonderful promise of God in Acts 2:38-39, "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. 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." (ESV)

A very common question is how simple, ordinary water can do such an amazing thing as to forgive sins? Martin Luther, a teacher and pastor of the Church answers this question for us in a book called the Small Catechism when he writes, "It is not water that does these things, but God's Word with the water and our Trust in this Word."



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Dear Fellow Redeemed,

This is an incredibly exciting time in the life of your family. It is through the Sacrament of Holy Baptism that God will bring the family member being baptized into His eternal family. This booklet has been written to provide you with an understanding of what our God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit will do through this Sacrament.

May the Lord richly bless you and your family.

In Christ,
Rev. Damian Snyder
Senior Pastor
Email: tlcsp@inbox.com

A few notes about the ceremony:

- 1) Baptisms are regularly performed during a regularly scheduled worship service. It is possible, however, to arrange for private ceremonies or ceremonies at home/hospital as the need arises.
- 2) The family of the person being baptized as well as the sponsors should arrive at least 15 minutes before the worship service is scheduled to begin.
- 3) No flash photography may take place during the worship service. Digital cameras (with the flash disabled) may be used from the pews during the baptism. A single video camera may be placed on a tripod in the choir loft to record the baptism.
- 4) Time will be provided following the worship service for pictures to be taken with the pastor, family, friends, etc. Flashes may be used during this time.
- 5) There is no fee for baptism. Honoraria cannot be accepted.
- 6) The person being baptized will receive a signed certificate of baptism as well as the baptismal napkin used during the service. It is our hope that these items will be displayed in a prominent location to remind the baptized daily of the fact that they are God's forgiven child in Jesus Christ.