

Times, Dates & Counseling

Baptisms normally take place on the first Sunday of each month or on an appropriate Festival Sunday such as the festival of The Baptism of Our Lord. There may be multiple baptisms at one time. No Baptisms are celebrated during the Lenten Season.

Baptismal counseling is required.

Counseling consists of two (2) one hour small group sessions. You and your baptismal candidate(s) will be meeting to participate and interact with other families and their baptismal candidates. These sessions will be held three times a year, spring, fall and winter.

The dates of Counseling sessions will coincide with either the 1st Sunday of the month or the coming appropriate Festival Sunday.



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St. James Evangelical Lutheran Church

Baptismal
Information
for
St. James Evangelical
Lutheran Church

I have baptized you
with **WATER;**
but he
will baptize you
with the
HOLY
SPIRIT.

Mark 1:8



Rt. 309 & Oxford Street
Coopersburg, PA 18036

Aspects of the Baptismal Service at St. James



The basic guidelines presented are to be used for the Baptism of either children or adults. When someone desires baptism, please notify the pastor so that pastoral care can be provided to both the family and the individual(s).

The pastor will meet with the family of the candidate(s) for Baptism and will assist in planning the date, time, and order of worship. Under no circumstance should the date or time of the Baptism be set without first consulting the pastor. The order of worship will follow the order found in the Lutheran Book of Worship. The pastor is responsible for faithful adherence to scripture, the Lutheran Confessions, and the liturgies of the Church. Under normal circumstances the baptism will be held at St. James Lutheran Church,

During one of the regularly scheduled Sunday worship services. It is here that we are gathered, nourished, forgiven and strengthened by God to be the body of Christ, the family of God.

Lutherans do not re-baptize an individual who has already been baptized. Since baptism by water and the Word is something that God does through the Holy Spirit, we have no reason to re-baptize the already baptized. We believe, teach, and confess the Nicene Creed which states in the third article, "We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins".

In extraordinary circumstances (an emergency such as imminent death of a newborn child) un-baptized persons may be baptized by anyone who has been themselves baptized.

Sponsors

There are generally two sponsors. Sponsors are baptized and practicing Christians in good standing with their respective faith communities. Should the parents or guardians be unable, for any reason, to fulfill the promises they make for this child, the spon-

sors then assume those responsibilities and promises.

This brochure is only a brief overview of our Baptismal Guidelines. Please ask an usher, or call our church office, to receive the Baptismal Booklet that will provide all the information you may need.

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