



## **Christian Baptism at La Casa de Cristo Lutheran Church**

### **What is baptism at La Casa de Cristo Lutheran Church?**

Just before Jesus ascended into heaven He told his disciples to, "Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit" (Matthew 28:19). Baptism is a follower's initiation into life with the Triune God; Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. A person is baptized as a response to God's invitation to be a part of God's family. For all who receive Jesus and believe in his name he gives the right to become "children of God" (1 John 1:12). One who is baptized into God's family receives God's forgiveness, is rescued from death and the devil, and granted God's eternal salvation. This is what the word of God declared when Christ said, "Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned" (Mark 16:16). Adults may be baptized as their response to God's calling or children may be baptized as a response to God's calling. In the later case, families are declaring their desire to raise their children in the family of God. Together, we live, worship, work, and play as God's *baptized* people.

### **Who may be baptized at La Casa de Cristo?**

God calls all people into a life with Him. Therefore, *all people of all ages* may be baptized into the church:

#### Infants

Infants of baptized parents who trust in Jesus Christ as their Savior and Lord may be baptized at La Casa de Cristo. Parent(s) must first attend a baptismal orientation at the church. While parents do not need to be members of La Casa de Cristo in order to have a child baptized here, they should be planning to become active members at La Casa or some other Christian congregation.

#### Children

Children of preschool age through eighth grade, not baptized as infants, may also be baptized after their parents attend a baptismal orientation. Older children attend the orientation with their parents.

#### Youth

Youth in high school who believe in Jesus as their Savior and who subsequently desire to be baptized are required to be in communication with the Director of Youth Ministry as well as attend the orientation.

#### Adults

Adults, who believe in Jesus as their Savior and desire to be baptized, are asked to complete the new member orientation and then to meet individually with a pastor prior to baptism.

**I desire to live a life in God’s family as a baptized Child of God. What do I do to be baptized at the church?**

The first step is to attend a baptismal orientation at La Casa. A pastor will lead the orientation and answer any questions that you have about baptisms at the church. The orientation is a meeting in which the meaning of baptism is set forth and the responsibilities of those being baptized are discussed (parent[s] of children to be baptized are required to attend since they will be making the same promises to God at their child’s baptism). Copies of the service of baptism are distributed and reviewed so that everyone will know fully understands what will take place. Your actual baptism date can also be set at the orientation.

**When are the orientations and how can I sign up?**

Upcoming Baptism Orientations are listed on our church’s website. You may also sign up to attend the orientations on that same page; visit: [www.lacasadecristo.com/baptism](http://www.lacasadecristo.com/baptism)

**When are Baptism Services held?**

Baptism Services are held at Noon on select Sundays throughout the year (almost monthly). Check the church’s website for upcoming Baptism Service dates: [www.lacasadecristo.com/baptism](http://www.lacasadecristo.com/baptism)

**Who is involved in the baptism?**

The pastor will preside at the baptism. Family and friends are all welcome to view the baptism. Sponsors are also invited to participate.

**What is the role of a Baptismal Sponsor?**

All people being baptized are asked to have a sponsor who will walk beside them in their Christian faith. They are to serve as a support and encouragement for the Christian life of the one being baptized. Ideal Sponsors are positive Christian role-models who exposit the Christian faith through their everyday words and actions. They are already faithful participants in the life of the church and can serve as a mentor for the one being baptized.

**How does an infant or child confirm their desire to be baptized once they come to an appropriate age?**

An infant or child can confirm their baptismal faith through the church’s “Confirmation” program. When the child is in 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade they are asked to “confirm” their faith that they were previously baptized into. The program includes learning more about God’s Word and life in God’s church. Students can “confirm” their baptismal promises at this time.