



Southwood
Lutheran Church



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402.423.5511

southwoodlutheran.org

info@southwoodlutheran.org

Sunday Services:

8:30, 9:45 & 11:00 a.m.

Mailing Address:

P.O. Box 22767
Lincoln, NE 68542

Physical Address:

4301 Wilderness Hills Blvd.
Lincoln, NE 68516

Baptism

Baptism welcomes us into God's family, as we are named and claimed as God's own. Everyone is invited, from infants to children, youth and adults. Regardless of age, God is there with open arms.





Why Baptism?

Here are some reasons that parents may choose to baptize their children:

1. I love my child and want to surround her with the love and promises of her parents, her family, and the church.
2. My child is such an awesome gift from God—a child is much more than “mine” or “ours.” He is God’s creation, God’s child.
3. I want my child to belong to a community of faith, people who love God and love others.
4. I want to affirm the promise of salvation for my child and nurture in his life a way of life and a hope for the future.
5. I want to make a commitment to raising my child as a Christ follower. I want the support of people of faith as I teach my child to live a life of faith.
6. As my child is marked with the cross of Christ forever through baptism. I want him to be empowered to serve the world in the name of Christ.

Hopes for Your Future

I. What is Baptism?

Baptism is not water only, but it is water used together with God’s Word by his command.

What is this Word?

In Matthew 28:19 our Lord Jesus Christ says: *“Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.”* (NLT)

II. What benefits does God give in Baptism?

In Baptism God forgives sin, delivers from death and the devil, and gives everlasting salvation to all who believe what he has promised.

What is God’s promise?

In Mark 16:16 our Lord Jesus Christ says: *“Anyone who believes and is baptized will be saved. But anyone who refuses to believe will be condemned.”* (NLT)





III. How can water do such great things?

It is not water that does these things, but God's Word with the water and our trust in this Word. Water by itself is only water, but with the word of God it is a life-giving water which by grace gives the new birth through the Holy Spirit.

St. Paul writes in Titus 3:5-7

He saved us, not because of the righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He washed away our sins, giving us a new birth and new life through the Holy Spirit. He generously poured out the Spirit upon us through Jesus Christ our Savior. Because of his grace he declared us righteous and gave us confidence that we will inherit eternal life. (NLT)

IV. What does Baptism mean for daily living?

It means that our sinful self, with all its evil deeds and desires, should be drowned through daily repentance; and that day after day a new self should arise to live with God in righteousness and purity forever.

St. Paul writes in Romans 6:3-4

"Or have you forgotten that when we were joined with Christ Jesus in baptism, we joined him in his death? For we died and were buried with Christ by baptism. And just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glorious power of the Father, now we also may live new lives." (NLT)

Promises

How can I fulfill these Baptismal Promises?

1. Pray for your child in their presence.
2. Take them to church with you so they will begin to know they are God's child and part of God's family.
3. Sing them Christian songs.
4. Tell them how much Jesus loves them.
5. Fold their hands in yours as you pray a simple prayer.
6. Look at simple Bible storybooks, pointing out pictures of Jesus.
7. Point out things that God made.
8. Every night when they go to bed, make the sign of the cross on their forehead and say a blessing. Keep doing this. Ideas for a blessing are:
 - ▶ *"God loves you and so do I"*
 - ▶ *"May God bless you and keep you safe"*
 - ▶ *"Child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever"*
9. Pray for your child daily.
10. Live so they see Jesus in you.
11. Remember, you are not alone. You have sponsors, pastors, parents, friends, your congregation, church resources, Holy Communion, the Bible, forgiveness and, above all, the Holy Spirit to lead and guide you.



Faith Stepping Stones Baptism Class

Unwrap God's gift of Holy Baptism at one of the Faith Stepping Stones Baptism Classes. At Southwood, we ask that all parents having children baptized attend one of these classes. You reflect on the meaning of God's gift of grace and how to share the love of God with your child in the rhythms of your daily routines. We'll share resources available at Southwood and you'll meet other parents who are having their child baptized. Classes are offered bi-monthly.

Scheduling a Baptism

1. Contact the church office 402.423.5511. Baptisms at Southwood are the 2nd & 4th Sundays of the month (non-Communion Sundays).
2. Choose sponsors to help you nurture the faith life of your child. Sponsors should be carefully chosen. They should be people who:
 - ▶ live out their faith in their daily lives.
 - ▶ will commit to supporting you as you raise your children in faith.

What Should I Expect?

Baptisms normally take place during the worship service, witnessed by our full congregation. This is important, because during the ceremony, the congregation makes a promise to the person being baptized to support that person in his or her spiritual growth. The ceremony takes about 5–7 minutes, and includes:

- Welcoming to the front of the church during a worship service
- Pouring and blessing of the water
- Asking three questions of faith:
 1. To Parents
 2. To Sponsors
 3. To the Congregation
- Blessing with water
- Anointing with oil
- Prayer for the newly baptized
- Presentation to the Congregation

The person being baptized will receive a Baptismal Certificate, candle and napkin to mark the celebration. *"Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good works and praise your Father in heaven."* Matthew 5:16 (NRSV)

