

2018  
BAPTISM PREPARATION CLASSES

Sundays

January 7, 2018  
11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

April 8, 2018  
11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

June 24, 2018  
10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

October 7, 2018  
11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Baptism preparation classes meet in the Omega room. Families are invited to attend the service prior to the class.

The class consists of a light lunch, an introduction and informational piece from our Children, Youth & Families staff, and a teaching piece from one of our pastors on the Lutheran understanding of baptism. Child care is available during the informational and teaching pieces. (Child care reservations are required in advance.)

It is our hope that these classes promote fellowship between parents, and are conducive to families with small children. We encourage sponsors to attend, as well.

(Parents wanting to schedule their first baptism at Grace must attend a baptism preparation class prior to the baptism.)

*For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God.*

Ephesians 2:8

Available Baptism Dates  
2018

Sunday Services: 8:45 and 10:15 a.m.  
Wednesday Service: 5:45 p.m.

Sundays	Wednesdays
January 14	January 17
February 11	February 14
March 11	March 14
April 8	
May 13	
June 10*	
July 8*	
August 12*	
September 9	September 12
October 14	October 17
November 11	November 14
December 9	December 12

\* Summer Sunday Service: 9:30 a.m.  
(May 27 - September 2, 2018)

Summer Wednesday Service: 7:00 p.m.  
(June 6 - August 29, 2018)



Grace Lutheran Church  
7800 West County Road 42  
Apple Valley, MN 55124  
(952) 432-7273  
www.graceofav.org

Baptism

2018



Grace Lutheran Church

Baptism

2018



*Water by itself is only water, but with the Word of God it is a life-giving water which by grace gives new birth through the Holy Spirit.*

Martin Luther  
The Small Catechism

11-14-17



## YOU ARE CONSIDERING BAPTISM...WONDERFUL!



In Christian baptism some very important promises are made! So that everyone involved in this important sacrament understands and takes these promises seriously, Grace Lutheran Church offers baptism preparation classes with pastor-led instruction on the meaning and responsibilities of baptism. Every family scheduling their first baptism at Grace is asked to participate in baptism preparation. Parents, and sponsors when possible, are asked to plan for this class in advance of the date set for baptism; often parents attend the baptism preparation class before the baby arrives so that greater attention can be given to its significance. If older children or adults are being baptized, discussions are usually arranged with a pastor at another time.

So what are the important promises made in baptism?

- First, we gather for baptism to hear God's promise (through the church and the pastor's words) that we are, in fact, children of God, loved and embraced for all eternity. We baptize infants because this promise of God is given to each person even before they can comprehend what it means. What a gracious and loving God!
- The second promise is our pledge, as parents, sponsors and congregation, to support, nurture and teach each child baptized, about the meaning of God's love, grace and promise. How else will they know? As each child grows in years, the parents, sponsors and congregation agree to "teach them *The Lord's Prayer, The Apostles' Creed, and The Ten Commandments...*providing for their instruction in the Christian faith..."
- Further, parents and sponsors promise to "bring them to the services of God's house" so that the seed of faith planted in baptism can grow in the warm soil of Christian community.

God's promise...and our pledges make baptism a sacred and very special event in the life of the person, their family, and the congregation of Grace!

Some details to assist in planning:

1. Call the church office at 952-432-7273 to set a date for baptism. Dates for Sunday baptisms and baptism preparation classes are listed in this brochure. We ask that you schedule your baptism for any of the months following the month in which you attend the Baptism Preparation class.
2. Attend a baptism preparation class. Parents wanting to schedule their first baptism at Grace must attend a baptism preparation class prior to the baptism. (Child-care reservations are required in advance.)
3. Consider who you wish to have as baptismal sponsors. Sponsors or 'God-parents' are persons chosen who will pray for, support and encourage the child in their faith development. One or two persons, or couples, usually serve in this role. (Godparents should be 18 years, or older.)

Remember that this 'supernatural' birthday for your child is a sacrament of congregational importance and is held during one of our Sunday morning or Wednesday evening services. (Out of respect for other worshippers, we ask that cameras and video cameras be used without a flash and by staying seated at all times.) Remember to invite your family and friends and make it a very festive occasion!

