Christian traditions differ regarding infant baptism. At Bethany, we believe in child dedications and base this view on Biblical example. We are told in 1st Samuel 1 that Hannah presented her son Samuel to the Lord. In Luke 2:22 we read that Mary and Joseph brought their child, Jesus, to the temple in Jerusalem in order to present him before the Lord.

At Bethany we defer water baptism for children until they reach what we refer to as the “age of understanding” – specifically the time when they can consciously and independently choose to make a public declaration of their faith in Jesus Christ and their desire to serve Him as their Lord.

And in Deuteronomy 6, we read that God made a covenant with his people, Israel saying,

*“These commandments I give you today are to be upon your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up.”*

And finally in Matthew 19, we remember Jesus words:

*“Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the Kingdom of Heaven belongs to such as these”*

And so it is our privilege to present our children to the Lord and our responsibility to raise them in his ways.

During the dedication of your child(ren), we will ask questions of you as parents, and of our congregation as they commit to supporting you and your child(ren) through the journey ahead. We will also pray for you, dedicate your child to the Lord, and remind the congregation why child dedications hold a valuable place in the Church.

Please fill out the following form and email it to hollyh@churchbcc.org no less than 2 weeks prior to your child’s dedication. We look forward to celebrating with you!

Warmly,

Bethany Community Church West Seattle Staff

**Bethany Community Church – West Seattle Child Dedication Form**

Child’s Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Please share any significant reasons why you gave this name to your child, if you would like this shared during the dedication.

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Gender: □ Male □ Female

Mother’s Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Father’s Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Sibling Names & Ages: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Mother’s Cell: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Mothers Email: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Father’s Cell: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Fathers Email: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Please share any scriptures or blessings you would like included during the dedication (note – staff reserve the right to exercise discretion/ask follow up questions on any non-scripture based blessings)

**Parent Commitment**

Parenting is a weighty blessing, involving much joy and much heartache. The model of our Heavenly parent guides us as we parent our children. At Bethany Community Church West Seattle, we ask parents to review and agree to the following statements.

1. I/We are followers of the Lord Jesus Christ and have dedicated our lives to our Heavenly Father, asking Him to lead us and help us raise our child.
2. I/We have re-affirmed and re-committed ourselves to our marriage vows – to love and uphold one another before our community and God, thereby providing stability in the life of our child.
3. I/We are committed to raising and training our/my child in a godly way (Deut 6:4-7).
4. As a parent, I recognize my own personal need to be part of a Christian church family as a support system in my life and parenting.

I/We have read the above “Marriage and Family” and “About Child Dedications” and accept my God-given responsibility to my child.

Parent 1 Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent 2 Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_