

Good morning, my name is Thor Carson Emblem, my parents are Michelle Emblem and Thor Emblem Jr. I was baptized at Grace Lutheran Church by Pastor Jim Young, on November 25, 2001, 4 months and 4 days after my birth on July 21. At age 12, I earned a junior black belt in Mixed Martial Arts, but I gave up my MMA pursuits after an emergency surgery in March of 2014. I am a "Star" rank scout and hope to achieve my Eagle rank by age 15. In my spare time I enjoy going on runs, playing video games, hiking and hanging out with friends. In ten years, I see myself, a young man in law school, studying to become a civil rights lawyer... or maybe I see myself finishing up college as a biochemist... or a neuroscientist... or a mechanical engineer. The truth is, I have no clue where I'm going to be, what I'm going to be doing, or how I'll be making money in 10 years. What I do know, is that in 10 years, I will still be a Lutheran.

Baptism is the washing away of our sins and our rebirth as Christians. This is when we receive the gift of Holy Spirit. Jesus explains in John chapter 3 that "no one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born of water and the Spirit. Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit.... 'You must be born again.'

I am so happy that my parents had me baptised because, from the age of four months, I received the gift of spirituality. This makes me feel closer to God. Baptism means to me that I no longer have to fear for I am forgiven and my sins are washed away by Jesus' perfect sacrifice. My parents have always tried to instill an attitude of gratitude in me. And I could not be more grateful for the gift of salvation through Jesus. There is nothing that I have done to earn it, as Paul writes to the Ephesians: "For it

is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God.” thank you