

If you would like to have your child dedicated, please complete the enclosed application and return it to the office with the information listed below.

- Child's Full Name
- Parent's Name(s)
- Date of Birth
- Photo of child - may e-mail
- Date & service preference
- Name(s) of Spiritual Sponsors  
(if applicable)

**If you have additional questions or need more information, call the church office 763-631-4858.**



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# Child Dedication



# Child Dedication at New Life Church

## What is Child Dedication?

Child Dedication at New Life Church is a special time of public and personal commitment, when parents promise to raise their child with the purpose of leading them toward a relationship with God through Jesus Christ.

## Where is Child Dedication in the Bible?

There is no direct command instructing us to present ourselves and our children for dedication to God, but it does seem to be in line with the general teaching of God's Word. Our understanding of this finds its Biblical start in the book of Deuteronomy, where Moses on several occasions urges parents to understand and accept their responsibility for the spiritual welfare of their children (Deuteronomy 6:5-7). Hannah presented her son Samuel back to God in 1 Samuel 1:21-28. In Matthew, there is example of how Jesus Himself dealt with the children that were brought to Him. (Matthew 19:13-15.)

We recognize that salvation comes to a child through a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. It is not passed on to a child through Child Dedication. Parents are promising to raise their child(ren) with Godly principles and with the desire that one day, their child will receive Jesus Christ as their personal Savior.

## Is Dedication the Same as Infant Baptism or Christening?

No; while these rites are significant for a variety of faiths, it is the practice of New Life Church to dedicate children. Infant baptism was developed in early church history with the belief that it would ensure the salvation of infants should they die before they were old enough to develop a personal faith in Jesus Christ. It was believed that, through baptism, the infant would be assured of a place in heaven.

We believe, however, that *all* infants are destined for heaven should they die before they are old enough to enter into a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. We also believe that the Bible teaches that baptism should take place after a person has made a personal choice to follow Jesus Christ. Christening is simply another word for infant baptism.

## Can My Child Wear a Christening Gown?

Yes. While infant baptism is not practiced at New Life, we recognize that christening gowns are often family heirlooms with a special history and meaning. Therefore, your child can wear a christening gown.

## Can We Have Godparents?

Traditionally, Godparents are people who have been assigned by the parents to support the development of the child's faith. According to church history, certain persons (commonly two) assist or "sponsor" a child at the time of baptism or confirmation. In some cases, the Godparents may also be designated as the child's legal guardians should something happen to the parents. However, their primary purpose is spiritual.

We refer to Godparents as Spiritual Sponsors. If you wish, you may designate people for your child as sponsors, although it is not required. The sponsors may be involved in the dedication service if the parents choose by simply standing with the parents as the child is dedicated.

## What Age Should My Child Be for Dedication?

There is no set age; we encourage parents to dedicate their child as a baby. However, if you have recently made a commitment to raise your child in a godly way and would like to have him or her dedicated, we welcome older children as well.