

10 Ways to Celebrate Your Child's Baptismal Anniversary

The following ideas are based on the promises that parents make at their child's baptism (see *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*, p. 228).



1. Tell the story of the child's baptismal day. Make the story concrete. Share pictures of the sacramental day if you have them. Reenact the rite using the bulletin, candle, napkin, and baptismal clothing that you may also have. With upper-elementary school children, add to the conversation the promises that were made (see *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*, p. 228) and begin the conversation about looking forward to the child's coming affirmation of baptism (confirmation).
2. Share the baptismal stories of *other* members of the family. How are they similar? How are they different? Remind one another that they all have the common elements of water, word, and the everlasting gracious promise of Christ.
3. Invite your child's congregational sponsor (if you have one) or someone else from your faith community to celebrate with you.

Connection to the baptismal promises: *to live among God's faithful people*

4. Share stories about favorite worship experiences and Bible stories.

Connection to the baptismal promises: *to bring them to the word of God and the holy supper*

5. Have a family conversation about as many water stories in the Bible as the group can recall.

Connection to the baptismal promises: *to place in their hands the holy scriptures*

6. Offer a prayer of thanksgiving for the young child, the family, and the blessings of this life. Assist older children with their own prayers.

Connection to the baptismal promises: *to nurture them in faith and prayer*

7. Have an adult share a story about a time when God's presence was made known to her or him in a special or powerful way. Encourage the children to share their stories as well.

Connection to the baptismal promises: *to learn to trust God*



8. Plan an age-appropriate service project to assist with a local or global need. For example, go together as a family to serve a friend in need, or to work in a local food bank or soup kitchen. Or, develop a plan for intentional prayer for those in need.

Connection to the baptismal promises: *to proclaim Christ through word and deed; to work for justice and peace*

9. Have a conversation about family stewardship. Talk about money and how it is shared with others. How are those choices made? Who makes the decisions? Develop a plan for a special offering in honor of this anniversary.

Connection to the baptismal promises: *to care for others*

10. Plan a care-for-the earth project.

Connection to the baptismal promises: *to care for the world God made*

