

Parent/Child Dedication – Information



“Behold, children are a heritage from the Lord, the fruit of the womb is a reward. Like arrows in the hand of a warrior, so are the children of one’s youth.”

Psalm 127:3-4

The Event

Date. The next Parent/Child Dedication service will be announced in the weekly Sunday bulletin. If you have filled out the Baby Dedication form, you will be contacted by phone concerning the scheduled date.

Requirement. – Parent/Child Dedication class – Only those who attend class will be allowed to stand before the congregation on dedication day. No exceptions. This class is one hour in length and typically scheduled two weeks before dedication.

Guidelines for Parents.

Since dedication of children is a Christian act of giving children to God for his glory, the question to ask is, “Are we Christian?” At times, people bring their babies for dedication because it is “the thing to do.” God is honored by hearts that genuinely desire to please him without regard for what others think. Christian Dedication of babies is for Christian families.

Another question to ask is, “Are we willing to oversee our child’s Christian development?” By dedicating your child to God, you commit yourself to maintain a Christian home, where Christ is honored and the Word of God is believed and obeyed. A child’s first impression of God comes from you, so you must strive to live Christ-like at all times. Children sense our commitment to the Lord and are far more perceptive than we sometimes realize.

Frequently Asked Questions.

Why don’t you baptize babies?

The practice of infant baptism is simply not found in the Bible. It comes out of history and church tradition. Baptism is one of two ordinances (baptism and the Lords Supper) given to the church by the Lord Jesus Christ. Examples and directives for the proper practice of these ordinances are found throughout Scripture.

Baptism is for believers—those who have put their faith and trust in the Lord Jesus Christ. Baptism is only seen in the Bible when someone receives Christ and confesses Him as Savior and Lord. Baptism pictures the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ, symbolizing life before Christ and a new life in Him. While the intent of infant baptism is to identify a child with the Christian faith, baptism cannot secure salvation. Each child must hear and respond to the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

For this reason, we have a service of dedication to Christ for parents and their children, but we do not confuse this dedication with baptism, which follows a profession of faith. If you have questions about baptism, we will be glad to discuss them with you and provide guidance and opportunity to follow Christ according to His Word.

At what age can a child take part in a dedication service?

Our primary focus is on children from birth to 18 months. However, we deal with each family on an individual basis. Often children are adopted after this time and we support families who are beginning this exciting chapter of life.

Can a single parent participate in a parent/child dedication service?

Yes. We want to do all we can to encourage your walk with Christ. Single parenting is double duty in child rearing. As a church family, we desire to be part of your extended family. We hope to provide compassionate support, spiritual growth, and a variety of ministries to enable you to succeed in parenting your child in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.

If you want to participate in a dedication service and would like the support of your parents or another family member, we would gladly discuss this matter with you prior to the service of dedication and provide guidance on how they can take part in the service with you.

Can the biological parents participate in a parent/child dedication service if they are not married?

No. While we honor the life of each child and encourage parents married and unmarried to embrace the importance of spiritual commitment for children, a baby dedication service is intended to reflect the teaching of Scripture on family life.

Understanding the sacred honor of marriage as presented in God's Word, we believe every public act of worship is to conform to His standards. To fail to recognize and honor the specific teaching of Scripture on matters of family life would violate the integrity of our church and the Savior we serve. For those who are unmarried or living together, taking steps to acknowledge and surrender to God's plan for their individual lives would take precedence over participation in a baby dedication service.

Our goal in ministry is to meet people where they are in life, to lead them to God's grace and truth, and to help them discover life abundant in Christ and His church.

Do I need to attend the parent/child dedication class if I have participated in a previous dedication service?

Yes. This class is a recent development in our ministry to families. If you have participated in a dedication service, but have not attended the class, it is required that you attend.

Do you provide reserved seating for grandparents and extended family?

Yes. We would not want your family to miss this important event in your life. Photos are allowed from seats only.

Train up a child in the way he should go,
and when he is old he will not depart from it.
Proverbs 22:6