

3. From this, the parish office **staff will contact you** about booking in for a **“Baptism Course” - 60min conversation with Pastor** about the baptism of your child and what this means for you and your family
4. **Set a date** for the baptism with Pastor on the appropriate non-Communion Sunday.

Other things you might be interested to know

- **Photos and Videos** of the Ceremony: Photographs and video are encouraged at the baptism ceremony. These are excellent means of sharing the memory of this special day with your child as he/she grows in age and faith. They will also turn out to be a good teaching tool. Pastor is always happy to stay for pictures with your family after the baptism.
- **DVD of the ceremony:** You will notice on the *Application for Baptism* form that there is a box to tick if you would like St Petri to produce a DVD of the ceremony for you. This is available for the price indicated.
- **Clothing and Candle:** A white baptismal gown is customary but not required.
- St Petri provides a **special baptism candle** and holder with your child’s name and date of baptism engraved in the holder. This is another way for parents to help their child remember their baptism. The candle can be lit on the anniversary of your child’s baptism.
- **Family Donation:** Just as baptism is a gift from God that cannot be earned paid for so for a baptism, there is no fee.
- **Baptismal Certificate:** The baptism will be recorded in the Parish records for future reference. Please be sure of the accuracy of information on the Application for Baptism form. A baptism certificate is also given to your child on the day as another resource for parents in reminding children of their baptism.
- Resources for teaching. You will also receive a Small Teaching Book (Martin Luther’s Small Catechism). It is the best resource we have to help you take up your promise to teach your child the basics of the Christian Faith, along with a beautifully illustrated children’s book, “My Baptism”. We also give you a “Faith Five” card that can be used to help you do short family devotions.
- **Baptism water:** The water used in baptism is plain water. It is not holy water specially blessed. This is because we believe that it is God’s Word that is the power in baptism, not the water. When God says you are raised to new life and washed clean from all sin, then you are!

We look forward to sharing this baptism journey with you!

We hope that you will be encouraged as a person and a parent!



For Babies and Children At St Petri Lutheran Church



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What Is Baptism?

Baptism is a gift of God. It is God's way of freely giving a person new life in his undeserved love. It is a life-changing event for an incomplete and broken human being enacted in God's authority given in his Word and with water. In baptism we are raised to new life in God's love and grace in the name of Jesus Christ. It is a holy moment in which someone is welcomed into St Petri congregation and the worldwide Christian church. It is a time when the Holy Spirit does something special.



The ancient word "*baptidzo*" means "wash". The water is a sign to us that by God's victory over evil, sin and death. In Jesus' death and resurrection, we are made new and adopted into God's family. Although some churches vary the method of baptism, it is the same gift in all churches who believe in Jesus Christ.

Parents very naturally want to pass along their own faith to their child and their values that flow from that faith. Baptism marks the beginning of this faith life.

The family is the church at home. Parents are the most important teachers their children have. The Christian home is where parents teach their children the good news of Jesus and what that means for living life in God's grace.

But the local Church community is essential for baptised people. The Church is where the child begins to experience life as part of a collection of families. At Baptism, the parents and sponsors along with the whole Christian community take upon themselves the responsibility of making their local church a place of love and support for parents and their children grow to full Christian adulthood.

How Do We Prepare For Baptism?

Just as parents prepare for the birth of their child, so parents prepare for the baptism of their child. Because **baptism is a huge gift from God that requires constant nurture for all of life, we don't take it lightly.**

Because of grace (God's unconditional love for broken people) we don't say "no" to requests for baptism. But a natural part of Baptism is learning about Jesus and following him in your life. So as a part of the baptism we need to have at least one good conversation about baptism and what it means for you and your family. This **Baptism Course** can happen at your home or the church office.



BAPTISM

Child, I baptise you in the name of the Father † and of the Son † and of the Holy Spirit †. Amen.

LAYING ON OF HANDS

God the Father set you apart and make you holy by his Holy Spirit and anoint you as a member of the family of God and his royal priesthood of all believers.

Amen.

PRESENTATION OF CANDLE

Because you belong to the Lord, you are in the light. So live as a child of the light.

PRAYER

Let us pray for this child of God.

Father of all mercies, we thank you for life and for this young child, and his/her parents and sponsors. We ask that you bless them as they take up their calling to teach this child the gospel and guide him/her and love her as she grows up.

Amen.

RECEPTION OF CHILD INTO THE CHURCH COMMUNITY

Members of St Petri Lutheran Church: will, you receive this child, whom God has given to us as our brother/sister in Christ. Would you pray for him/her and support his/her parents as much as you can and set this child of God a faithful example of the gospel of Jesus in word and deed. Yes we do.

Applause by all

Baptism gifts are given.

GOING IN GOD'S PEACE

The peace of the Lord † be with you.

Amen.

What happens now:

1. **Talk over the baptism of your child** with your partner, family and friends. Pastor Adrian is also available anytime to talk through any issues or respond to any of your questions. You can contact him through the Parish Office.
2. **Apply for baptism at St Petri:** You apply by completing the **Application for Baptism** form. The form is available via email (admin@nuriparish.org.au) or at the Parish office and can be returned by email or in person/post.

*Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours
now and forever. Amen.*

TRANSITIONAL BLESSING

*The Lord watch over you, child, as you go out and as you come in, now
and forever.*

Amen.

TURNING AWAY FROM EVIL: CONFESSING FAITH

*Parents, sponsors, members of St Petri Lutheran Church: On behalf of
this child, we confess the faith into which he/she is now to be baptised,
declaring our faith in and allegiance to God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.*

*Child, do you turn away from evil and the evil one and everything he
does, so that you will not be led by him?*

Yes, I do.

*Child, do you believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.*

Yes, I do.

*Do you believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
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 sits at the right hand of God, the Father Almighty,
from thence He will come to judge the living and the dead?*

Yes, I do.

*Do you believe in the Holy Spirit, the Holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.*

Yes, I do.

When And Where Do We Baptise?

Because baptism about being welcomed into the Christian community, we baptise at a worship service of the church. After you've done the baptism course you are welcome to work out a date with Pastor.

Due to the demands of a large congregation we baptise children at **non-Communion services**.

[8.30am Service—2nd and 4th Sunday of the month](#)

[10.30am Service—1st and 3rd Sunday of the month](#)

We also, when possible, try and group baptisms. This is very good from our point of view because it enables us to sometime get two or even three couples together for that Baptism Course (either before or after the baptism) so they can meet each other and enjoy the baptism journey together.

What Are Godparents?

In the Christian church godparents take a *spiritual role* in helping a young person grow in faith. This can't be done unless Godparents themselves have an alive faith in Christ. So it's important for at least one of the godparents to be regularly engaging in Christian worship and growing spiritually. If you are choosing Godparents, this is something to keep I mind. If you've been asked to be a godparent, then this is a call from God to develop your faith life!

Parents & Godparents Promises

When an adult gets baptised they also publicly declare their faith and promise to follow Christ. **When a child is being baptised we ask parents and godparents to promise that they will take up their God-given role as the primary teachers and supported of their children's faith development.** We call parents to help the child learn of Jesus and guide them towards the 'confirmation' of their faith. The baptism promises mean that you will include Christ in your everyday life and relationships. They include bringing the child to worship in your local church community, intentionally learning and growing in understanding of and faith in Jesus Christ. This is something you really need to think about in the baptism process.



What The Bible Says About Baptism:

Matthew 28:18-20

Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

1 Peter 3:20-21

In Noah's ark only eight people were saved from drowning in the flood. And this is a symbol of baptism, which now saves you by the power of Jesus Christ's resurrection. Baptism is not a removal of dirt from your body; it is a clean conscience before God.

Romans 6:4-5

We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life. If we have been united with him like this in his death, we will certainly also be united with him in his resurrection.



The Baptism Ceremony

Welcome and Introductions

JESUS' COMMAND TO BAPTISE AND TEACH

Jesus Christ says: All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.

THE NEED FOR BAPTISM

The word of God teaches that we are born sinful and unclean, but God washes us clean in the waters of baptism, and we are born again as his children.

Jesus says that when people are baptised, God our heavenly Father adopts them as his very own dearly loved children.

PRESENTATION OF THE CHILD

Parents, do you present your child for holy baptism?
Yes, I/We do.

ADMONITION TO PARENTS

Parents, the Lord has given you this child as a gift. As people seeking baptism in the Christian faith, with that gift comes the calling to be his primary teachers of the Faith.

So, you are responsible for his upbringing in the good news of Jesus and his church.

You are called to;

- Remember him/her in your **prayers**.
- Bring him/her to **worship services** with God's people
- **Teach** him/her the Lord's Prayer, the Creed and the Ten Commandments.
- **Remind** him/her of her baptism,
- Set him/ her a **good example**, and
- Provide for his/her **instruction** in the faith.

Do you intend to do this?

Yes, I/We do.

OPENING OF EARS AND MOUTH

The Lord made the deaf hear and the dumb speak. Therefore in his name I say: Be opened, so that you may hear and speak the word of God.

SIGNING WITH THE CROSS

Child, receive the mark of the holy cross †, as a sign that Christ the crucified has redeemed you.

PRAYER FOR THE CHILD

Let us pray.

Heavenly Father, look with favour on this child now. Set him/her free from the power of Satan, rescue him/her from the kingdom of darkness and death, and give to him/her the gift of life to the full in your peace and presence and receive him/her into your kingdom of light and life; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

RECEIVING OF THE GOSPEL

Child, receive the good news of our Lord Jesus Christ who says: "Let the children come to me, and do not stop them, because the kingdom of God belongs to such as these."

PRAYING THE LORD'S PRAYER

Let us ask the blessing of our Lord Jesus Christ on this child, and pray together the prayer he has taught us: