

Baptism Policy

Baptism, as ordained by Christ, is the word made visible. It sets forth the grace of God in Jesus Christ and affirms that believers and their children are heirs of the covenant of grace.

Baptism is both God's act and the people's response. The Sacrament is a means of testifying to and receiving the reality of God's grace, and is also a means by which all faithful members of the church show forth publicly their own faith and trust in God. It heralds a new beginning of participation in the ministry of Christ.

Christian parents have the right to present their children for baptism as a sign and seal of God's promise to them as heirs of the covenant. In presenting your child for baptism, you affirm in public your duty to bring up your child to love and serve God. The congregation will also promise to surround your child with their love and concern in Christ. As a sign of the promise from the congregation it is appropriate for you to ask someone from the congregation to stand with your family or, if you prefer, an elder can be asked to serve in the same capacity.

Our minister will want to meet with you to instruct and discuss the responsibility and significance of what God is doing in the act of baptism.

Baptism is not practiced out of fear for the condition of the soul of the unbaptized child, but the aim and goal of baptism is the personal confession of faith and commitment to be the Lord's. It places a special responsibility on you as parents, and the congregation of Nazareth for the education and witness in the life of the church.

If you were not baptized as a child and desire to profess your faith in Christ and become incorporated into the membership of the church as believers, you may do so by receiving the Sacrament of Baptism at any age.

As an outward sign of the washing away of sins, a liberal amount of water is applied to the head. You will want to make arrangements to dry off after the ceremony. A baptism towel will be provided for your use following the baptism. We would like you to keep this towel as a reminder of this special day. As the end of the ceremony you may excuse yourself to the restrooms located in the educational wing.

If you have any question concerning baptism our minister will be happy to talk with you. We want to do everything we can to make this day special for you and your family.