

Four Keys to Nurturing Faith

Caring Conversations

Daily Devotions

Service Projects

Rituals and Traditions

Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church

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Your church staff is here to care, listen confidentially and help; please do not hesitate to call us.



Tiny Bundles

Congratulations on Your Expectancy!

God has given you the biggest challenge of your life—parenthood! At first the physical and emotional demands will be overwhelming. You can never completely prepare for the 24 hour, full time demands of parenting an infant. Only with much practice will you become an “expert” at changing diapers or knowing the difference between an “I’m hungry” and an “I’m wet” cry. But there’s more to parenting than meeting physical needs. What about the child’s most important needs, the spiritual ones?

It is never too early to start thinking about Baptism for your baby. Who will support you and your child as god-parents? Begin at birth to tell your child that Jesus loves him or her and that you love Jesus. Be assured that the Holy Spirit is working through your words. Share your faith with your little one as a way of encouraging his or her faith.

Shepherd of the Valley is here to equip and assist you in the faith formation of your child, please let us know if we can serve you in any way, we are eagerly anticipating the newest member of our church family! Praise God from whom ALL blessings flow!

Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church

Volume 1, Issue

Newsletter

Special points of interest:

- ☺ The Sacrament of Holy Baptism
- ☺ How to Schedule a Baptism
- ☺ Special Music Selections for Your Baptism



Children are a gift from God!

The Sacrament of Holy Baptism

Baptism is not just plain water, but with the word of God it is a life-giving water, rich in grace, and a washing of new birth in the Holy Spirit. Baptism works the forgiveness of sins, rescues from death & the devil, & gives eternal salvation to all

who believe this, as the words & promises of God declare.

St. Paul writes in Romans chapter six: "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."



How To Schedule Your Baptism

Usually baptism occurs when the child is two to twelve weeks old. Emergency baptisms may be administered at the hospital if necessary. After the birth of your child, please

contact the church office at 225-1623 to make arrangements for your baptism. Baptisms may be scheduled at all of our worship services during the weekend.

Private ceremonies are also available and may be scheduled through the office staff & Pastor.

Choosing Sponsors for Your Child

Sponsors are witnesses to the baptism. More than that, they have a responsibility of praying regularly for your child and of helping you with your child's religious training. Choose sponsors who share your Christian faith and your concerns as Christian parents.

Please turn in your sponsor information to the church office so that it may be included in the certificates.

"Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned."

Mark
16:16

Children's Ministry is made up of a foundation of Faith Building Blocks to support our families' efforts to provide their children with a growing relationship with Jesus Christ. This foundation starts at birth and continues through high school graduation.

Baptism – It is not just plain water, but with the Word of God it is a life-giving water, rich in grace, and a washing of new birth in the Holy Spirit

Nursery – Professionally staffed and assisted by member volunteers, we provide comfortable, consistent care for the children

Sunday School – Offered every Sunday during the school year for ages 3 years through High School. Sunday mornings 9:15-10:15 a.m.

B.L.A.S.T.– Offered every Wednesday night from September to April for PreK through 4th grade from 6:30-7:30 [p.m.

Vacation Bible School – Offered 1 week in the summer for ages 3 years through 5th grade

SPLASH-A Baptismal Workshop for Kindergarteners and their parents.

3rd grade Bible Workshop – 3rd graders and their parents attend a workshop together to get acquainted with the Bible before the third graders are presented with their own bible.

Jesus & Me – 5th and 6th graders attend this in-depth Bible study on Wednesdays during the school year to prepare for confirmation

Confirmation – 7th and 8th graders attend classes on Wednesdays to prepare themselves to become members of the church.



Your Child's Baptism Day Is As Important As Your Child's Birthday!

Ideas to celebrate your child's baptismal birthday

- Show you child photos, video, etc. from their baptism ceremony.
- When you are church, take your child to the baptismal font and remind him/her what happened there.
 - Pray with and for your child.
 - Sing *This Is Your Birthday* as a reminder of your child's baptism:



This Is Your Birthday

Text: Alice Stolper Pepler

Sing to the tune of *Rockabye Baby*.

This is your birthday,
This was the day
When you were baptized
God's special way.
God said, "You're my child,
I'll be with you,
I'll keep you in my love

Continue to read children's Bible stories to your child, especially the ones with pictures

Make the sign of the cross on your child's forehead saying, "(Name), child of God, you have been sealed with the cross of Christ forever."

Teach your child the song *Jesus Loves Me*

Begin the tradition of celebrating your child's baptismal birthday.

Procedure On the Day of Baptism

When do we enter?

Family and sponsors may meet prior to service to coordinate reserved seating with the Usher staff.

Who may go to the Baptismal font?

Sponsors and other family members may join you at the font at the time of the baptism.

What questions are asked?

The baptism ceremony is presented in a "repeat after me" format. The Pastor will ask a promise question of parents and sponsors and also supply the necessary answer for you to respond. For example...Pastor would say, "If so, then answer with I do." Parents and sponsors reply "I do."

When do we return to our seats?

Pastor will announce the membership to the congregation followed with applause. Then as the baptismal song is sung, you may return to your seats.

Special Music for the Baptism

Psalms 147:1
Praise the Lord! How good it is to sing praise to our God! How de-



Music adds just the rights touch!

lightful & how right!

If you desire, you may choose to have a special song sung by the congregation or a soloist for

your ceremony. We've included some suggestions in this booklet or feel free to contact the Director of Music with any questions or more specifics.

Baptismal Hymn

(Tune of Morning Has Broken)

(Name of child), we greet you on this glad morning,
Your day of life we now recognize
God is our Father, We are His people.
Sing we our praises to Christ our Lord.

(Name of child,) we love you & with thanksgiving
Offer our prayers & sing you this song.
We are your church, your spiritual family.
Sing we our praises to Christ our Lord.

Children we all are of God the Father,
Baptized in water, cleansed by His blood.
Born of the Spirit, trusting His promise.
Sing we our praises to Christ our Lord.

Children of the Heavenly Father

Children of the heavenly Father safely in His
bosom gather; Nestling bird nor star in
heaven such a refuge e'er was given.

God His own doth tend & nourish, In His holy
courts they flourish; From all evil things He
spares them, in His mighty arms He bears
them.

Neither life nor death shall ever from the
Lord His children sever; Unto them His grace
He showeth, & their sorrows all He knoweth.

Praise the Lord in joyful numbers, Your
Protector never slumbers; At the will of your
Defender every foeman must surrender.

Though He giveth or He taketh, God His
children ne'er forsaketh; His the loving
purpose solely to preserve them pure & holy.



Borning Cry

I was there to hear your borning cry,
I'll be there when you are old,
I rejoiced the day you were baptized,
to see your life unfold. I was there when
you were but a child, with a faith to suit
you well. In a blaze of light you wandered
off to find where demons dwell.

When you heard the wonder of the word I
was there to cheer you on. You were raised
to praise the living Lord, to whom you now
belong. If you find someone to share your
time and you join your hearts as one.
I'll be there to make your verses rhyme
from dusk 'til rising sun.

In the middle ages of your life, not too old,
no longer young, I'll be there to guide you
through the night, complete what I've
begun. When the evening gently closes in
and you shut your weary eyes, I'll be there
as I have always been with just one more
surprise.

I was there to hear your borning cry,
I'll be there when you are old,
I rejoiced the day you were baptized,
to see your life unfold.

Father Welcomes

(Chorus)
Father welcomes all His children to His
family through His Son. Father giving
His salvation, life forever has been
won.

Little children, come to me, for My
kingdom is of these. Life & love I have
to give, mercy for your sin. (chorus)

In the water, in the Word, in His
promise, be assured: Those who are
baptized and believe, shall be born
again. (chorus)

Let us daily die to sin; let us daily rise
with Him Walk in the love of Christ our
Lord, live in the peace of God. (chorus)

Find Your Wings

It's only for a moment you are mine to hold.
The plans that heaven has for you will all
too soon unfold. So many different prayers
I'll pray for all that you might do, but most
of all I'll want to know you're walking in the
truth. And if I never told you, I want you to
know as I watch you grow.

(Chorus)

I pray that God would fill your heart with
dreams, and that faith gives you the cour-
age to dare to do great things. I'm here for
you whatever this life brings, so let my love
give you roots and help you find your wings.

May passion be the wind that leads you
through your days. And may conviction keep
you strong, guide you on your way. May
there be many moments that make your life
so sweet, oh, but more than memories

(Chorus)

It's not living if you don't reach for the sky.
I'll have tears as you take off but I'll cheer
as you fly.

(Chorus)



Remember Me

Remember me, in a Bible cracked and faded
by the years. Remember me, in a sanctuary
filled with silent prayers.

(Chorus)

And age to age and heart to heart. Bound by
grace and peace. Child of wonder, Child of
God, I'll remember you, remember me.

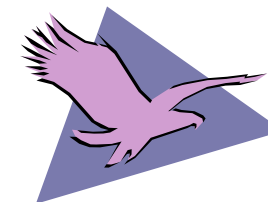
Remember me, when the color of the sunset
fills the sky. Remember me, when you pray
and the tears of joy fall from your eyes.

(Chorus)

Remember me, when the children leave
their Sunday school with smiles. Remember
me, when they're old enough to teach, old
enough to preach, old enough to leave

(Chorus)

Age to age, heart to heart, Child of wonder,
Child of God. Remember me. Age to age,
heart to heart, Child of wonder, Child of
God.



Masterpiece

Before you had a name or opened up your eyes, or anyone could recognize your face. You were being formed so delicate in size, secluded in God's safe & hidden place. With your little tiny hands & little tiny feet & little eyes that shimmer like a pearl. He breathed in you a song, & to make it all complete, He brought the masterpiece into the world.

(Chorus) You are a masterpiece, a new creation He has formed, and you're as soft & fresh as a snowy winter morn. And I'm so glad that God has given you to me, little Lamb of God, you are a masterpiece.

And now you're growing up, your life's a miracle, every time I look at you, I stand in awe. Because I see in you a reflection of me, and you'll always be my little lamb from God. And as your life goes on each day how I pray that you will see just how much your life has meant to me. And I'm so proud of you, what else is there to say? Just be the masterpiece He created you to be. (chorus)

You are a masterpiece.



Welcome Home

O little traveler, seems we've waited for so long. O little traveler, come & rest here in my arms, so much of life ahead, we will keep you safe and warm; O little traveler, welcome home.

You're on a journey, only God knows where you'll go; He'll weave the tapestry & with our help He'll sew the story He has planned so very long ago, O little traveler, welcome home.

(Chorus)

Welcome home, welcome home, my child, where you belong; And wherever you go all along life's road, may you know that you're never alone, Precious child, welcome home.

These cherished moments will hold tight when you have grown, teach you to find your wings, for soon you will have flown; we'll love with open arms, hoping you will always know we'll be here waiting, welcome home. (chorus)

We all are travelers, each with a race to run; We'll stay together, but when all is said and done we pray the way we live will lead you to the One who can truly say, "Welcome home. Precious child, welcome home."

God Knew Your Name

Before the light of day shined on your little face God knew your name. When no one else could see how precious you would be God knew your name. And He held you so close to His loving hand He wanted all to see that before the light of day shined on your little face God knew your name.

Before you walked around, before you first fell down God knew your name. Before you rode your trike and then that first red bike, God knew your name. He was with you every day right there by your side, even when you made mistakes. And before the light of day shined on your little face, God knew your name.

Before those wedding bells rang their story well God knew your name. Before that first new home and children of your own, God knew your name. And through all the times both the good & bad He held you in His hand. And before the light of day shined on your little face, God knew your name.

As you gracefully grew old, you knew you had been told, God knew your name. And one day when you died your friends & family cried, God knew your name. And my angels carried your soul to me, and I said "Welcome home!" You were one of mine, I loved you for all time, I knew your name. You were one of mine, I loved you for all time, I knew your name.

Jesus Loves Me, This I Know

Jesus loves me! This I know, for the Bible tells me so; Little ones to Him belong, they are weak but He is strong. Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.

Jesus loves me! He who died heaven's gate to open wide; He will wash away my sin, let His little child come in. Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.

Jesus, take this heart of mine, make it pure & wholly Thine; On the cross You died for me, I will try to live for Thee. Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.

"You, dear children, are from God & have overcome them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world."

1 John 4:4

I Am Jesus' Little Lamb

I am Jesus' little lamb, ever glad at heart I am; For my Shepherd gently guides me, knows my need, & well provides me, loves me every day the same, even calls me by my name.

Day by day, at home, away, Jesus is my Staff & Stay. When I hunger, Jesus feeds me, into pleasant pastures leads me; when I thirst, He bids me go where the quiet waters flow.

Who so happy as I am, even now the Shepherd's lamb? And when my short life is ended, by His angel host attended, He shall fold me to His breast, there within His arms to rest.

Special Music—Congregational Selections Continued...

Make This Child Yours

Take this child, make (her/him) yours, make (her/him) part of Your family. From Your love (she/he) has come; in Your love may (she/he) always be. Let not time or age take (her/him) far from Your family. May (she/he) grow; may (she/he) stay close to You.

To You, dear Lord, we praise Thee for the blessings of Your perfect gift. To You, dear Lord, our heartfelt thanks, we lift our voice in praise.

Special Music—Special Soloist Selections

Another Child to Hold

She looks down at her angel sleeping in (his/her) bed, she gently kneels beside (him/her) and then she bows her head. And just like other mothers who lived so long ago, she brings her child to Jesus and gives (him/her) to the Lord.

(Chorus) Jesus here's another child to hold, keep this child safe & warm, this world can be so cold. Take this child in Your arms and never let (him/her) go. Jesus, here's another child to hold.

He watched his only daughter leaving on a date, He doesn't want to worry, but now it's getting late. And waiting in the darkness he kneels down on the floor and offers up this simple prayer as he listens for the door. (chorus)

Wherever there are children, Lord, in danger or in need, may You find someone there praying on their knees. Oh, please! (chorus)

Jesus, here's another child,
Jesus, here's (my/our) precious child;
Jesus, here's another child to hold.

Cradle Song

I watch beside your cradle, your face touched by the moon. My heart just aches & trembles with all my love for you. Your eyes shine like your Father's, that nose looks just like me. I stare in awe & wonder at such a mystery. How God can touch the love of a man & wife, & blossom it into the breath of life. Just look at this life.

Our eyes are filled with dreaming, we want so much for you. But we might fail you often before your life is through. Only your heavenly Father, can hear your every prayer. When we are just a memory, your Lord will still be there. So on our knees we pray this cradle song, that you'll always know the Lord will keep you strong. We want you to understand, you rest in His loving hands; for you are Jesus' little lamb.



Special Music—Special Soloist Selections Continued...

I Hope You Dance

I hope you never lose your sense of wonder. You get your fill to eat, but always keep that hunger. May you never take one single breath for granted, God forbid love ever leave you empty handed. I hope you still feel small when you stand beside the ocean. Whenever one door closes, I hope one more opens. Promise me that you'll give fate a fighting chance, and if you get the choice to sit it out or dance...

I hope you dance, I hope you dance.

I hope you never fear those mountains in the distance. Never settle for the path of least resistance. Living might mean taking chances, but they're worth taking. Loving might be a mistake but it's worth making. Don't let some hell-bent heart leave you bitter. When you come close to selling out, reconsider. Give the heavens above more than just a passing glance, and if you get the choice to sit it out or dance...

I hope you dance, I hope you dance,
I hope you dance, I hope you dance.



I Pray We See Jesus

You have your mama's smile, Oh, how it takes my breath away! The way you tilt your head and laugh, you're more like her each day. I'm catching glimpses of who you will be, But baby, most of all...

(Chorus)

I pray we see Jesus, Jesus, Growing in His image, in His way; We'll follow where He leads us, O Jesus. Becoming more like Him every day.

You have your daddy's eyes, How they twinkle & shine! I remember how they captured me the minute they met mine. I'm catching glimpses of who you will be, But baby, most of all (Chorus)

Oh, we know the life we're living is the story you will read, So we'll keep our eyes on Jesus as His family. (Chorus)