



TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

BAPTISM QUESTION & ANSWERS

What do I need to do to get baptized (or have my child baptized) at Trinity?

Baptism at Trinity Lutheran Church is simple. If you accept Jesus into your life, we welcome you to become a Christian and a member of our congregation through Holy Baptism. Simply,

- contact the office to schedule a date for the ceremony,
- schedule an appointment to meet with Pastor before the ceremony, and
- complete and return the Baptism Information Form.

We can be reached at 920-648-2717 or via e-mail at michelle@trinitylm.com or pastormark@trinitylm.com.

Do you baptize non-members?

Absolutely! As a matter of fact, we only baptize non-members. When a person is baptized, he or she officially becomes a Christian and a member of the congregation in which he or she was baptized.

I have heard that people who are baptized automatically go to heaven.

When a person is baptized, he or she publicly acknowledges that God has washed away his or her sins through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

But baptism does not stand alone. Honestly, it is God that gives eternal life, not baptism or anything we do. The promises the Bible gives regarding baptism are consistently tied to believing. For instance, *"The one who believes and is baptized will be saved; but the one who does not believe will be condemned."* (Mark 16:16) Being baptized is valuable because it is one of the moments when God visibly claims us as God's own. We can look back on the moment of our baptism and say, "I belong to God. I know because I was baptized!" Ideally, this helps us recognize what God has done for us in Jesus, and give God credit.

Does that mean I need to come to church?

Basically, yes. We believe that baptism is not just an event, but it is the beginning of a relationship with Jesus Christ. Churches are the communities God has placed on earth to help human beings maintain this relationship.

As part of the baptism ceremony, the pastor will ask you:

"do you promise to live in the Christian faith? Will you attend services of worship regularly, pray, and look to experience the promises and challenges of the Gospel of Jesus Christ?"

Or, if you are having your child baptized, pastor will ask:

"Do you promise to faithfully bring this child to worship services in God's house? Do you promise to teach him/her the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments? As s/he grows in years, will you place in his/her hands the Holy Scriptures and provide for his/her instruction in the Christian faith? Do you promise to live lives of faith and share with this child Christ's love and teachings?"

In worship, the community of faith gets together to recognize what God does, consider what God wants, acknowledges God's love, and supports one another in faith. It is almost impossible to find this anywhere else.

How much does baptism cost?

It is free. Baptism is at the heart of the congregation's ministry. When Jesus gave the Great Commission, he said to "...make disciples of all nations, ***baptizing*** in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit..." We baptize because Jesus instructed us to do so. There is no charge.

Yet, it is extremely expensive. Being baptized means a person has been given salvation. Those of us who have been baptized owe our lives to Jesus. Jesus has the right to ask us for anything. Many a Christian has shown kindness to a stranger, prayed for mercy for an enemy, stood up for justice for a person who was mistreated, and sacrificed personally and financially for the good of God's kingdom because Jesus wants these things. Baptism begins a lifelong connection to Jesus Christ that, ideally, results in a positively changed life and a strong confidence in God's eternal love.