



ELMBROOK CHURCH PARENT-CHILD DEDICATION

What is Parent-Child Dedication?

Parent-Child Dedication at Elmbrook Church is a joyful recognition that every child is a gift from God. It is an act of worship, thanksgiving, dependence, and trust. Dedication is an intentional commitment by parents to pass on their faith to their children.

We want you to know that you do not face this responsibility alone. We desire to encourage your walk with God as a parent and provide support and guidance for you and your child as you work on the challenging and rewarding task of parenting. The celebration is a reminder to depend on God and His resources, including the church family and friends, to help nurture their children in their growing faith.

If you have trusted Christ as your Savior, you are invited to dedicate your child to the Lord. Your child does not have to be an infant--you can participate no matter your child's age.

Biblical Basis for Parent-Child Dedication

People were bringing little children to Jesus for him to place his hands on them, but the disciples rebuked them. When Jesus saw this, he was indignant. He said to them, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. Truly I tell you, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it." And he took the children in his arms, placed his hands on them and blessed them. Mark 10:13-16 NIV.

Examples of the practice of Parent-Child Dedication:

- Hannah brought her long-awaited son, Samuel, to the priest to dedicate him to the Lord. (*1 Samuel 1:24-2:10*)
- Mary and Joseph brought baby Jesus to the temple for dedication. (*Luke 2*)

Why Sunday morning?

The church family joins in the dedication of a child, not as observers but as participants. As God's people, we unite to extend our faith in Jesus Christ to the next generation.

Do we need to be members of Elmbrook Church?

Formal membership is not required; however, regular, active attendance at Elmbrook Church is something we do ask of families dedicating their children. We commit to coming alongside your family as your children grow in faith and ask the church family to commit to doing that as well. As a result, we encourage you to celebrate Parent/Child Dedication in the church your family regularly attends.

Dedication Vows

These are the vows taken by parents as part of this celebration with the congregation. The congregation also has vows that verify their commitment to walking alongside your family as you raise your child to love Jesus and follow Him.

- Do you today recognize these children as the gifts of God made in His image, for His glory, and come now to dedicate them to the Lord?
- Do you commit yourselves as followers of the Lord Jesus Christ to love God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength, and model this love for your children?
- Do you commit to praying for your child that they would one day make a personal decision for Jesus?
- Do you commit to raising your child with patience and love, helping them to understand the truth of God?

Is dedication the same as infant baptism or christening?

Parent-Child dedication is different from infant baptism or christening. While these rites are significant for a variety of faiths, it is our practice to dedicate children. Elmbrook Church practices Believer's Baptism, performed after a person understands who Jesus is, what He has done, and how we are privileged to respond to His sacrifice on our behalf (Romans 6:4)

Salvation of infants

We recognize that salvation only comes to a child through a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. It is not passed on to a child through dedication. We believe all infants are destined for heaven should they die before they are old enough to enter into a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.