

**The Baptisms of Samuel Clark Kooi Morpew
and Clara Kooi Morpew**

July 8, 2007

Labyrinth Hill - Morpew Acres - Estherville, Iowa

Presiding Minister: Rev. Larry D. Morpew



PROCESSION

Processional Music

Alan Morpew

ORDER OF PROCESSION

Rev. Larry Morpew
Tanya Kooi, Christopher, Anthony, Samuel & Clara Morpew
Sarah & Susan Morpew
Elmer & Karen Kooi
Congregants

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

Hymn All Things Bright and Beautiful

Alan Morpew

Scripture Sentences

Baptism is a visible sign of the Grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, through which we share in his righteousness and become heirs of life eternal. Those receiving the Sacrament are marked as Christian disciples, and initiated into Christ's fellowship. Our Lord has given to little children a place among the people of God. Remember the words of the Lord Jesus how he said, "Let the children come to me, do not hinder them; for to such belongs the kingdom of God."

Presentation Tanya Kooi, Christopher, Alan & Sarah Morpew
We present Samuel and Clara to receive the Sacrament of Holy Baptism.

Old Testament Reading

Psalm 27: 1-5

Elmer Kooi

Gospel Reading

Matthew 19: 13-15

Karen Kooi

Meditation

Rev. Larry Morpew

I entered the Christian ministry in 1968 and have always begged off on doing services for my family, turning those duties, whenever possible, over to my brother or another minister that I respected. A few years ago I started to realize that this was pretty silly so I changed my way of thinking and find myself here today with a dual pleasure, baptizing a brother and sister, my grandchildren. What a privilege!

A little boy asked his minister, "When can I get advertised?"

He meant "baptized" but he made the right point--baptism is like advertising that you're a part of God's family.

Baptism is a gift. It is not something we do for ourselves. Sort of like being born! None of us asked to be born. Birth was a gift. So is baptism. It is a gift from God to us.

Baptism is a new birth into a new body, or I should say a new community, the fellowship of Christ.

We are taught that Christ saves us through the waters of rebirth; through baptism. This is why throughout the centuries, the baptismal font has been referred to as God's womb; to express this rebirth.

Those who have held a new born baby, know that it is often a deeply holy time and certainly baptism is also a holy time of rebirth.

An elderly priest wrote;

"The one who created us is waiting for our response to the love that gave us our being."

"God not only says: 'You are my Beloved'. God also asks: 'Do you love me?'"

"And offers us countless chances to say 'Yes'."

Sammy and Clara
May the Cross of Christ always be between you and evil.
May the Cross of Christ always be between you and all ill-will and mishap.
May the Cross of Christ always be between you and all that hurts or harms your soul.

And I heard a voice from heaven saying, "These are my children, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased."

Apostle's Creed (All)

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of Heaven and Earth:
And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord;
Who was conceived by the Holy Ghost;
Born of the Virgin Mary;
Suffered under Pontius Pilate;
Was crucified, dead, and buried, He descended into hell:
The third day he rose again from the dead:

He ascended into Heaven, And sitteth on the right hand of God, the Father Almighty;
From thence he shall come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Ghost; The Holy Catholic Church;
The Communion of Saints; The Forgiveness of Sins;
The Resurrection of the Body, And the Life everlasting. Amen

The Baptism

Larry Morpew

Samuel Clark Kooi Morpew, I baptize you in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

Clara Kooi Morpew, I baptize you in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

Baptismal Prayer

Larry Morpew

Let us pray... Oh God, our heavenly Father, grant that Sammy and Clara, as they grow in years, may also grow in grace and in the knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ, and that by the restraining and renewing influence of the Holy Spirit they may always be true children of thine, serving you faithfully all of their days.

So guide and uphold the parents and sponsors of these children that, by loving care, wise counsel, and holy example, they made lead their children into a life of joy and peace. Amen.

Promise

Larry Morpew

Samuel Clark Kooi Morpew and Clara Kooi Morpew, children of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever.

Presentation of Samuel and Clara

Larry Morpew

To all those present: This is Samuel Clark Kooi Morpew and Clara Kooi Morpew, children of God, inheritors of the faith of Christianity. May their lives bear witness to this day. Go in peace.

Recessional Music

Alan Morpew