

Baptism Policy

Baptism is for the sake of life in Christ and in the body of Christ, the Church.*

By water and the Word in baptism we are liberated from sin and death by being joined to the death and resurrection of Jesus. In baptism God seals us with the Holy Spirit and marks us with the cross of Christ forever.*

Except in dire circumstances baptisms are celebrated as part of our weekly worship services. In baptism we are adopted as children of God and made members of the body of Christ. Therefore it is essential that those seeking baptism for themselves or their children be actively engaged in a Christian congregation.

Baptism marks the beginning of a life shaped by Christ. As part of the baptismal celebration parents and sponsors pledge to provide the child with nurture and instruction in a life of faith. Therefore sponsors are important and should be active members of a Christian congregation. And as part of the baptismal celebration the congregation pledges to nurture and support the newly baptized on their journey of faith. Ongoing participation in a Christian congregation is essential to a life of faith.

Those seeking baptism for themselves or their children at St. Matthews Lutheran Church:

- Should be actively engaged in the life of St. Matthews (or at the discretion of the pastor actively engaged at another Christian congregation).
- Will be asked to meet with the pastor for instruction in the meaning and purpose of baptism.
- After which the date and time of the baptismal celebration can be finalized with the church office. Name, date and place of birth, and names of sponsors should be provided at this time.

If you would like to speak further about baptism, please contact the pastor.