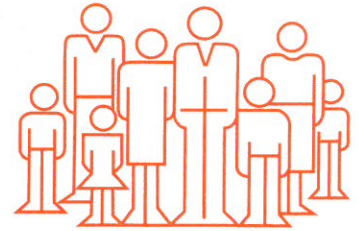


IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Dear Friends in Christ:

God's blessings as you celebrate the gift of your child and prepare to present him or her for Holy Baptism.

Baptism is the foundation of our faith here at Immanuel. Baptism is our counter cultural belief that God had chosen us – and nothing can change that. We know that we get hung up in sin and lose our way – but nothing can change God's promise to be faithful to us. Although we baptize children of all ages and adults, we celebrate infant baptism as a sign that before we can do anything for ourselves – God has done everything for us.

However, baptizing infants places a responsibility upon the parents and baptismal sponsors of the child. If you don't tell your child why they were baptized – they will never know the action packed love behind the sacrament. As your child is baptized, you will be asked to make the following promises:

- To live with your child among God's faithful people
- To bring them to the Word of God and the holy supper
- To teach them the Lord's Prayer, the Creed and the Ten Commandments
- To place in their hands the Holy Scriptures
- To nurture them in faith and prayer so they may learn to trust God
- To proclaim Christ through word and deed
- To care for others and the world God made
- To work for justice and peace

This may seem like a tall order. Please know these promises were meant to be fulfilled in community. There's nothing like raising a child up in a large family – always someone to look after you. Thankfully, that's what God has called us to be together – brothers and sisters in Christ.

I'm looking forward to meeting with you soon. Before we meet, please complete the information form and read the packet enclosed entitled, Free to Be. Please feel free to contact me at the church office with any questions you might have.

In Christ,

Rev. Karna Marks