

Affirmation of Baptism

“You have made public profession of your faith. 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?”

Each person responds:

“I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.”



The Center of Our Faith

Lutherans believe that individuals receive the gift of salvation through faith alone. Saving faith is the knowledge of, acceptance of, and trust in the promise of the Gospel. Even faith itself is seen as a gift of God, created in the hearts of Christians by the work of the Holy Spirit through the Word and Baptism.

“For by grace you have been saved through faith; and this is not your own doing, it is the gift of God, and not because of works, lest anyone should boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.”

Ephesians 2:8-10

Emmanuel Lutheran Church

Emmanuel Lutheran Church
Laurel Hall School
Laurel Hall Early Education Center
Phone: 818-761-6124

Emmanuel Lutheran Church ELCA

Membership Information



Where All Are Welcome...

What does membership mean?

Membership is divided into baptized members and confirmed members.

A baptized member is a person who is baptized into the Christian faith and becomes a member of the congregation where the baptism occurred. That can be either a child or an adult. A baptized member does not have the privilege of vote at a congregational meeting and cannot hold a leadership position such as Church Council or Call Committee.

A confirmed member is a baptized person who has been instructed in the teachings of the Christian church and Lutheran theology and has made public affirmation of their commitment. A confirmed member has full privileges within the congregation including vote and leadership roles.



How does one become a member?

There are several ways a person becomes a member of a Lutheran congregation such as Emmanuel Lutheran Church.

If you grow up in a congregation where your parents are members, you will most likely go through the process of baptism as an infant and confirmation in the teen years.

If a person has been baptized and raised in a different Lutheran (ELCA) congregation and now wishes to join Emmanuel Lutheran Church, that person/family would request a Letter of Transfer from the pastor of the old congregation which is sent to the pastor of the new congregation. The new pastor would receive that letter and then publicly receive that person/family into membership, either baptized or confirmed. (Note: Missouri Synod Lutheran congregations do not recognize the ELCA and do not issue Letters of Transfer.)

If the individual/family is coming to Emmanuel from a Christian Church that is not Lutheran (Roman Catholic, Episcopal, Methodist, Presbyterian, Baptist... Missouri Synod), and has been baptized within that tradition, they do not need to be re-baptized but will need to be instructed in Lutheran theology and faith (Often referred to as “New Member Class” or “New Member Orientation”).

They would then make public profession of their faith in the worship setting and be received as confirmed members.

If the person wishing to join is coming from a non-Christian or non-faith background, then they would need to be baptized and confirmed in order to be full members of the congregation.

What else do I need to know?

Laurel Hall and ECC parents need to be mindful that though a discount on tuition is offered to members of Emmanuel Lutheran Church, a family needs to be a member in good standing for one year before the request for the discount can be made. To be in good standing means that you regularly attend the worship services and make a commitment to financially support Emmanuel Lutheran Church.

In all circumstances, the individual/family should have a conference with the pastor to discuss their unique situation and the best way to proceed.

