

## **Immanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church – Mayville, Wisconsin Baptismal Record Sheet**

### **INFORMATION ON CHILD TO BE BAPTIZED**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
          Last                                      First                                      Middle  
Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_  
Place of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date to be Baptized: \_\_\_\_\_  
Time to be Baptized: \_\_\_\_\_

### **INFORMATION ON PARENTS OF CHILD**

Father’s Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Mother’s Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Maiden Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Phone Numbers: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Email Addresses: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### **INFORMATION ON FIRST SPONSOR/WITNESS**

Sponsor’s Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Home Congregation: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### **INFORMATION ON SECOND SPONSOR/WITNESS**

Sponsor’s Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Home Congregation: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

(See next page)

Question 306 in the Explanation of Luther's Small Catechism:

*Why does the church encourage sponsors at Baptisms?*

**Sponsors are to confess the faith expressed in the Apostles' Creed and taught in the Small Catechism, witness the Baptism of those they sponsor (whenever possible), pray for them, support them in their ongoing instruction and nurture in the Christian faith, and encourage them toward faithful reception of the Lord's Supper. They are also to be examples to them of the life of faith and love for the neighbor (see LSB, p. 269).**

As mentioned in our latest Catechism, those individuals who are united with us in matters of doctrine (that is, who are members of the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod or another Confessional Lutheran church) may serve as sponsors. Parents are encouraged to choose sponsors for their child prior to the time of Baptism. If parents choose sponsors for their child when they first become aware of their pregnancy, the sponsors might be encouraged to pray for the child while yet in the womb.

If parents decline to choose sponsors, they might instead choose witnesses to attest to the Baptism. A witness is able to reassure the child that they were baptized later in life.

A sponsor not only witnesses the Baptism but promises to pray for the child and encourage the child to remain steadfast in the true Lutheran faith through childhood, confirmation, and into their adult life. In order to be able to faithfully encourage the child in their life of faith, sponsors must be individuals who live devout Christian lives, faithfully attending an orthodox Lutheran congregation, and who frequently hear the Word of God and receive the Lord's Supper.

While it is not necessary to choose sponsors or witnesses, you are encouraged to do so.

Please review the following section of the Catechism on Baptism with your family:

### FROM DR. MARTIN LUTHER'S SMALL CATECHISM

*What is Baptism?*

**Baptism is not just plain water, but it is the water included in God's command and combined with God's word.**

*Which is that word of God?*

**Christ our Lord says in the last chapter of Matthew: "Therefore, 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).**

*What benefits does Baptism give?*

**It works forgiveness of sins, rescues from death and the devil, and gives eternal salvation to all who believe this, as the words and promises of God declare.**

*Which are these words and promises of God?*

**Christ our Lord says in the last chapter of Mark: "Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned" (Mark 16:16).**

*How can water do such great things?*

**Certainly not just water, but the word of God in and with the water does these things, along with the faith which trusts this word of God in the water. For without God's word the water is plain water and no Baptism. But with the word of God it is a Baptism, that is, a life-giving water, rich in grace, and a washing of the new birth in the Holy Spirit, as St. Paul says in Titus, chapter three: "He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by His grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life. This is a trustworthy saying" (Titus 3:5,8).**

*What does such baptizing with water indicate?*

**It indicates that the Old Adam in us should by daily contrition and repentance be drowned and die with all sins and evil desires, and that a new man should daily emerge and arise to live before God in righteousness and purity forever.**

*Where is this written?*

**St. Paul writes in Romans chapter six: "We were therefore buried with Him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life" (Romans 6:4).**