

Welcoming
Growing
Sharing



LUTHERAN CHURCH
OF AUSTRALIA
where love comes to life

Sunday 12 January 2025
Baptism saves

Scripture

[Luke 3:15–17,21,22](#)

Reflection

A month ago, I had a rare Sunday away from my own congregation and attended the baptism of a friend's baby and the baptism of a large group of teens and young adults at another church. Neither church was Lutheran, and I felt the disconnect during both services.

Originally an outsider to Lutheran teaching, it took me a long time to understand what Lutherans mean when we discuss remembering our baptism or living out our baptism daily.

As we ponder the difference between John's baptism (merely the water) and Jesus' baptism, we must remember what we believe as Lutherans. If it's a while since you read the Large Catechism on baptism, or if you haven't read it before, it's a valuable thing to do to understand how we differ from other theology in the sacrament of baptism. Martin Luther reminds us that the water and word should:

... by no means be separated from each other and parted. For if the word is separated from it, the water is the same as the water that the servant cooks with. It may indeed be called a bath-keeper's baptism. But when the word is added, as God ordained it, it is a sacrament, and it is called Christ's baptism.

It is reassuring and encouraging to me as I ponder the fact that I cannot 'remember' my own infant baptism and that in the sacrament, I was indeed baptised into Christ's death and resurrection – despite the lack of any believers to raise me in the faith. While I cannot point to a 'believer's baptism' where I made a declaration of my faith like the young people I witnessed only weeks ago, I have the assurances of Scripture that God did the work in my baptism – and I did not need to. His grace is not dependent on my level of belief or efforts. Further, Luther reminds us to value our baptism as a daily dress (Galatians 3:27 – we are clothed with Christ) and walk in it constantly (Large Catechism). We start to realise what it is to walk in (and wear) our baptism daily.

by Sal Huckel

Prayer

Father God, you descended on your Son Jesus like a dove and declared your love for him for all to hear. Thank you that I am also baptised into Jesus' baptism and have received the Holy Spirit. Increase my faith as I remember my baptism daily, and help me to nurture the faith of others in my care as you work in their lives, too. In Jesus' name



WE PRAY
12 January 2025

Dear Heavenly Father:

- † We give you thanks and praise that because of Jesus we have life that we can enjoy to its fullest. God of joy, bless;
 - Camille and Adrian as they begin married life on the 11th of January
 - Heather S in her new season of life, whom we farewell on the 12th January
- † We give thanks for those who share your kingdom; pastors and laypeople, for the gift of music and for all who lead us to sing your praise, for Children's Church, Messy Church and OCC Teams who nurture children in the faith, for those who use their creativity and technology to communicate your heart through their words in Chatline, prayers or worship and all of our big-hearted volunteers who bless us with their hospitality, time and talents.
- † Guide our hearts, our hands, our feet, our voices and our lives, so that we may actively work in your kingdom of grace giving hope to those who can't be with us at this time, through long-term or ongoing illness, or those who, as yet, don't know your love.
- † No matter what path we may be currently on or what path we will take in the future, we have the certain promise that you are with us, protecting and guiding us. Bless each and every person affected by tragedy or disaster, and those responding with assistance and aid, with your refuge and strength, hope and healing.

Guide us, Lord, as we pray for:

- † The leaders you have appointed over the LCANZ, churchwide: LCA Bishop, Paul Smith, Assistant Bishop, Stephen Schultz, and the College of Bishops and locally District Bishop, Andrew Brook.
- † All pastors and parishes, principals and schools of the LCANZ, especially those in our South West Metro zone.
- † Pastoral Care Workers of the South Western School Ministry Team. We give thanks and praise for school chaplaincy reaching people in our community. Together we pray that the SA Government will make up the short fall in the Federal Government funding for the next 4 years as the previous Government did.
- † The students, families, teachers and staff of Immanuel Primary and Immanuel College. Bless College Principal, John Thompson, Principal IPS, Bec Clements, College Chaplain, Pastor Simon Cooper and Director of Boarding, Ujith Perera,
- † The chaplains you have called to serve the defence forces, hospitals, Police, prisons, and universities in the SA/NT District and their coordinator, Heidi Smith.
- † The leaders you have appointed over our country: Prime Minister, Anthony Albanese, State Premier, Peter Malinauskas and all our local government leaders.
- † Healing, strength and comfort as we pray alongside Barb K, Elle E, Tim S, their families and carers. You have the power to move in our lives and through our circumstances.

FAREWELL MORNING TEA-Sunday 12 January

For all the ways Heather Schmitt has blessed us with her servant heart while a member of ILC, we'd like to show our appreciation with a morning tea in the foyer after worship. Please bring a plate to share.



SUNDAY WORSHIP ON 2 FEBRUARY WILL BE AT 11:30AM for the installation of new college Principal, John Thompson. **There will be no worship at 9:30.**

OFFERING ENVELOPES 2025

Your weekly gift supports the work of ILC and the wider work of the Lutheran Church of Australia. Boxes of envelopes for cash offerings are still available on the Welcome table.

THE LUTHERAN MEDIA 2025 CALENDAR

Now available from the Welcome Table-*thanks Heather.*

You can donate to Lutheran Media at <https://secure.lutheranmedia.org.au/>



OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

Our OCC Team received a Certificate of Participation from Samaritan's Purse with this message, "Your support has shown love, brought joy and the Good News of Jesus Christ to children in need around the world." For 20 years our volunteers have made a big difference in more ways than can be seen and in more lives than they'll ever know. God bless you for your faithful service.

ILC VOLUNTEERING SURVEY

If you have a few spare hours each week or fortnight please consider nominating as an ILC volunteer, prior to or at this meeting. There are a few rosters where we would love to have more people; *Lay Assistants + Stewards + Flowers + Coffee + Sound + PowerPoint + Children's Addresses + Children's Church.* Please complete a Volunteer Nomination Form available at the Welcome Table or online www.ilc.org.au/volunteering

ILC PRAYER GROUP-Thursdays & Sundays 9:00

You're invited to join in prayer on Thursdays and/or Sundays before worship in the Prayer Chapel. Please leave any **prayer requests** in the gold box on the Welcome Table.

If you have any **feedback**, you can leave a note in the locked wooden box on the Welcome Table. Paper and pens provided, and your message can be anonymous.

ST PAUL'S COMMUNITY CARE CENTRE-Mondays and Wednesdays 11:00-2:00

St Paul's LC, 48 Brighton Road, Glenelg

Non-perishable food, bathroom, kitchen and laundry items as well as volunteers urgently needed.



PARISH VACANT

Ann Goodwin - ILC Office Administrator

Email: agoodwin@immanuel.sa.edu.au

Phone: 8375 1755

Chris Schutz—Nurture Team Leader

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Phone: 0439 899 590

COMING UP at ILC

Sunday 12 January	9:00am	Prayer in the Prayer Chapel- <i>all welcome</i>
	9:30am	Worship with Holy Communion-1st Sunday after Epiphany
	10:30am	Please bring morning tea to share as we thank and farewell Heather S

Thursday 16 January	9:00am	Prayer in the Prayer Chapel- <i>all welcome</i>
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Sunday 19 January	9:30am	Worship without Holy Communion-2nd Sunday after Epiphany
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REGULAR ELECTRONIC GIVING (REG)

Fill and lodge a Direct Debit Request Form (available from the office), giving the LLL authority to transfer a specific amount from your bank account to ILC's REG account.

Account Name: NOVAR GARDENS IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH REG A/C



LCA Child Safety Standards for Congregations

What does ILC do to keep our children and vulnerable people safe?

LCA Child Safety Standards for Congregations:

<https://www.lca.org.au/ministry-support/child-safety-standards/>

LCA Policies and Procedures:

<https://www.lca.org.au/services-resources-training/policies/>

THIS WEEK'S BIBLE READINGS

Isaiah 43: 1 - 7

The Lord will be with his people

Psalms 29

The Lord sits enthroned as king forever.

Acts 8: 14 - 17

The people of Samaria receive the Holy Spirit

Luke 3:15 - 17, 21,22

The baptism of Jesus