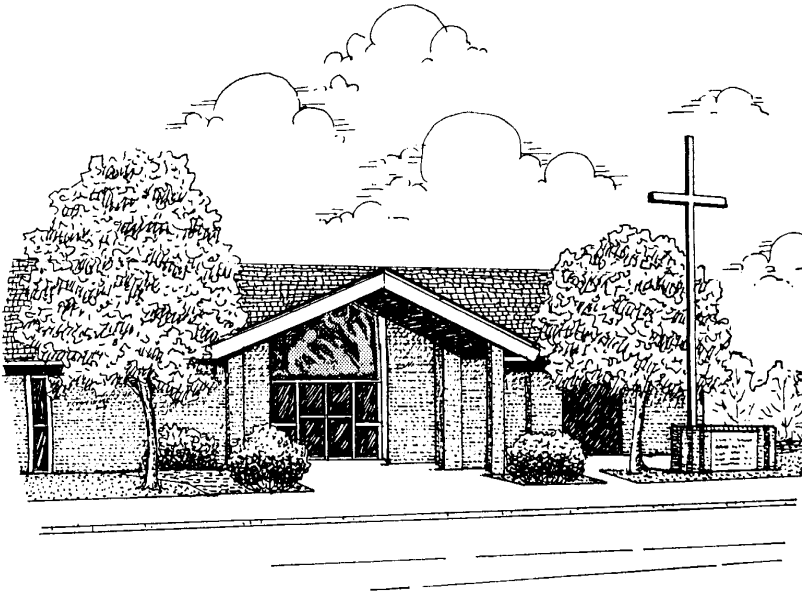


Baptism

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod

640 Minaret Avenue
Turlock, California 95380
(209) 667-7712
www.gslecturlock.org



Baptism

A Holy Sacrament

A person becomes a "new person" in Baptism, a child of God. We refer to Baptism as a sacrament, indicating it is a holy act of God. He works a miracle as water is applied with the Word that Jesus instructed be used: "in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit" (Matthew 28:19). Baptism is a promise from God to cleanse a person from sin and restore him/her into God's Family. More information about Baptism is available from me.

I hope this manual will help answer any questions you may have about Baptism and about the use of the sacrament in our church. I encourage you to make plans for your baptism or your child's baptism as soon as possible. Contact me at the church office (209-667-7712) or pray@gslcturlock.org

We do not baptize people who have already been properly baptized. We recognize the validity of any baptism that was done in a Christian setting where water was used and the person was baptized in the name of the Triune God (Father, Son and Holy Spirit).

If I can answer any other questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

In Christian love,

Pastor Ron Youngdale

Information about Baptism

1. A Baptism is usually done on the 2nd, 4th, or 5th Sunday of a month.
2. A date is reserved by contacting the Pastor.
3. For a child Baptism is the introduction to the Christian faith as God brings faith to child and fills the child with the Holy Spirit. For an adult Baptism is a way God strengthens the faith a person already has.
4. We encourage parents to have a child baptized as soon as possible.
5. Baptism is usually included at the beginning of a worship service.
6. If a child was baptized in an emergency setting, the congregation may publicly recognize that baptism in a worship service. This rite is similar to a baptism, but does not involve baptizing the person again.
7. The Sacrament of Baptism is given to the congregation. It is a public act. Therefore, we include the rite for Baptism in our public worship services.
8. The **Information for a Baptism** form needs to be completed and returned to the church office at least one week before the date of the Baptism.
9. If you are a member of another church, a **Non-Member Child Baptism** form is to be completed by the pastor of your home congregation and returned to the office at least one week before the date of the Baptism.

For more information check out this site:

www.lcms.org/pages/internal.asp?NavID=2590

Sponsors

You are encouraged to choose sponsors, or godparents, when a young child is baptized. A sponsor serves as an official witness of the Baptism. The person will take a public oath to be responsible for assisting in the spiritual care of your child. A sponsor is to be a Christian who is active in a congregation.

A sponsor will be responding to the following statement during the worship service. Please inform the sponsor about this statement.

_____ (names of the child's parents) have asked you to serve as sponsors for him/her. In this role, you are to remember his/her in your prayers, remind his/her of his/her Baptism, and assist the parents in bringing this child up in the teachings of God's Holy Word as it is confessed by our church in the Apostles' Creed and taught in the Small Catechism. If you are ready to accept these responsibilities as sponsors, then answer: "Yes, by the help of God".

Information about the Service

1. You may sit wherever you wish.
2. The Pastor will call the baptismal party up to the front at the appropriate time.
3. Sponsors and parents should come forward. Siblings are welcome at the baptismal font.
4. An elder from the church will represent the congregation at the baptismal font.
5. A Baptismal certificate will be given to the family/person.
6. Please inform family and friends that flash photography is NOT permitted during the service.
7. Pictures may be taken after the worship service.

Cradle Roll

Our congregation has a Cradle Roll. Children under age three, who are baptized at our church, are placed on the Cradle Roll. Parents will receive several mailings up until the child is three years old. At that time you will be invited to enroll your child in our Sunday School or one near where you may be living.

Circumcision

Many parents wonder about circumcision for a boy. The Old Testament command applied to the Israelite people of that day as a sign of the covenant God had made with His people, the Israelites. All male children were to be circumcised on the 8th day. (See Genesis 17:1-14) Christians are not under that command.

Circumcision no longer serves as a seal guaranteeing God's Old Testament promises. God's saving promises are all fulfilled in the person and work and blood of Jesus Christ. So today God allows Christian parents to exercise Christian freedom when making decisions regarding circumcision. Saint Paul's inspired words are clear and to the point: "Neither circumcision nor uncircumcision has any value. The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love" (Galatians 5:6).

<http://online.nph.net/cgi-bin/site.pl?10210&articleID=781>

You may want to read the following passages: Romans 2:25-29; 4:1-25; Galatians 5:1-6.

Medical doctors have differing opinions concerning the health reasons for circumcision. The choice is up to the individual parent(s). If you wish to seek the Pastor's counsel, please do not hesitate to ask.