

Guidelines for Baptisms at Glenwood Lutheran Church

We believe that Baptism is God's act, God's initiative, and God's gift. Through Baptism God puts to death our sinful self and raises us to new life in Christ. Baptism is the assurance that in Christ we are truly heirs of the Kingdom of God.

So, who should be baptized?

Everyone! Infants, children, and adults should be baptized in fulfillment of Christ's command, "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you." (Matthew 28:19-20)

When should a child be baptized?

Traditionally parents will have their child baptized after the first weeks of birth or throughout the first year. There is no exact or correct time frame for baptism. Sometimes family traditions or life circumstances will help decide when your child will be baptized, however, we recommend that it be sooner rather than later. At the same time it is never too late to be baptized.

So, what should I do if I want my child, or myself, to be baptized?

Contact our Pastors to have a conversation about a date that will work for your family. A Pastor will gather your information and schedule your baptism on a day that is available for you and the congregation. The Pastors can also provide guidance for your faith journey and answer your questions about baptism.

Can my child be baptized at Glenwood Lutheran Church if I am not a member?

We welcome all to become baptized that wish to do so. Ordinarily parents should be Glenwood Lutheran members or worshiping here before bringing a child for baptism. Once a person has been baptized at Glenwood Lutheran Church they become a member. If the parent's membership is in another congregation we insist that they receive the permission from the pastor of that congregation for the baptism to take place at Glenwood Lutheran Church. If they should wish to retain their membership in another congregation we will transfer the membership of the newly baptized to that congregation.

Can I be baptized with my child?

Certainly! If you have not been baptized and are ready to become a part of the faith community, we encourage you to share a baptismal day with your child.

When will baptisms take place?

Baptisms will take place during the normal weekend worship services of Glenwood Lutheran Church. Baptisms can be scheduled for most weekends all year, and available Wednesday services during the seasons of Advent and Lent. We encourage the understanding that baptisms are part of the gathered community of faith and worship, but we acknowledge that due to extenuating circumstances this is not always possible. Exceptions will be at the discretion of the pastor(s). Please note that clandestine or private baptisms are not available at Glenwood Lutheran Church.

Do I need to take part in pre-baptismal conversations with the pastor?

If you have questions concerning baptism we would welcome the opportunity to speak with you and try to answer your questions and address your concerns. If you are an adult wishing to be baptized, it is required that we have a pastoral conversation/instruction about baptism.

Who should be the sponsors?

When choosing sponsors think about the person(s) who will help raise your child in his/her faith life. Think about a person who would help celebrate your child's baptismal day each year, assist with answering those difficult faith questions, be there for your child's faith milestones, and listen to and pray for your child. Sponsors themselves must be baptized and confirmed, or should be 16 years or older. A younger child may be considered an honorary sponsor.

Are there financial costs for having a baptism?

No. Baptism is God's gift to you. He paid all the cost - Himself - on the cross.

What if I have other questions about baptism?

If you have additional questions, please contact the pastors of Glenwood Lutheran Church. We will be happy to assist you!