

lakesidekids

Child

DEDICATION  
GUIDE

We are excited that you are interested in dedicating your child to the Lord. The purpose of Parent/Child dedication is for parents to present their child before God and the church, committing to seek after His grace and wisdom in carrying out their responsibilities.

We believe Psalm 127:3, which says “Children are a gift from the Lord; they are a reward from him.” Parent/Child Dedication is a time for us to celebrate and thank God for the gift of your children. It’s also a time for you, as parents, to commit to model what following Jesus looks like and to raise your children to understand that they are saved by grace through faith in Jesus Christ, to believe that the Bible is absolute Truth, and to know the importance of committing to a community of faith through the local church.

## Child Dedication History

The arrival of a new baby is a time of rejoicing for any family. The newness of life brings a special freshness towards all of life. Often, during this time, parents want to do something in the church to celebrate their joy with others and to present their child to God for blessing.

The joy of Jesus’ birth was shared with the people in the house of God. Like most Jewish parents in that day, Joseph and Mary brought Jesus to the temple to be presented to God. Long before this time, godly parents presented their children to God. And to this day, the practice is still done also to ask God’s blessing.

Some Christian churches baptize infants by sprinkling them with water. In those churches, the covenant of baptism is seen as being similar to the Old Testament covenant of circumcision. Other Christians don’t baptize infants. Instead, they dedicate babies to God. There are several reasons for this:

- There are no clear incidents of infant baptism in Scripture. Baptism seems instead to be an evidence of Christian faith.
- While some groups suggest that baptism imparts a special grace to children, there is no real scriptural support for this.
- In our society, often adults who were baptized as children desire to be baptized again as an expression of their decision to receive Christ as their Savior and Lord.
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For these reasons, Christian parents are encouraged to dedicate their children to God. During this Christian Child Dedication service, a beautiful solemn promise is made before God and the Church to care for this child as unto God.



# What is Child Dedication Now?

It is a public vow that you are making to God before His people. As you do so, we know it will bring God's smile of approval. He will help you to fulfill your vows and will bless your child. Child dedication boldly declares three foundational truths about the human condition:

1. That these young persons are precious to God. Their lives are sacred because they are created in God's image to have the capacity of personally relating to Him.
2. In spite of the innocent beauty of these children, we recognize that they will one day need to accept Christ on their own. When they come of age, they need to be redeemed for they, like all of us, are utterly helpless to merit salvation.
3. Dedication declares that Jesus is the rescuer. Jesus invited the little children to come because He knew, better than anyone else did, that they needed Him, too. (Acts 4:12)

There is salvation in no one else! God has given no other name under heaven by which we must be saved.

**Deuteronomy 6:6-7 "And you must commit yourselves wholeheartedly to these commands that I am giving you today. Repeat them again and again to your children. Talk about them when you are at home and when you are on the road, when you are going to bed and when you are getting up."**

This is the commandment of God, that we should diligently rear our children in our most holy faith. In obedience to this command, therefore we present our children and dedicate them to the Lord. The example for the ceremony of baby dedication may be found in Scripture, as in the presentation of Samuel by Hannah and of Jesus by Joseph and Mary. Paul reminded Timothy that "from a child" he had known the sacred Scriptures. Jesus considered "the little ones" infinitely precious, and he said, "permit the children to come to Me, do not hinder them; for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these." The purpose of child dedication is really to be found in the purpose of the parents. Rightly understood, the ceremony is one of parental dedication as well as child dedication. You, as the parents, are publicly pledging yourselves to obey the command of Paul (Ephesians 6:4) "...do not provoke your children to anger by the way you treat them. Rather, bring them up with the discipline and instruction that comes from the Lord." This ceremony is meaningless unless parents dedicate themselves, as well as their child, to God.

If you have any questions or would like to talk to someone about the process, please contact your campus kids director.

## **Oakland Campus:**

Rachel McConkey  
Rachel.McConkey@thelakeside.church

## **Minneola Campus:**

Taylor Roukey  
Taylor.Roukey@thelakeside.church



# Covenant of Parents

If it be your intention to present your child to the Lord, and to pledge yourselves to “bring your child up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord,” please answer “we do” to the following promises:

1. Do you, here this day, recognize your child as the gift of God, and give heartfelt thanks for God’s bless?
2. Do you, here this day, dedicate your child to the Lord who gave him or her?
3. Do you, here this day, pledge as parents that you will bring up your child in the discipline and instruction of the Lord?
4. Do you, here this day, promise to give your child every possible benefit of home, education, and the church?
5. Do you, here this day, ask God’s blessings upon your child’s life, to guide, guard, and direct your child through all his or her years?

If there are reasons Lakeside or you, as parents, see that fulfilling these areas of commitment for dedication at this time can’t be completed, we will meet to discuss the reason(s). Sometimes assistance in this area is needed.

## What to Expect

1. You will be welcomed on the stage to stand before the church. The Pastor will speak to what child dedication is and the importance of it. He will ask the parents and then the church if they will faithfully raise the child in the Christian faith. You will respond “I will.”
2. The Pastor will then ask the church to join him in praying over the child/children at which point he will anoint them with oil.
3. Finally, once the prayer has concluded, you and your family will exit the stage.
4. After service, you will pick up your bible and certificate at the Welcome Center. A photo op will also be available.

## Common Questions

### **Do I need to be an owner to dedicate my child?**

You do not need to be an owner of the Lakeside Church to dedicate your child. We do ask that families call Lakeside home, because in dedicating your child to God, you are stating that you are willing to partner with God and the Church to raise your child in cooperation with God’s intentions. As your church family, we are here to partner with you as the body of Christ and support you as a family unit.

### **Can a single parent participate in child dedication service?**

Yes! Child dedication signifies the commitment of parents, including single parents, to do their best to raise their child to be a follower of Jesus Christ. We encourage single parents to include any important figures in their child’s life to be a part of the dedication. As a church, Lakeside is committed to supporting single parents in providing a Christian foundation for their child’s upbringing.

### **Is dedication the same as baptism?**

The Lakeside Church believes baptism is for those who have made a personal decision to trust Jesus alone for their salvation, once they have the maturity and ability to understand what that means. Dedication is not a sacrament; nor does it impart grace or salvation to a child. Salvation comes only through faith in Jesus Christ as each person recognizes their sinfulness and receives forgiveness and eternal life through him and his work on the cross. Rather than baptizing infants or children, we encourage a dedication ceremony, where parents formally call upon God’s blessing for their child and publicly commit to raise him or her in accordance with Scripture.