

HOLY BAPTISM



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

South Canyon Lutheran Church

700 44th Street

Rapid City, South Dakota

(605)-343-4887

www.sclc-rc.org

"In Holy Baptism our gracious heavenly Father liberates 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 made members of the Church which is the body of Christ. As we live with him and with his people, we grow in faith, love, and obedience to the will of God" (Lutheran Book of Worship, page 121)

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 2 2:16)
- 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 your child and speaks the Word of God, it is God who addresses your child with these promises and who will faithfully accomplish them in your child. In this gift from God, 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 your child for Baptism you are doing a wonderful thing. You are permitting your child to receive a precious gift, God's gift of eternal love.

Through Baptism, for the rest of life your child can be sure of God's faithful and unconditional love.

"In Christian love you have presented your child for Holy Baptism. You should, therefore, faithfully bring your child to the services of God's house, teach your child the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments. As your child grows in years, you should place in your child's hands the Holy Scriptures and provide for instruction in the Christian faith, that, living in the covenant of your child's Baptism and in communion with the Church, your child may lead a godly life until the day of Jesus Christ." (Lutheran Book of Worship, page 121)



YOUR PROMISES

When you present your child 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, Sunday Church School, Confirmation instruction, and any other way you can.

You need to consider the magnitude of the promises that God gives your child in Baptism, promises more valuable than anything the world can give. You also need to consider how foolish it would be for 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.

"Do you, parents and sponsors, promise to fulfill these obligations?" (Lutheran Book of Worship, p. 127)

PRACTICING YOUR PROMISES

The occasion of your child's Baptism deserves your careful, intentional, and honest consideration on how you will fulfill your Baptismal promises. This event also gives you 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 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. When will you have devotions together? What will your devotions look like?

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

Christian education is essential for your child as you "provide for instruction in the Christian faith." The church will help you by providing Sunday school and confirmation instruction and other opportunities, but we also encourage you to learn more about your faith so that you may be a better teacher for your child. 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 your child to realize and appreciate their Baptism. What are some special things you will do to



remember your child's Baptismal anniversary?

"We welcome you into the body of Christ and into 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.

CHURCH'S PROMISES

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

- 1) look upon your child as an important member of our Christian community,
- 2) support you in making God's promises known to your child, and
- 3) support you in keeping the promises that you make to your child at Baptism.

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

Throughout your child's life of faith the church is there to support and surround you with encouragement, prayer and practical ways for you to help bring up your child in God's grace. A solid educational program provides a base for you as parents to instruct and lead your child as a disciple of Jesus Christ.

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

People often wish to have sponsors, sometimes called "Godparents," for their child. The role of a sponsor is to aid parents in the promises they 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 your child, who will remember 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 South Canyon will also be your child's sponsors and promise to do all these things for your child.

BAPTISMS AT SOUTH CANYON LUTHERAN CHURCH

We are happy and excited that you want your child to be baptized at South Canyon Lutheran Church. As soon as you know when you would like your child to be baptized, please call the church office to 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 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. If the Baptism needs to be held then, we encourage you to celebrate it at the last service of the morning.)

On the day of the Baptism, please be at church at least 15 minutes before the service.