

Children and the Sacraments

Hope Presbyterian Church

The Sacraments in General

Jesus instituted two sacraments to be tangible, sensible signs of his grace: Baptism and the Lord's Supper. Through the sacraments, Christ and his work are represented, sealed and applied to believers:

- ***Represented*** → pictured, made visible, embodied.
- ***Sealed*** → assurance, confirmation, authenticated.
- ***Applied*** → tangible, visible, sensible.

Baptism is the entrance rite into the covenant community. It is a "one-time" practice to mark our "engagement to be the Lord's".

- ***Entrance*** → access, welcome, set apart
- ***Engagement*** → passive reception, relationship initiated, not full-blown nuptials for infants.

The Lord's Supper is the rite of spiritual nourishment and growth in grace. Our doctrinal standards help us remember that to join the celebration of the Lord's Supper we need professed saving faith, repentance, and renewed endeavor after obedience.

- ***Ongoing***
- ***By faith partaking the body and the blood***
- ***Volitional, conscious, and active***
- ***Profession of faith***

Baptism and the Lord's Supper agree: signify, seal, and apply the covenant promises of God.

Baptism and the Lord's Supper differ: once/often; infants/ability to examine yourself as to faith, repentance, new obedience.

The Sacraments in Practice

1. Baptized members of the visible church that are not at the age of publically professing faith (non-communing).
2. Profession of faith:
 - a. publically to the Session – who admit folks to the table
 - b. Confirmation Class
3. Children present for the Lord's Supper
 - a. Anticipate questions
 - b. Engage Conversations
 - c. Involve Actively