

## Choosing Sponsors

Choosing sponsors is one of the most important decisions you will make at baptism. As you choose sponsors, consider who will help teach them the faith, remember their baptismal anniversary and support you in your teaching to the child or in your own faith journey. Because of the role of the sponsors, sponsors must be Christian, though they do not need to be members of Ascension or Lutheran.



## Scheduling a Baptism

Baptisms are conducted during a regular worship service. To schedule, you need to talk with the pastor at least 4-6 weeks in advance to schedule. It is good to have several dates you are considering, as some dates may not be available. Once the date is determined, you will need to complete a form for the secretary in order to prepare worship for that day and maintain the church records.

## About Ascension

Ascension Lutheran Church is a member of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, more commonly known as the ELCA. ([www.elca.org](http://www.elca.org))

Our mission: As an open and progressive congregation, we boldly make Christ's vision known.

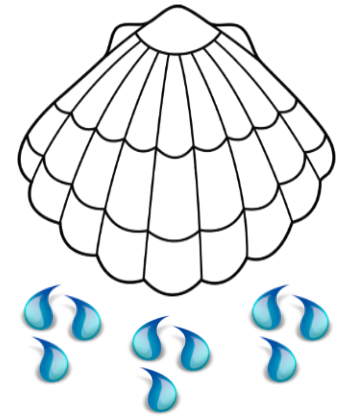
We are intentional about our spiritual journey, care of the congregation, outreach and stewardship of resources. We strive to be faithful to the call of God in this community and the world.

## About Pastor Julie Bailey

Pastor Julie Bailey was called to serve with Ascension in August 2013. Prior to serving with Ascension, she served as nurse in Lincoln, Nebraska, served another congregation in Saginaw, and most recently served as an Assistant to the Bishop in our local synod.

She is a graduate of the University of Nebraska and Trinity Lutheran Seminary.

# HOLY BAPTISM



As

"Child of God,  
you have been sealed  
by the Holy Spirit and  
marked with the  
Cross of Christ forever."



**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**  
God's work. Our hands.

## Ascension

Lutheran Church-ELCA  
8695 Gratiot Road  
Saginaw, MI 48609  
989-781-2170

## God's Promises

In Baptism, God promises to:

- 1) makes your child a child of God, for your child will be baptized in God's name (Matthew 28:19),
- 2) wash your child clean of sin (Acts 22:16),
- 3) give your child the Holy Spirit, which will enable your child to call upon Jesus as Lord (Titus 3:5),
- 4) make your child a member of the body of Christ, the Church (Romans 6:5), and
- 5) grant your child eternal life (Mark 16:16).

As the pastor pours water on your child and speaks the Word of God, it is God who addresses your child with these promises and who will faithfully accomplish them in your child. In this gift from God, your child will begin a whole new life, a life led by Christ.



Water is the physical sign of this covenant between God and your child. It is water, with God's Word and promise of Grace that makes baptism special. Nothing can separate us from the love of God.

We baptize at any age, including as children. Why? Baptism is a gift of God, it is God's action in us and is not dependent on us. At a later age, generally in the early teen years, youth will have the opportunity to "affirm" their baptism, which makes the faith their own, as they take the responsibility for responding to God's grace.

## Your Promises



The Sacrament of Baptism is a covenant agreement between the baptized and God. A covenant is a promise. God makes promises, but so do we. When we are baptized as an adult, we make these promises ourselves. When we are baptized as a child, our parents and sponsors make the promise for us, until we affirm these promises when we Affirm our Baptism, or are confirmed. We promise to to live with them among God's faithful people, bring them to the word of God and the holy supper, teach them the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments, place in their hands the holy scriptures, and nurture them in faith and prayer, so that your children may learn to trust God, proclaim Christ through word and deed, care for others and the world God made, and work for justice and peace.

As a parent, you have been gifted with this child. Having your child baptized is one of the most important promises you make to your child. In baptizing your child, you are showing them how much God loves them and promises them for eternity.

## Church's Promises

"We welcome you into the Lord's family. We receive you as a fellow member of the Body of Christ, child of the same heavenly Father, and worker with us in the Kingdom of God."

When baptized, the Church, your Christian brothers and sisters promise to help fulfill the baptismal promises by:

- 1) Offerings of worship, with Holy Communion offered each service.
- 2) Offering a community of faith for support and learning, as together we grow in our relationship with God and each other.
- 3) Providing age based education to help learn the stories of the faith, for adults and for children.
- 4) Provide opportunities as the child grows to participate in larger church activities to grow in faith.

