

Lutheran FAQ: What Does Baptism Mean?

What do you know about your baptism?
Where was it? How old were you? Who was there? (You might need to check with family and church friends to get the details!)

What baptisms do you remember seeing?

Martin Luther says that water alone can't make promises, but water and God's word do "such great things." Through water, faith, and the word of God, baptism is a "grace-filled water of life." Why do you think God uses ordinary things to make people holy? _____

Lutheran belief centers on God's decision to love, save, and redeem humanity. Where do you see God keeping promises in Scripture? _____

What are some times when you have meant to keep a promise and couldn't? _____

Baptism is about rebirth. Although we baptize once, we experience new life at different moments. When have you felt God's grace in your life? When have you had a fresh start?

We baptize into the Christian faith and affirm our baptism (are confirmed) as Lutherans. Why is it important that one baptism works for all the branches of the Christian tree? _____

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What are some times when you have meant to keep a promise and couldn't? _____

How does it feel to know that God keeps promises even when we fail? _____

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Deeper Dive:

- Martin Luther's *Small Catechism* has a section on baptism. It's in the back of *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* or available as a free app from Augsburg Fortress.
- Read through the service of baptism in your congregation's hymnal, and if you can, compare it with other hymnals. What's the same? What's different?
- The World Council of Churches has a resource called *Baptism, Eucharist, and Ministry* that talks about baptism from a wider Christian perspective.

Written by the ELCA South Carolina Synod to accompany the video "Lutheran F.A.Q. - What Does Baptism Mean?" found at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RfQnnX39lhA>.