

Why does eFree dedicate rather than baptize young children?

While we respect and understand other traditions, we do not baptize infants. We do not find in the Scriptures either the practice of infant baptism or the instruction to do so.

We practice “Believer’s Baptism”, which means that we reserve baptism for a point in time in a person’s life after he or she has come to faith in Jesus Christ. For more on baptism, pick up the church publication, *Baptism at the eFree Church*.

Can anyone have their child dedicated?

Since you will be dedicating your child to God, you need to understand what that really means:

- The parents have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ (Romans 3:23, Romans 6:23, John 3:16)
- The parents are committed to training their child in the way of the Lord (Deuteronomy 6:6-7, Joshua 24:15b)
- The family regularly participates in the Sheboygan eFree Church family life

How will the church help me?

We will commit to support you in the following ways:

- Teach you directly from God’s Word every Sunday.
- Offer you annual marriage and family seminars to grow you as a parent.
- Teach your child, from baby stage on, about Jesus and His saving love.
- Provide mature believers as mentors in ministries such as AWANA, Sunday School, and Youth Groups.
- Provide fellowship for parents and children through various ministries in the church.
- Provide prayer support.



What do I need to do to have my child dedicated?

1. Prior to each planned dedication service, the office will contact each family who has had a child born since the prior dedication service, to check on their interest in participating in the upcoming one. You may also initiate contact with the office.
2. You will need to confirm your participation in the next planned dedication date; if the date doesn’t work, you may choose to wait for the next planned date or ask for an alternate date.
3. Prior to participating in a dedication service, we often ask the parent(s) to meet with a pastor or an Elder.
4. Provide church office with all information and items requested:
 - Child’s full name
 - Child’s birthdate
 - Child’s place of birth (hospital name, at home, etc.)
 - Parents’ names
 - Recent photograph of child (either emailed or delivered to the office); it will be returned.
5. Attend a pre-service meeting on the dedicating Sunday.

What is the dedication service like?

Early in the worship service, parents will be asked to come to the platform with the child(ren) they are committing to the Lord. Many parents bring all of their immediate family to the platform. It is likely that several families will be participating in the dedication service.

Once on the platform, the pastor will ask for a promise from the parent(s) to raise the child in obedience to the Lord. The pastor might ask for a promise from the congregation to support the parents in the training process. Then the pastor will pray for the parent(s) and the child. After all the families are prayed for, they are dismissed from the stage to return to their seats.

How often are dedication services held?

There are 2-3 planned Parent-Child Dedications per year, including:

- May (Mother’s Day)
- Fall
- Alternate date, as needed

Dedications may be scheduled during any of the three morning services. We may be able to schedule other dates if needed.

What is Parent-Child Dedication?

eFree holds Parent-Child Dedications in order to:

- recognize God's kindness in blessing us with children (Psalm 127:3).
- ask God to provide wisdom and consistency to the parent in the raising of the child (James 1:5).
- commit the child's life to the Lord in faith (1 Samuel 1:27-28).

The Parent-Child Dedication is a purposeful recognition that the parent is responsible before God to live an obedient life and raise the child in the love and fear of the Lord. The whole congregation is encouraged as we remind ourselves of our ongoing commitment to live together in obedience and faithfulness to God's Word (Hebrews 10:19-25).

As we dedicate the parent and child to the Lord in prayer, we believe the Lord hears these prayers and will respond with faithfulness.



Evangelical Free Church

**But the steadfast love of the LORD
is from everlasting to everlasting
on those who fear him, and his
righteousness to children's children,
to those who keep his covenant and
remember to do his commandments.**

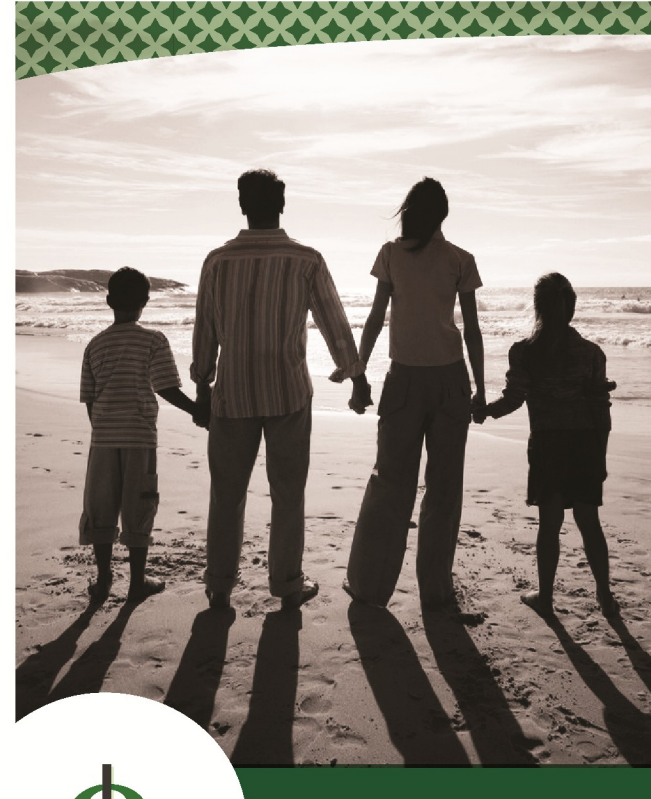
Psalm 103:17-18

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Parent - Child Dedication



at the eFree Church

**Behold, children are a
heritage from the LORD,
the fruit of the womb
a reward.**

Psalm 127:3