

- The congregation also makes a promise to support the family in prayer, Bible study, teaching, service and Christian love.
- A prayer of commitment and blessing for both the parents and the child.

Parents may want to invite family and friends to share in this special worship service. Central traditionally give a small token of love during the service. If you would like someone special to hold your infant or wish to include your entire family on the platform, please speak to the pastor prior to the service.

A child may wear any appropriate clothing, including an heirloom gown, a dress, suit or any other outfit. Parents and family are asked to dress accordingly.

To set a date for your child's dedication, please contact the church office at 217-222-1310.

There are no fees for this service.

Additional copies of this booklet  
Are available by contacting:

**CENTRAL BAPTIST CHURCH**  
321 NORTH 7<sup>TH</sup> STREET  
QUINCY, ILLINOIS 62301  
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## CHILD DEDICATIONS



“And he took the children  
in his arms, put his hands  
on them and blessed them.”

Mark 10:16

**CONSIDERATIONS FOR  
BAPTIST PARENTS**

For Baptists, raising a child “in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ” is an important responsibility (2 Peter 3:18). One way to begin this task is for parents to commit themselves to Jesus Christ and to the church; and for the church to commit itself to the parents and child. This commitment ceremony is called a *Child Dedication*.

### **What does the Bible teach about dedicating children?**

The Old Testament contains several examples of parents dedicating their children to God. Since children were a gift from the Lord (Psalm 127:3), the Law required that every new parent had to present their child at a worship service to thank God for His generosity, love, and gift (Exodus 13:1-2).

For example, when Jesus was born, his parents took him to the Temple and dedicated him (Luke 2:21-40). Jesus was blessed by the leaders, welcomed by the faithful and dedicated to the Lord’s service. This was an important event in Jesus’ lifetime.

As an adult, Jesus gathered children into his arms. He laid hands on them, prayed for them, and blessed them (Matthew 19:13-15). Jesus loved little children; and so do we! Jesus used children as examples of God’s kingdom workers. This is why Christians today continued the practice of dedicating children to the Lord.

### **What is the difference between a child dedication and an infant baptism or christening?**

Some Christian churches practice infant baptism, or christening. During these services, a child is “baptized” by the parents to insure the child’s eternal salvation. Water is traditionally sprinkled on the baby’s forehead as a sign of God’s inward grace.

Baptists, however, do not baptize or christen infants. The Bible teaches that only believers – persons who have personally professed faith on their own – are to be baptized. Baptists believe the Bible teaches that baptism is reserved only for those who are able to decide for themselves to follow Jesus Christ. When an older child, teen or adult makes the decision

to accept Jesus Christ as their personal Lord and Savior, and publicly shares this faith, is a person baptized. This is called “believers baptism.” Central Baptist Church baptizes believers by immersion as prescribed in the Bible (Matthew 3:13-17) and Church Covenant.

Historically, child dedications have been a vital part of the Baptist tradition. Children are important to God and to the church! Therefore, Baptists have practiced the service of child dedication to express their thanksgiving, love, and support for God’s gift. Countless Baptist churches continue to practice child dedications, today.

### **Does a child dedication “save” a child if it dies?**

No. Baptists do not believe children need any special service for salvation. God saves all children by grace, alone! Baptists entrust to God’s care all children who die before they are able to understand Christ’s invitation to faith. We have this trust regardless of whether a child was dedicated, sprinkled or christened because no human act can save a child; only God can save.

Child dedications have no magical powers. They do not impart any saving grace to the child; nor do they save anyone from sin. Instead, it is a symbolic act which declares the parent’s intent to raise their little one with the hope the child will accept Christ’s invitation to Christian faith.

### **What is included in a Child dedication service?**

Child dedications are celebrated during any regular morning worship service. They are traditionally held during the infant’s first year of life. Services will include:

- Readings from Scripture
- A promise or vow by the parents to raise their child with Christian values, to teach him/her the Bible, to respect God’s creation, to faithfully attend and support the church, and to live a Christian life.