

SACRAMENTS

Class Objective for Sacraments

- 1) Be able to articulate the meaning and importance of the two sacraments of Baptism and Communion.
- 2) Have a deepened understanding of the role baptism plays in daily life.
- 3) Understand why the celebration of weekly communion is important
 - a. to the life of the faith community
 - b. to us individually

SACRAMENTS

Session 1: What is a Sacrament? Understanding the baptismal promises.

OBJECTIVE: To understand what is a sacrament. To familiarize yourself with the promises made for you at your baptism by your parents and sponsors.

What is a sacrament? A Sacrament is an act that was commanded _____.

What are the two sacraments in the Lutheran church: _____ and _____.

What do you remember about your baptism?

What role have your godparents played in your life?

What are some of the words, actions, or images, that stand out to you about what you have seen and heard during baptisms at church?

What has been the impact of these baptismal promises in your life?

- Faithfully brought to the services of God's house.
- Taught the Lord's Prayer,
- The Creed,
- And the Ten Commandments.
- The Scriptures placed in your hands.

PARENT/CHILD DISCUSSION QUESTION:

In what ways have you carried out the promises you made for me at my baptism. What are the places that have been difficult to carry out, and why?

Completed: _____

Session 2: Luther's Explanation of Baptism

OBJECTIVE: To understand that baptism is God's word connected to the water. In baptism we are made children of God who receive the promises of forgiveness and eternal life.

Martin Luther wrote the _____ as an instructional book about the faith.

What is Martin Luther's explanation of Baptism?

What does the "Great Commission from Matthew 28" tell us to do?

Romans 6.3-4

³Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? ⁴Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.

Luther talked about "dying daily" to your sin. What are the things in your life that cause you problems that you need to "let go of" or ask for forgiveness for on a daily basis.

Because Jesus died on the cross, God forgives us and promises to be with us every day to help us do better. That's what being baptized is all about. Baptism reminds us that we can be washed clean every time we fall short of God's hope for our lives. God forgives us the shortcomings of our old selves and gives us a new chance everyday.

Lutheran Christians talk about receiving God's grace through the sacraments. This means we get God's life giving love of Christ when we are baptized, and when we "stir up" the waters of our baptism we renew God's life giving Spirit in our lives.

The healing times of our lives are the gift of our baptism. That is the life giving "grace" (God's amazing love in Jesus working through the Holy Spirit in our lives) flowing over us!

In baptism we are forgiven and reborn! We can start over! It is just as Paul says in Baptism is our connection to eternal life with Jesus, our reminder that when we are baptized we can share in God's promise of eternal life. (Titus 3.7)

- **HOMEWORK:** For next Sunday bring in a picture, certificate, or memento from your baptism to share with the class next week.

PARENT/CHILD DISCUSSION QUESTION:

Help your child to find the above homework. Share your thoughts and feelings you have when you look at the above item.

COMPLETED: _____

Session 3: Images of Baptism

OBJECTIVE: To explore and understand a variety of images that are found in the New Testament

In the New Testament we read about a number of different images, as shown on the next page, (that either speak directly about baptism or relate to it) that God has given us to understand the work of our baptisms.

Which of these images speak to you the most clearly, help you to understand baptism?

What are the other images or words you use to understand your baptism?

PARENT/CHILD DISCUSSION QUESTION:

Look over the handout of Biblical images of Baptism. Tell your child which one best describes your understanding of what baptism means to you and why.

COMPLETED: _____

Session 4: Luther's Explanation of Communion

OBJECTIVE: To understand Martin Luther's explanation of communion in the Small Catechism.

Martin Luther said in the Small Catechism, *“Holy Communion is the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ given with bread and wine, instituted by Christ himself.”*

Lutherans often talk about “the real presence” of Jesus in the bread and wine. It means that the bread and wine don’t change into the body and blood, but the very presence of Christ is in the bread and wine.

What are your memories from your first communion training and when you received your first communion?

Martin Luther says in the Small Catechism, “The words, “given and shed for you,” for the forgiveness of sins, show us that the forgiveness of sin, life, and salvation are given to us in the sacrament though these words, because where there is forgiveness of sins, there is also life and salvation. This happens because God’s word of life is connected to the bread and wine, the word’s are a promise from our God, and when we respond in faith with belief in these words, we receive the promise of forgiveness that leads to a full life now, and life eternal in the future. The Lord’s supper is the visible sign we participate in that connects us to the promise of what God did on the cross to forgive us.

Why do you think it is important to celebrate communion every week?

How could you make communion more meaningful if you participated in a different way?

Communion is a time to receive God’s promise of new life, but that comes after we lay out our brokenness before our God. Communion is a time for humbleness and to ready your heart for God’s mercy. Communion is also a time to get a hint of what our celebration to come will be like when we live with our Lord in heaven!

PARENT/CHILD DISCUSSION QUESTION:

Ask your parents how they feel and what they think about when they come to the altar rail for communion.

COMPLETED: _____

- **Luke 22:14-23**

- **John 13:1-30**

- **Acts 2:40-42**

- **1 Corinthians 11:23-34**

PARENT/CHILD DISCUSSION QUESTION:

When you were young, what do you remember about taking communion with your family?

COMPLETED: _____

