

Pine City Evangelical Free Church

Child Dedication Packet

Dear Parents-

Children are gifts from God and we rejoice with you in your choice to dedicate them to the Lord. I appreciate your commitment to raising your child in a God-centered home. The dedication of children is a practice that has its origin in the Scripture. It is an expression of love for God and is a declaration on the part of the parent(s) to be a godly influence in the life of the child (Genesis 22:12; I Samuel 1:27-28; Matthew 19:13-15). Furthermore, the dedication ritual is an act of worship toward God on the part of the parent(s) and does not in itself bring about the salvation of the child. Salvation comes by faith in Jesus Christ as the Savior of our souls and not through church traditions or rituals (John 1:12; 3:16).

In presenting your child for Christian dedication at Pine City, you are declaring your concern for the spiritual well being of this child and you are expressing your purpose to lead him/her in the way of Jesus Christ. Furthermore, your child also becomes a special responsibility of the church of Jesus Christ. It is our responsibility to receive your child into the care of this church and to do our part in leading him/her to put CHRIST AT THE CENTER of his/her life and to minister to the welfare of your child in every way possible.

Therefore, it is important for us to know that you, as a parent(s), understand the vows you will be taking, that you are committed to these vows and that your life shows evidence of their reality prior to taking them. Our duty before God is to allow you to take vows that you are sincerely prepared to keep, to the best of your ability and with God's help, after the dedication ritual is passed. The Bible tells us that God is not pleased with those who take vows and then do not keep them. (Numbers 30:2; Deuteronomy 23:21; Ecclesiastes 5:1-7).

The following application is meant to help you think through this important decision. Please fill out these forms and turn it in one week before your child is to be dedicated.

If you have any other questions, you can contact me at any time.

Much Grace-

Darren Carlson

Family Background

Name of mother or guardian (full name): _____

Does mother attend PC Evangelical Free Church: Regularly Occasionally Never

What was the mother's/guardian's primary religious background/affiliation while growing up: (e.g. – Evangelical Free, Catholic, Lutheran, unchurched, or ??)

Is the mother/guardian a born again Christian? Yes No Still considering

Name of father or guardian (full name): _____

Does father attend PC Evangelical Free Church: Regularly Occasionally Never

What was the father's/guardian's primary religious background/affiliation while growing up:(e.g. – Evangelical Free, Catholic, Lutheran, unchurched, or ??)

Is the father/guardian a born again Christian? Yes No Still considering

Please give a brief statement of your spiritual journey/journeys explaining how, when and why you came to know Jesus Christ as your personal Saviour and what your life is like since you became a Christian. (Use additional paper).

Ceremony

Who will participate in the Child Dedication Ceremony?

Both parents/guardians Mother/guardian only Father/guardian only

Because of the spiritual nature of the questions asked during the Child Dedication Ceremony, it is helpful for the pastor to understand the marital and living situation of both parents/guardians. Which of the following best describes the parent's/guardian's marital and living situation?

Married and living together Never married and living together

Never married and not living together Divorced Separated

Other (please explain: _____)

Name of child to be dedicated (full name):_____ Birthdate:_____

If 2 children are to be dedicated:

Name of 2nd child to be dedicated (full name):_____ Birthdate:_____

Child's Dedication Verse (choose from attached list or choose a verse on your own):_____

If 3 children are to be dedicated:

Name of 3rd child to be dedicated (full name):_____ Birthdate:_____

Contact Information

Home/Phone Info for: Both Parents/Guardians Mother/Guardian Only
 Father/Guardian Only

Address:_____ Home phone #:_____

If applicable: His Work Phone:_____ Her Work Phone:_____

Fax #:_____

Email:_____

Child Dedication Questions

1. Do you recognize these children as the gifts of God and give heartfelt thanks for God's blessing?
2. Do you now dedicate your children to the Lord who gave them to you all, surrendering all worldly claims upon their lives in the hope that they will belong wholly to God?
3. Do you pledge as parents that, with God's fatherly help, you will bring up your children in the discipline and instruction of the Lord, making every reasonable effort, with patience and love, to build the word of God, the character of Christ and the joy of the Lord into their lives?
4. Do you promise to provide, through God's blessing, for the physical, emotional, intellectual and spiritual needs of your children, looking to your own Heavenly Father for the wisdom, love and strength to serve them and not use them?
5. Do you promise, God helping you, to make it your regular prayer that by God's grace your children will come to trust in Jesus Christ alone for the forgiveness of their sins and for the fulfillment of all his promises to them, even eternal life; and in this faith follow Jesus as Lord and obey his teachings?

Words of Dedication from the Pastor

Together with your parents who love you dearly, and this people who care about the outcome of your faith, I dedicate you to God, surrendering together with them all worldly claim upon your life in the hope that you will belong wholly to the Lord, forever.