

Cultivating
Love



through
NEW _____

Remembering our Baptism: NEW life in Christ

“In baptism our gracious heavenly Father frees us from sin and death by joining us to the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. We are born children of a fallen humanity; by water and the Holy Spirit we are reborn children of God and made members of the church, the body of Christ. Living with Christ and in the communion of saints, we grow in faith, love, and obedience to the will of God.”

-Order for Baptism, Evangelical Lutheran Worship Hymnal

In Baptism we are given new life as children of God. As 2 Corinthians 5:17 reminds us, “So if anyone is in Christ, there[a] is a new creation: everything old has passed away; look, new things have come into being!”

Knowing we are loved, daily forgiven and free from sin is the core of who we are. But, it’s easy to get wrapped up in the details of life, and forget who we are. In August, try one or more of these daily reminders of who you are as a child of God. You can do them on your own or as a family.

*When you wake up each morning, as you wash your face, remember the waters of baptism. Say to yourself, “I AM a child of God, a new creation!”

*Before bed, make the sign of the cross on your forehead or on the forehead of a family member and say the words that are spoken at baptism. “_____ (name), child of God, at your baptism, you were sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever.”

*Place a little bowl of water in the middle of your dining room table or on your desk at work. Dip your fingers in the water and say out loud, “I am always being made new. Thanks be to God!”

*If you carry a water bottle, draw a cross on it with a sharpie or place a cross sticker on it. Each time you take a drink of water, say a prayer of thanks that you have been claimed as a child of God in the waters of Baptism.

*Shells are often used to dip the water that is poured on our heads at Baptism. Buy some cheap shells from a craft store. As a family, hide the shells throughout your house or your place of work, place in briefcases and backpacks, place a few in the car and put some outside in the yard or garage. Each time you find a shell, proclaim quietly or out loud, “I AM a child of God!”

*The Holy Spirit descended as a dove at Jesus’ Baptism. [Print out and color this dove](#) and hang in your window. Each time you see it, you can pray, “Holy Spirit, come!” or share with a family member a time you felt the Holy Spirit’s presence.