



Legend has it that Martin Luther placed a large plaque in his room that read: “When you wash your face, remember your baptism.” Why was this so significant for him? Throughout his life as he recognized his own sinfulness, and he wrestled with the understanding of God’s Word, Luther faced the derision and condemnation of his own church. It is no wonder then, that along the way he struggled with doubts, depression, and anxiety. At times he would suffer crises of faith that were so severe that he doubted his own salvation. But in these moments, he clung to the promises that God made to him at Baptism. Promises that his God had granted him salvation not by his own merit but by the grace alone. It is said that because his bouts with depression were so severe, he would repeat as a mantra: “I am baptized! I am baptized!” May we, too, in times of doubt, hardship, and fear be comforted and strengthened by God’s promises to us in the baptismal waters, calling us His children and promising to be with us forever.

Often, for Lutherans, part of remembering our baptism each day is a way of daily dying and rising, confessing and hearing again God’s words of forgiveness. We also sometimes call it, “Walking Wet.” This is a way of life, where we regularly remember who we are as baptized children of God, washed of our sins, welcomed into the family of God, and sent forth to serve and to follow Jesus in this world as we share that grace God has given us with others.

Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life. For if we have been united with him in death we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin. For one who has died has been set free from sin. Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. For the death he died he died to sin, once for all, but the life he lives he lives to God. So you must all consider yourselves dead to sin and alive in God in Christ Jesus.

Romans 6:1-18

What are some fun ways to remember our baptism?

Make It An Annual Celebration:

- Take time to celebrate every year on the anniversary of your baptism. Fill up a bowl of water and make it a centerpiece on your dinner table. Light a candle (or even your very own baptismal candle from years ago), and pull out a picture or memento from your baptismal day. Dip your finger into the water and make the sign of the cross on your forehead, or have everyone at the table do this to bless you, saying, “God loves you, and so do I!”
- Other ideas for celebrating your baptismal anniversary especially for kids might include giving them a water-themed gift, like a bath toy, or going out to swim in a pool/visit a water park, play outside in the rain, or even do a seashell hunt, where you hide seashells around the yard for them to find.

Celebrate It On Regular Days:

- When you enter or exit the church sanctuary, dip your fingers into the baptismal font and then make the sign of the cross on your forehead to remember your baptism.
- Place a sign in your bathroom, or beside your sink that reminds you that you were baptized.
- Have a seashell somewhere close to remind you of your baptism.
- Visit a lake/pool/beach/fountain, or simply pour a glass of water.
- In all of these moments of being reminded, take time to think about God’s promises to you.

How do they affect the way you see yourself and the world around you?

Some of them were promises from God to you: *You belong to Christ, in whom you have been baptized. Child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit, and marked by the cross of Christ forever. Let your light so shine before others that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in Heaven.*

Others were promises made by your parents/sponsors: *As you bring your child to receive the gift of baptism, you are entrusted with responsibilities: 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 10 Commandments, place in their hands the holy scriptures, and nurture them in faith and prayer, so that your child 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.*

There were vows you made at your Confirmation/Affirmation of Baptism: *Do you intend to continue in the covenant God made with you in Holy Baptism: to live among God’s faithful people, to hear the word of God and share in the Lord’s supper, to proclaim the Good News of God in Christ through word and deed, to serve all people following the example of Jesus, and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth?*

Live Out Your Baptism:

- As a beloved child of God, washed of your sins and welcomed into God’s family, how can you share that grace with others in this world? Baptism brings us into a whole new way of life! To find out more, check out the link below:

https://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/Living_Our_Baptismal_Covenant.pdf?_ga=2.250380550.1448126067.1611776884-950525403.1602118310