



## FACT SHEET:

# 'BAPTISM IN TIMES OF CHANGE'

– JOINT PROJECT OF NORDIC LUTHERAN CHURCHES

[churchesintimesofchange.org](http://churchesintimesofchange.org)

## WHAT?

The project “Baptism in times of change” is part of the joint Nordic initiative Churches in Times of Change (CITC) which focuses on changes in ecclesial practice and theology in the Nordic region. In the Nordic region, the situation for the churches is quite comparable theologically, historically, and sociologically. This calls for common reflection and increased ecumenical cooperation between the Nordic folk churches. The CITC is an important step in the realization of our common Lutheran identity.

As a project within this framework, we are focusing on baptism in the Nordic churches. The project documents development of baptismal practice and theology in the folk churches in Sweden, Iceland, Finland, Norway and Denmark, and studies existing research, initiatives, and practices related to baptism in the Nordic churches.

## WHY BAPTISM?

Why focus on baptism? Due to falling numbers, much attention has been given to baptism in recent years. The pilot project is a meta-study, aiming at gathering and analyzing existing material and experiences. In this way, the pilot project facilitates joint reflection and aims to develop recommendations by researchers, church leaders, and practitioners.

## OUTCOME OF PILOT PROJECT

The first phase of the pilot project has resulted in an annotated bibliography, listing, and describing literature on baptism in the last 20 years in the Nordic region. The annotated bibliography is found at [www.churches-](http://www.churches-)

intimesofchange.org and can be downloaded for free as a data sheet or as a pdf. handbook which includes introduction to each of the national contexts and several initial comparative analyses of main themes.

## HOW TO ENGAGE?

In spring 2021 we are planning a series of 5 webinars on each of the main areas of the discussion: Statistics, empirical and qualitative research on baptism, rituals and practice, communication and campaigns, and theological development. Again, the list and details of the webinars is found at the webpage. The first webinar takes place 10. March 2021 13:00-15:00 (CET). Additional webinars will later be announced for the fall. Finally, a concluding conference is planned to take place 18-19th January 2022 in Copenhagen. Webinars are open to all and registration for webinars is needed through this link:

<https://churchesintimesofchange.org/how-to-engage>

## COMMUNICATION

Do you want to know more about the project in your national church, please contact the national contact persons or the secretary for the pilot project (names found below). For articles and news about the CITC, please visit our website [www.churchesintimesofchange.org](http://www.churchesintimesofchange.org) to learn more.

## PARTICIPATING CHURCHES

The project is initiated by five Nordic member churches of the Lutheran World Federation: the Church of Sweden (Svenska kyrkan), the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Iceland (Pjóðkirkjan), the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland (Suomen evankelis-luterilainen kirkko), the Church of Norway (Den norske kirke) and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Denmark (Folkekirken). Coordinator for the project is Harald Hegstad, Oslo, Norway, and the Interchurch Council in Denmark acts as a secretariat for the project. In each of the Nordic countries, there is a national coordinator. See 'contact' at the webpage for details on how to contact the coordinator and the various national coordinators.

### Further information

- National contact persons:
  - Sweden: Karin Tillberg ([karin.tillberg@svenskakyrkan.se](mailto:karin.tillberg@svenskakyrkan.se))
  - Iceland: Steinunn Bjornsdottir ([steinunn@neskirkja.is](mailto:steinunn@neskirkja.is))
  - Finland: Jyri Komulainen ([jyri.komulainen@evl.fi](mailto:jyri.komulainen@evl.fi))
  - Norway: Harald Hegstad ([harald.hegstad@mf.no](mailto:harald.hegstad@mf.no));
  - Denmark: Jonas Adelin Jørgensen ([jaj@interchurch.dk](mailto:jaj@interchurch.dk))
- Coordinator for the pilot project: Prof. Harald Hegstad, [harald.hegstad@mf.no](mailto:harald.hegstad@mf.no)
- Secretary for the pilot project and webinar participation: Jonas Adelin Jørgensen, [jaj@interchurch.dk](mailto:jaj@interchurch.dk), +4561678272
- Communication concerning the pilot project: Christian Arffmann, [ca@interchurch.dk](mailto:ca@interchurch.dk)
- Website: <https://churchesintimesofchange.org/>

