

PURPOSE OF BAPTISM

Why We Splash, Dunk, or Dip to Baptize 'Em

- Jesus said, “Because I said so and I’m the Messiah, that’s why!” Just kidding. Jesus told his first disciples to go and baptize all people, making them disciples, too.
- Goodbye sin; hello forgiveness. Baptism is a physical sign of the forgiveness we receive each day through Jesus’ life, death, and resurrection.
- It’s free. You don’t have to be grown-up, graduated, or do sermon notes to be baptized. Anyone of any age or background is welcome.
- You are made a member of God’s family, brothers and sisters with all the baptized. Your baptismal family is all about love, forgiveness, help, care, and welcome.
- Jesus died. End of story? No way! Jesus lived again. Baptism is a way of signing up for the same plan. We’ll die, but we too will live again.

Big Idea: With one baptism, we join the family of faith and experience a fresh start every day.

What three questions do you have about the purpose of baptism?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Small Catechism Connection

Martin Luther said a sacrament is commanded by God, mixes everyday stuff with God’s holy word, and gives God’s grace. Turn to “What Is Baptism?” on page 214 in *The Lutheran Handbook* and Matthew 28:16-20 in your Bible. Read both. What is God’s command? Use water to make the sign of the cross on your forehead as you say, “Through baptism I am a child of God, marked the cross of Christ forever.”

Handbook Connection

Review point #1 on page 214 in *The Lutheran Handbook*. Can you think of another ordinary thing, besides water, that is combined with God’s word to do something extraordinary? Read “The Anatomy of a Baptism” on page 34 in *The Lutheran Handbook*. How are the roles of parents, sponsors, and the congregation similar? Highlight the sentence beginning “God is the true actor in baptism” and write the words “God was at work at my baptism” in the margin.

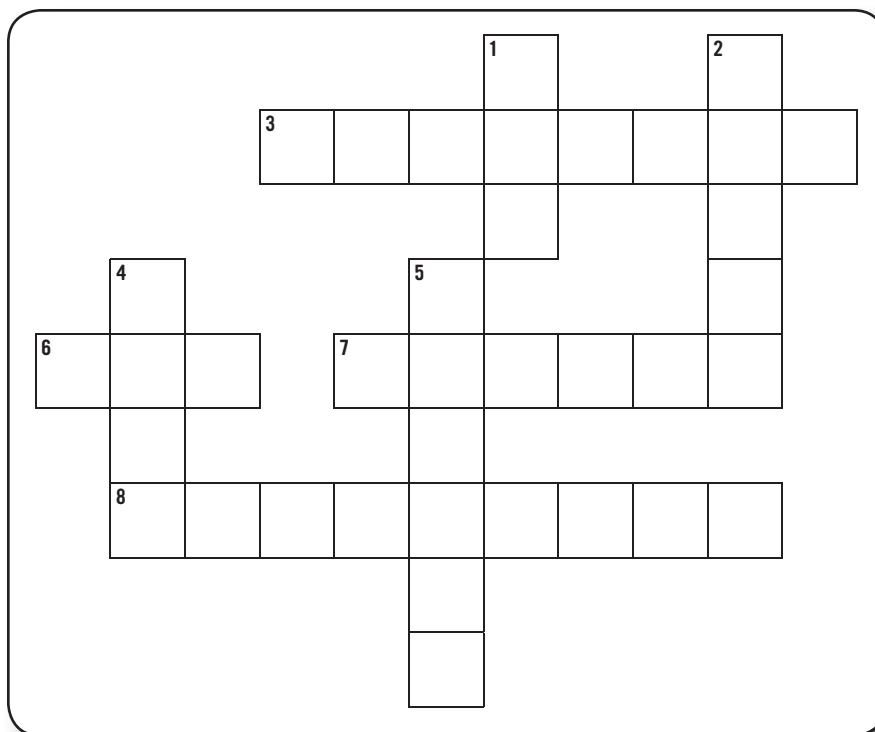
My Life

Do you ever wish you could take back something awful you blurted out to a friend? Have you ever dreamed of rewinding time to take a failed test over? Life is full of mistakes and regrets, but not so in matters of faith. Despite our sins, God gives us a fresh start every day. What will you do with that freedom?

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CROSSWORD

Write the answer to each clue in the puzzle below.



Across

3. They support the faith of the person being baptized.
6. Who does all the work in baptism.
7. Lit at baptism to remind us of Christ's light.
8. When we are baptized, we are made ____ and children of God.

Down

1. Individuals may be baptized at ____ age.
2. Baptism shows the free gift of God's ____.
4. Water + ____ = baptism.
5. In baptism, we are made part of one _____ in the body of Christ.

Prayer: Dear God, thanks for doing great things through ordinary stuff like water—and even me. Amen

Bible Verse: Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.—Matthew 28:19-20 (NRSV)

Answers: 3. sponsors 6. God 7. candle 8. disciple Down 1. any 2. grace 4. Word 5. family