

**Dear Parent,**

Thanks so much for expressing interest in Parent/Child Dedication. In this letter, you will find an explanation of the purposes and values of Parent/Child Dedication, as well what the event will look like at New Life Community Church.

There are two primary elements to Parent/Child Dedication:

**A. The Prayer of Blessing**

- a. Scripture indicates that as the one who holds a scriptural office of authority lays hands on a child, a special spiritual blessing is received.
- b. While we avoid any magical or mystical implications here, there is no denying a spiritual blessing is part of the dedication process.
- c. This blessing can come from a pastor, overseer, or even a father or grandfather. In the case of the child dedication, the blessing comes from a pastor.
- d. Examples of Parent/Child Dedication in the Bible include Joseph and Mary bringing Jesus to the temple, Hannah bringing her son Samuel, and parents bringing children to Jesus, all for the purpose of blessing.
- e. I Samuel 1:19–28    Luke 2:22–39    Mark 10:13–16

**B. The Dedication**

- a. Why is it called “Parent/Child Dedication?”
  - i. It is the parent that is entering into covenant with God – to commit their child(ren) to Him.
  - ii. Philippians 3:8
- b. Are we Christians?
  - i. Since Parent/Child Dedication is the Christian act of giving children to God for His glory, this is a justified question to ask.
  - ii. As a couple is standing before God dedicating their child to him in a Christian church, their life should show the characteristics of Christ. Sometimes people bring their children for dedication or baptism because it is "the thing to do." God is honored by hearts that genuinely desire to please Him without regard for what others think.
  - iii. Christian Parent/Child Dedication is for Christian families.
- c. Are we serious about this dedication?
  - i. Parents should ask themselves if they really want to see their child serve God. Would they like to see their child become a preacher, a Christian businessperson, a missionary, or a common laborer for Christ? When Hannah, the mother of Samuel the prophet, dedicated him to the Lord, she promised to give him up to serve God in the temple (1 Samuel 1–2:11).

- ii. Dedication of children to God means handing them over to Him to do as He pleases. Scripture tells us His ways are higher than our ways. (Isaiah 55:8–9)
  - iii. An act of dedication is an act of faith in God, trusting him to call the children wisely and mercifully.
- d. Are we willing to oversee our child's Christian development?
- i. Scripture tells us that we are to train a child in the way he should go (Proverbs 22:6). This includes meeting together regularly as Christians to spur one another on to love and good deeds (Hebrews 10:23–24).
  - ii. Dedication of children to God is a promise to model a Christian lifestyle to the children worshipping with a church family regularly.

If you are ready to dedicate your child and yourself, as a parent, to the Lord, in the raising up of your child, then New Life welcomes you to participate in this incredible and wonderful act of Parent/Child Dedication.

In order to help prepare for the event, please do the following:

1. Email or call me at [mhewitt@newlifewayland.org](mailto:mhewitt@newlifewayland.org) or 616–581.7945 to confirm that you would like to be a part of Parent/Child Dedication. In the email, or if you leave a phone message, please include the full name of the child (ren) you would like to dedicate.
2. Email a picture of each child and the correct spelling of their name to [mhewitt@newlifewayland.org](mailto:mhewitt@newlifewayland.org). This picture will be shown during service of Parent/Child Dedication. **All info must be in one week before the Dedication Service.**
3. Our next Parent/Child Dedication is TBA. During the service, you will be clearly guided on when to bring your child(ren) to the front. Once at the front, please line up in front of the stage, facing the stage. There will be a series of responsive questions that I, will ask the parents collectively before individually dedicating each child.
4. Invite grandparents, aunts, uncles and whomever else you believe would find special meaning in this day.

As God has entrusted each of us with the next generation, Journey prays for you as you invest in that next generation through Parent/Child Dedication.

If you have questions before committing to the Parent/Child Dedication, please give me a call. It's an exciting decision to talk through!

Thanks so much for your interest in this special day.

**Michael Hewitt, Pastor**