

Baptism

What is Baptism?

Baptism is a sign of God's grace. It reminds us that God sent his one and only son Jesus to earth to live, die and rise again as a means of salvation for all people. Baptism is an outward expression of an inward commitment to a life long relationship with God and his son Jesus Christ. In baptism, the water symbolises being buried with Jesus in his death and being cleansed from our sin and guilt before God. The water also symbolises the spiritual renewal and cleansing that happen in the life of a Christian when they believe in Jesus Christ as their personal Lord and Saviour.

In the Anglican Church we baptise both adults and children in response to God's all embracing love. When children are baptised it is expected that they will be raised in the Christian Community, educated about the Christian faith and encouraged in their prayer life and relationship with God. It is anticipated that Christian children will eventually make their own promises and commitment before God through the process of confirmation

Promises of Baptism

At St Luke's we take baptismal promises seriously as you are making them before God. In essence these promises are proclaiming for yourself (your child, and your family) that you hope and trust in Jesus Christ as your personal Lord and Saviour and the only way to eternal life, that you reject selfish living, Satan and all that is evil.

With baptism also comes the promise to be part of the Christian community this is why baptism is included in our regular Sunday service. In response to your promises the community of believers also promises to support you and your family in your faith journey. It is a deep commitment on both parts.

I want to proceed, what do I/we need to do?

Congratulations! It is a joy and a privilege to see people make a public declaration of their faith in Jesus, and their desire to raise their children in a Christian environment. At St Luke's Anglican Church there are a couple of things that we need to do to help you understand the Christian faith and the importance of baptism before we proceed.

Children:

1. The parents (and Godparents where possible) meet with an appointed person from the church on at least two occasions for around 1 hour each to discuss the Christian faith and the role of a Christian parent.
2. The family attend at least three Sunday services before the baptism so that you are comfortable and familiar with the church, the congregation and the service structure

Adults:

1. Meet with an appointed person from the church several time to discuss the Christian faith, belonging to the church and your personal commitment to your faith journey.
2. Attend at least three Sunday services before the baptism so that you are comfortable and familiar with the church, the congregation and the service structure

Please note that Baptisms happen in our regular Sunday services. At St Luke's these services run for between 1hr and 1hr 15min. We ask that you arrive at least 10minutes before the service to make sure that you are comfortable about how the baptism will take place. It is expected that both you and your guests will attend the whole service.

Thanksgiving Service

What if Baptism is not for us?

Life, and especially new life, is very sacred. We recognise the desire of parents and grandparents to celebrate the birth of children and to ask God to bless them as they begin their journey. The 'Service of Thanksgiving for the Gift of a Child' is a special, but simple, service of thanksgiving, which makes no demands of belief or commitment from the parents. Instead, we simply join you in celebrating your new child, and give thanks to God for the gift of life. A Thanksgiving service is a bit like a naming ceremony; we ask you to present your child and declare his/her name, we pray for them and for you as parents and we read from the Bible.

Thanksgiving services do not have to be part of the regular Sunday service (although they can be if you wish). The service goes for around 30 minutes, your child will still receive a certificate and gift from the church and there is still plenty of opportunities for photos

I want to proceed, what do I/we need to do?

Simply make contact with the Minister, and find a date which works for all parties.