

MEMBERSHIP

To be a member of the congregation of Cross of Hope and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America requires baptism. This sacrament of God's love signaling our journey in faith is the baseline definition of membership, and includes every one of every age. If you are not baptized and want to become a member of Cross of Hope, you must request baptism. If your children are not baptized, they are not recognized as members until they are baptized. Our justification is simply these words: "*Go therefore 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).

Any baptism done in the name of the triune God (Father/Son/Holy Spirit) is sufficient. Baptism in the Mormon Church does not qualify. If you have any questions, check with the Pastor.

If you are baptized and not confirmed (confirmation is instruction for adult membership in the church), then you are confirmed by participating in these classes: 1) What Does it Mean to Be a Member of Cross of Hope; and 2) What Does it Mean to be a Lutheran?

If you are already baptized and confirmed, you may become a member of this congregation by:

1. Moving your membership from another Evangelical Lutheran Church in an American congregation; from another Lutheran Church (usually Lutheran Church, Missouri Synod); or from a non-Lutheran church, such as Presbyterian, Methodist, or Roman Catholic.
2. If your membership has lapsed at church or you have not been involved in a church, you may reestablish membership by Affirmation of Faith, which means that you affirm the faith of the Church as it is expressed in the Apostles' Creed.

All Confirmed members of Cross of Hope also sign a Covenant, which outlines the expectations of membership. Baptized children of confirmed members join automatically with their parents. Please check below how you plan to join Cross of Hope:

- Child Baptism (for your children under 15 years of age)
- Adult Baptism (if you are over 15 and are not baptized)
- Affirmation of Faith
- Letter of Transfer from an ELCA congregation
- Letter of Transfer from other Lutheran congregations
- Letter of Transfer from a non-Lutheran congregation

If you are transferring from another church, we will write for your transfer. We need:

Your Name: _____

Full Name of Your Church: _____

Complete Address: _____

Please turn in to Office Administrator, as soon as possible.