

Dear Family,

Blessings to you, too, with the baptism of your child! You have received God's promises for your child and accepted responsibility for bringing her or him up in the Christian faith. God is with you, providing guidance and support through caring sponsors, friends, family, and your congregation.

At the baptism, your church family claimed you and your child as "fellow members of the body of Christ, children of the same heavenly Father, and workers with us in the kingdom of God" (*Lutheran Book of Worship*, 1978, p. 125). Grace-filled and free, you are invited to grow in faith with your child.

Growing with God

Splash! The Sacrament of Baptism is a gift of God's grace that refreshes and renews us daily. Celebrate that newness with your child's daily bath. Cut a shell shape from a sponge and use it for a final rinse as you pray a splashful prayer to thank God for loving both of you so very much!



Baptism Blessings

God loves me.
Mark 10:13-16



you are a child of God.
Welcome to God's family!

Dear Family,

The “first” of anything is an important milestone.

During your first year together you and your child have experienced first tooth, first smile, first solid food, and maybe first step. What an awesome God made your child—and each bit of creation—with such promise and such love.

Your one-year-old knows about mirrors and has discovered his or her toes. Explore more of God’s wondrous creation with big and little trips outdoors. Whether you get to the ocean or to a puddle in the sidewalk, your child will find plenty to encounter with several senses. Thank God for the world all around you with a hum and a clap and a song.

Growing with God

Your child uses her or his whole body to do environmental exploration. (Young children often check out new things with their especially sensitive mouths!) Help your child learn about God’s amazing world by comparing and contrasting things you find with characteristics of him or her. You will improve your child’s observation skills and also increase her or his vocabulary. Here are some examples.

- Point to an ant and say, “Ants have legs and can walk like you, but you have two legs and they have six!”
- Taste a berry and say, “A berry is round and little, and you are tall and big. But both of you have smooth skin.”



Child of God,
It's Wonderful
to Be One!

God made me.
Genesis 1–2



Happy first birthday,
baby of ours!

Dear Family,

God's care comes to each of us in many ways and through many people. At two, your child is well into the business of relating to others, especially those who provide care and love. The trust your child places in caregivers will gradually broaden to include trust in God, the source of all loving care. Mention grandparents, day-care providers, doctors, and church nursery helpers in bedtime prayers of thanks to help your child make the connection.

Growing with God

One way a child experiences care is through routine. The predictable patterns—day and night, activity and rest, seasons, and weeks with laundry night, family movie night, and Sunday worship—give a child a reassuring sense of order. Ultimately that order, the repeating events of our daily lives, takes on a sacramental feel when we remember that God is there in the center of what we do.

Your two-year-old will help you keep track of upcoming events with a simple weekly calendar displayed low on the refrigerator door. Set a favorite magnet on “Today.” Draw a laundry basket on laundry day, a book on library day, and a cross or other familiar image on Sunday. Use your calendar to remember the day you just spent together and plan for the next one as you pray bedtime prayers.

Happy Birthday,
Two-Year-Old!



God cares for me.
1 Peter 5:7



Count two knees.

Count two eyes.

You're two years old.

What a big surprise!

Dear Family,

Your three-year-old is no longer a baby! Measuring inches and buying new shoes offer only hints about his or her growth. Amazing changes are happening inside, too, as your child learns. Have you marveled at your child's curiosity and memory? Do you encourage questions about big and little things? Are you good at telling stories—and listening to them? Such activities support learning as a way of life. Deuteronomy 6:6-9 suggests when and where to teach your child about God.

Jesus was a teacher who used experiences and images from daily life to draw people into the riches of the kingdom. Find a children's Bible you and your child will enjoy reading together and get into God's Word. Claim favorite stories as your own with related art, drama, and cooking projects that engage all of your senses.

Growing with God

Have your child decorate index cards with reminders of favorite Bible stories to use as Bible storybook bookmarks:

- For the mustard seed (Matthew 13:31-32), glue on a seed and draw a plant growing out of it.
- For the lost sheep (Luke 15:1-7), glue on half a cotton ball, then draw head, legs, and tail.
- For Jesus and the children (Mark 10:13-16), draw a self-portrait or glue on a photo.
- For creation (Genesis 1-2), draw or glue on pictures of plants or animals.

Hooray for You, Three-Year-Old Child of God!



God helps me learn.
Luke 15



Play and pray—
It's your day!
Happy Birthday!