

Baptism



Having your child baptised
at Good Shepherd

Having your child baptised

Having Your Child Baptised is a 3 part baptism class for parents running over three consecutive weeks. Each session consists of an interactive teaching session and some form of hospitality.

Having Your Child Baptised covers the following three topics:

1. loving your child
2. when your child is baptised
3. living in baptism

We require parents considering baptism for their child to take part in this baptism preparation. It helps them get to know Jesus, the gift of baptism, and their role in nurturing faith within their family.

Dates for 2022:

- **March 9, 16, 23**
- **September 7, 14, 21**

All sessions will run on Wednesday evenings, 7:30pm - 8:30pm at the church. An *Application for Baptism* and a list of baptism Sundays will be available at the third session.

Who do I need to talk to?

If you wish to register for the next *Having Your Child Baptised* class, please contact our church office. If you have any questions regarding baptism at Good Shepherd, or the Lutheran understanding of baptism, please contact one of our pastors via the church office.

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Baptising children

Baptism is one of the ways God says: "I love you." Through baptism God places his name on you, joins you to Jesus, adopts you as his child, and welcomes you into his family.

At the baptism of a child, parents and godparents publicly declare they are committed followers of Jesus Christ, acknowledging him as their Lord and Saviour.

When parents have a child baptised, they also promise to foster their child's relationship with Jesus Christ.

Baptism is the start of this relationship, which is nurtured by the child's family and by God's family - the Church. In the baptism service the church prays that the child will keep following and growing in Jesus throughout life.

In our church, baptism happens in the context of regular worship services.



Baptism is not magic!

'Why do you want your child to be baptised?' the pastor asked. 'To make sure she gets into heaven', the mother replied.

Much like the example above, there are many misconceptions about baptism. People wrongly believe that baptism is an automatic "passport to heaven"; or a "get out of hell free" card; that it gives a "bubble of protection" on life's journey; or it's an offer of divine help without any obligations.

Some people ask for baptism because it's a family tradition, or an act of initiation into society.

However, in baptism we are drawn into a relationship with Jesus Christ and his Church, beginning a lifelong journey with him that he wants to last forever.

In baptism the Holy Spirit joins us to Jesus Christ and connects us to His Church.



What do I do as a parent?

Parents bringing children for baptism have the privilege and responsibility of nurturing their children's relationship with Jesus. At Good Shepherd we share in that privilege and responsibility of baptising and teaching. Besides weekly worship, we provide age appropriate programs and courses.

If you are bringing a child to be baptised you are initially required to attend a three week baptism class.

We also expect parents to be active in regular worship, because this is where God comes to us, renewing and strengthening our relationship with Jesus Christ. Since the Christian journey is one of walking together, connecting with others in a local church has always been part of the baptismal journey. There is little point considering baptism without being connected with other Christians in a local church.

For families who are not regularly worshipping at any Christian church, we invite you to come and join us for Sunday worship over a few months. That way you can consider whether God is calling you and your family to be part of this church family at Good Shepherd.