



Why should we remember our baptism?

What's the big deal about baptism at St. Luke's Lutheran Church, and why is it important for us to remember it? In Holy Baptism, we were washed of our sins; marked by the sign of the cross, and called children of God. This is a pretty important event in our lives – one that's worth celebrating!

Martin Luther was said to have posted a plaque in his room that read: "When you wash your face, remember your baptism." In troubled times of his life as he recognized his own unworthiness and experienced the derision and condemnation of his church leaders, Luther struggled with doubts and depression. But in these moments, he clung to the promises that God made to him at his baptism: promises that God had granted him salvation not by his own merit, but by grace alone. Luther found a source of solace in repeating the mantra: "I am baptized! I am baptized!" May we, too, in times of doubt, hardship, and fear be comforted and strengthened by God's promises to us in the baptismal waters, calling us beloved children and promising to be with us forever.

Often, for Lutherans, part of remembering our baptism each day is a way of daily dying and rising, confessing and hearing again God's words of forgiveness. We also sometimes call it, "Walking Wet." This is a way of life, where we regularly remember who we are as baptized children of God, washed of our sins, welcomed into the family of God, and sent forth to serve and to follow Jesus in this world as we share that grace God has given us with others.

Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? 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. For if we have been united with him in death, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his...So you must all consider yourselves dead to sin and alive in God in Christ Jesus.
Romans 6:1-5,11

What are some fun ways to remember our baptism?

Make It An Annual Celebration:

- Take time to celebrate every year on the anniversary of your baptism. Fill up a bowl of water and make it a centerpiece on your dinner table. Light a candle (or even your very own baptismal candle), and pull out a picture or memento from your baptismal day. Dip your finger into the water and trace the sign of the cross on your forehead, or have everyone at the table bless one another, saying, “God loves you, and so do I!”
- Other ideas for celebrating your baptismal anniversary especially for kids might include giving them a new bath toy, or going out to swim in a pool, visit a water park, play outside in the rain. You might even hold a seashell hunt, where you hide seashells around the yard for them to find.

Celebrate It On Regular Days:

- When you enter or exit the church sanctuary at St. Luke’s, touch the baptismal font and trace the sign of the cross on your forehead to remember your baptism.
- Place a sign in your bathroom, or beside your sink that reminds you that you were baptized.
- Keep a seashell somewhere visible each day to remind you of your baptism.

Live Out Your Baptism:

- As a beloved child of God, washed of your sins and welcomed into God’s family, how can you share that grace with others in this world? Baptism brings us into a whole new way of life! Take time to think about the promises of your baptism.
 - Promises from God to you: *You belong to Christ, in whom you have been baptized. Child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit, and marked by the cross of Christ forever. Let your light so shine before others that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in Heaven.*
 - Promises made for you: *As you bring your child 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 10 Commandments; place in their hands the holy scriptures, and nurture them in faith and prayer, so that your child 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.*
- Being called God’s children in the waters of baptism changes our lives forever! Learning to Live out our Baptismal Covenant is a life-long adventure. For more on what that looks like in practical ways, click here: <https://www.elca.org/Our-Work/Congregations-and-Synods/Faith-Practices/Living-Our-Baptismal-Covenant>