Child Dedication Policy

At Bethlehem, we recognize and celebrate life that God gives! It is the policy of the Church to attempt to honor ALL requests for Child dedications as provided for in this policy statement.

The tradition of child dedication originates with the story of Hannah (1 Sam. 1:27-28). Even the Lord Jesus was dedicated to the Lord (Luke 2:22). We believe that dedicating your child to God shows that you recognize your child is a gift from God and you are dedicating yourself to being a godly example to your child.

A Baby/Child Dedication is a commitment by the parents and the church to provide opportunity for the child to know God and to experience their God given destiny. Through the dedication, the parents promise, to bring up the child entrusted to them in the discipline and instruction of the Lord (Eph. 5:4; Col. 3:21). The parent(s) are publicly dedicating themselves to the faithful fulfillment of their parental responsibilities (Deut. 6:4-9; Prov. 22:6; 1 Tim. 5:8) and are acknowledging their need of the prayerful support and encouragement of their Church fellowship (Eph. 6:18; Heb. 10:24-25).

We DO NOT christen/baptize the child. We believe that salvation must be the freewill choice of the individual. As such, baby dedication does not secure salvation, rather it is a symbolic moment in which the parent(s) entrusts the child's life to God's will.

As part of the dedication service, we offer a prayer for the child to grow up and experience their God created purpose (Mark 10:13-16).

The following stipulations apply to all Baby/Child Dedication requests:

1. The parent(s) must be followers of Christ. In order for a child to be dedicated, the dedicating parent(s) MUST have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.
2. If the child is born out of wedlock, ONLY the custodial parent will be allowed to participate in the dedication service. While we hold no antipathy towards the child or parents, we believe in the sanctity of marriage and that we should not falsely give the appearance of a home that does not properly exist before Christ. THERE ARE NO EXCEPTIONS TO THIS RULE.

Grandparents and Godparents are invited to be a part of the Dedication ceremony.

1. The parent(s) MUST attend Bethlehem regularly. This allows us as a spiritual family to fulfill our commitment to the child and the parent(s).
2. If you meet the above criteria and wish to proceed in planning a Baby/Child Dedication, by submitting your application, you are indicating your agreement with the purpose and requirements for the dedication.