

NEW CHURCH SACRAMENTS AND CEREMONIES

The sacraments of the New Church are baptism and Holy Supper. They are universal gateways to the church, open to everyone. They were things the Lord did on earth, and things He told His disciples to do. There are other important ceremonies or rites in the church, but they were not used by the Lord Himself during His life on earth. All of the sacraments and rites create a closer connection with the Lord.

BAPTISM

What happens? The parents bring the child forward or an adult comes forward. There are readings from the Word, questions, prayers, water on forehead and chest, blessing, words from the minister.

Symbols Water, the sign of the cross

Promises

Parents: We will teach our child about the Lord, His Word, and living a good life.

Adult baptism: I will follow the Lord, learn from His Word, and try to live a good life.

HOLY SUPPER

What happens? The minister reads about the Last Supper. Then he breaks the bread and pours the wine. The people come forward and kneel down. The minister offers bread and wine to the people and then blesses them.

Symbols Unleavened bread and wine

Promises I will follow the Lord, and I will try to receive His love and guidance.

OTHER CEREMONIES OF THE CHURCH

Other ceremonies include confirmation, betrothal, marriage, and home dedication.

CONFIRMATION

What happens? An adult comes forward to be confirmed. The minister reads from the Word and asks questions. Then the person makes a declaration of faith. Finally, there are prayers, a blessing, and words from the minister.

Symbols The Words "I believe..." (confession of faith)

Promises I will follow the Lord myself, learn from His Word, and try to live a good life.

BETROTHAL

What happens? A couple comes forward, there are readings from the Word, and questions. There may be an exchange of gifts. Then there are prayers, a blessing, and words from the minister.

Symbols A gift (sometimes a ring, sometimes a necklace, or sometimes something you'll put up in your house).

Promises We will prepare for marriage by learning what the Lord says about marriage, and by getting to know each other even better than we do now.

MARRIAGE

What happens? The bride and groom come forward. There are readings from the Word, questions, an exchange of rings, and statements by the bride and groom. Then the minister pronounces them husband and wife, and they kiss. Then there are prayers, a blessing, and words from the minister.

Symbols Rings

Promises We will love each other and the Lord.

HOME DEDICATION

What happens? When a home is dedicated, the minister reads from the Lord's Word (in the home) and asks a question of the family. Then one person in the family declares the faith of the family. A copy of the Word is dedicated and then there are words from the minister, prayers, and a blessing.

Symbols Repository (special place to keep the Word in your home)

Promises We will make the Lord a part of our family.