

RESOURCES

Regardless of the age of the person to be baptized, before setting a date or making family plans, please contact one of the pastors to arrange for instruction in the sacrament. The pastor will go through the rite of Baptism with you, discuss potential sponsors, and guide you through this important rite of welcome into the Body of Christ.

Again, thank you for your interest in Baptism at Sammamish Hills. We look forward to accompanying you on this life changing journey with the Body of Christ.

For more information, contact either of our pastors by phone or email:

THE PASTORS

Pastor John LaMunyon
425-392-7799 x 13
prjohn@shlc.org

Pastor Eric Hanson
425-392-7799 x 25
preric@shlc.org

1 "The Use of the Means of Grace: A Statement on the Practice of Word and Sacrament" www.elca.org

2 "Evangelical Worship: Holy Baptism"

3 "Evangelical Worship: Holy Baptism"



Sammamish Hills
LUTHERAN CHURCH

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BAPTIZED IN WATER

Thank you for your interest in Baptism at Sammamish Hills! Since ancient times, the Christian Church has baptized both infants and adults. Baptism is God's gift of overwhelming grace. We baptize infants as if they were adults, addressing them with questions, words, and promises that their parents, sponsors, and congregation are to help them know and believe as they grow in years. We baptize adults as if they were infants, washing them and clothing them with God's love in Christ.¹



WELCOME TO THE RITE OF BAPTISM

The pattern for the celebration of Christian baptism has a simple yet profound center: washing in water and speaking the word of God. Baptism is normally celebrated within the larger pattern of the Christian assembly's gathering around the word of God and the eucharistic meal. The powerful event of baptism in the assembly takes place within a larger pattern of formation in the faith, a lifelong process of discipleship.

INFANT BAPTISM: THE ROLE OF PARENTS OR LEGAL GUARDIANS

For Lutheran Christians, baptism is literally just the beginning – the beginning of a daily journey of repentance and renewal, of growing into the full measure of Jesus Christ. Through the disciplines of worship, learning, prayer, inviting, giving, serving and encouragement, believers at every stage of life are formed into mature and strong Christian people, called in baptism to serve and speak God's love in daily life.

In the Baptism of infants, or children too young to speak for themselves, it is highly desirable for parents or legal guardians of the baptized to already be along the way in this daily journey and the disciplines involved. One of the questions parents or other guardians will be asked will be where, if not Sammamish Hills, you practice your life of faith in Christ.

ADULT BAPTISM

If you desire to be baptized and are of age to answer for yourself, in the rite of Baptism you will be asked:

Your Name, called by the Holy Spirit, trusting in the grace and love of God, do you desire to be baptized into Christ? If so, answer, "I do."

VOWS OF PARENTS

As you bring your children 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 Ten
Commandments,
place in their hands the holy scriptures,
and nurture them in faith and prayer,
so that your children 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.*

Do you promise to help your children grow in the Christian faith and life? If so, answer, "I do."²

THE MINISTRY OF SPONSORS

Sponsors who present candidates for baptism are baptized Christians who play a nurturing role in candidates' lives and who pledge to provide spiritual support in the future. Sponsors are expected to be active participants in the life of a Christian church. The presentation includes statements expressing the mutual accountability of the baptized, the sponsors and parents, and the whole Christian community. These responses reveal the baptized are united with and surrounded by an assembly gathered by the grace of God, people who rely on that grace to support one another in their commitments.

The specific statements which sponsors make during the worship service underscore this commitment to walk with the newly baptized as mentors and guides in this lifelong journey of Christian discipleship.

THE VOWS OF SPONSORS

Sponsors, do you promise to nurture these persons in the Christian faith as you are empowered by God's Spirit, and to help them live in the covenant of baptism and in communion with the church? If so, say, "I do."³

The best way to mentor others in the faith is to practice that faith ourselves. Regular worship and participation in Christian community, a commitment to learning and growth in faith, practicing the lifestyle of discipleship – these daily disciplines will keep you strong in your baptism, and help you mentor others.

The members of Sammamish Hills are ready to help and support you in this holy calling you have accepted: to walk with you in a journey of faith and discovery of your gifts and calling as a baptized child of God.