

give thanks

thanksgiving communion

wednesday, november 25
6pm | facebook live

Even though we are separated, we want to connect our faith around communion this year at Thanksgiving. We will share communion together online on our Facebook page ([Facebook.com/CalvaryChurchofSpringfield](https://www.facebook.com/CalvaryChurchofSpringfield)) on Wednesday at 6pm.

family instructions

Thanksgiving is a great time to have family communion. It is an especially great time to begin to introduce your children to your faith and what you want for them.

1. Pick the time you want to have family communion.
2. Pick up communion from the Jefferson Street Campus or prepare your own and have it ready.
3. Gather at the chosen time.

CHILDREN AND COMMUNION

The first communion that your child takes part in is a significant moment in their spiritual development. Let me emphasize that it is better to wait to serve them communion until you know they understand what they doing. It is important that your children understand symbolism. This usually happens between the ages of 7-11. It is also important that they have had a born-again experience.

Be careful that their salvation is not just an action that they do to please you or a response they do as a child following an adult. This takes some discussion with them to know they understand what they have done. This is important for both communion and baptism. Otherwise, it is just a childhood action that has no tie to a real commitment of faith which could actually undermine faith. Don't be afraid to let them wait. It is good for children to watch others take these steps and see if they have questions or make comments. The questions and comments will reveal their understanding. This will also open time for you to share your faith with them.

My mother was six years old when she asked Christ into her life, and she testified to the reality of that commitment the rest of her life. However, I have seen children allowed to participate in communion and baptism who, within a short time, demonstrated they did not understand the experience. Again, this can undermine their faith. It became a religious action that they did not personally own. Parents, this is your decision to make, but make it with prayer.

After communion ends, take a few minutes to tell your family your salvation story and the faith story of your family. Whether you are one in a long line of believers or the first in your family to come to faith, tell them your story and how God has changed your life. Then, take a moment and tell them your faith vision for them. What kind of godly person do you want them to be? It does not matter how young or old they are, let them hear your desire. This isn't a discussion, it is a statement of desire. Finish by praying a blessing over them and thanking God for them.

You want spiritual discussions to be common and loving. If your children are older and resisting faith, do not condemn them but simply share your desire and hope for them. If they are young, let God's vision for them begin to unfold through your stated vision. I would encourage you to make these moments common and comfortable and to give room for the Holy Spirit to move in their lives. Take their questions seriously and lovingly. Respond in a way that is appropriate for their age. Remember, the pastoral staff is always here to help you in the spiritual development of your child.

I am praying that you have great and meaningful moments in your home.

Pastor Mark