

Guidelines for
Your
Wedding Ceremony



Marriage

Bethany
Lutheran Church

Wedding Guidelines

Congratulations on your engagement and may God's blessings be with you in these days of preparation for your marriage. Christian marriage is a covenant or pair of mutual promises of faithfulness that is grounded in God's promises of love and faithfulness to us. We are happy that you have chosen Bethany as the place to state your intentions and make your promises to one another. This guide will assist you in your planning and help you to understand the process of getting married. It should also help you to have a clear sense of a time line for planning the wedding ceremony.

Now that you have decided to marry, it is a priority to secure a wedding date and time. You may do this by contacting the church office to establish dates and times when both the facility and the pastor are available. We require a non-refundable deposit of \$100.00 in order to reserve a date for a wedding.

Premarital Counseling - We require all couples being married at Bethany to complete a process of premarital counseling. The pastor will meet with the bridal couple approximately six times prior to the wedding to meet you and to assist you in the design of your service. Additional visits may be arranged if they are needed. The bridal couple should contact the pastor to arrange times for these visits.

Wedding Coordinator - A consultation with the Wedding Coordinator of Bethany Lutheran Church should be arranged at least a month prior to the wedding. At this consultation(s)

options regarding the use of flowers, candles, and other wedding details will be discussed. The Wedding Coordinator is present for the rehearsal and the wedding as well as prior to and after both events. There is a fee for this service.

Wedding Rehearsal - A rehearsal is generally necessary for a formal wedding. The suggested time is the day prior to the wedding usually at 6:00PM. The bridal couple and all the attendants, ushers, parents and other participants including soloists and special musicians, should be present. The rehearsal is a very important time for raising the comfort level of everyone! Being respectful of each other's time is also very important, so please encourage the entire wedding party to be on time. It is best when details of timing and placement can be worked out and questions answered while all persons involved in the wedding are together.

Use of our Church Facility - Bethany has a no smoking policy in the building. Alcohol consumption is not permitted anywhere on the premises, including the parking lot. Please inform your guests of this policy. If the wedding party chooses, there are dressing rooms available on the second floor of the south wing. There is a fee for the custodian.

The Wedding Ceremony - Since you have chosen to be married in the church, your wedding should have a distinctive Christian quality. It is pastor's custom to perform weddings only in church Sanctuary. The marriage ceremony can and should be personalized and be an expression of your faith through the choice of Scripture readings, music, hymn(s), and vows. The wedding ceremony will normally be conducted by a pastor and musician from this church. It is possible to have others involved, but only after consultation and approval by the senior pastor.

Many weddings now have bulletins which list the order of service planned by you and the pastor. It will also list the wedding party and other participants. If this option is desired the organist should be notified at the consultation, so that titles and composers of musical selections, etc., can be included.

Guidelines for Music for Weddings

The marriage service is a service of worship, and the music, therefore, must be carefully chosen. All music used should reflect the depth, beauty, and meaning of this special service. It should embody high standards of quality, and the texts should reflect the praises of God, the steadfast love of Christ for his church as the foundation and model for love and fidelity in marriage, the invocation of God's presence and blessing.

Whenever music is employed in the service it should be appropriate for a worship service without triteness or sentimentality. It should, moreover, be within the ability of the musicians to play or sing with assurance. Prerecorded music is not permitted.

Music for Your Wedding and Consultation with the Organist

- The pre-service organ music will serve the same purpose as the Prelude to any service, to direct the congregation's thoughts to God. The music may reflect a variety of styles and moods, but all with the purpose of glorifying God.

A wedding consultation to select appropriate music should be arranged with the organist of Bethany Lutheran Church six to eight weeks prior to the wedding. At the consultation, the

couple will have the opportunity to hear many appropriate examples of processional (music for entering the Sanctuary at the beginning of the service) and recessional (music for leaving the Sanctuary after the conclusion of the service). Some couples prefer the simplicity of a hymn. Many appropriate ones may be found in our hymnal *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*. Processional and recessional hymns may also be sung by choir, or choir and congregation. Hearing the text provides additional meaning and can be very beautiful. In the event a vocalist(s), choir, and/or instrumentalist(s) will be participating in the marriage service, the wedding consultation also provides an opportunity to select appropriate music for these individuals as well.. The vocalist or instrumentalist is to provide the organist with music in the proper key at least two weeks in advance of the service. Because of copyright laws, photocopies of music are not acceptable.

The singing of a hymn or hymns during the wedding service is appropriate. In addition to adding to the richness and beauty of the worship service, it involves the congregation in the worship service.

Organist's Responsibilities - The organist of Bethany Lutheran Church shall have the prerogative of playing for all weddings at Bethany. If Bethany's organist is unavailable, he/she will take the responsibility of locating a competent guest organist for the occasion. If the couple wishes to employ an organist of their choosing, this decision must be made after consultation and with the consent of the organist and Senior Pastor of Bethany. Bethany's organist will confer with any guest organist and will meet with this musician, in order to familiarize him/her with the intricacies of our instrument. In addition they will need to agree to and sign the Bethany's Organ Use Policy.

The fee for the organist includes time spent in planning, conducting a wedding consultation with the couple, rehearsing with the soloist(*), attending the wedding rehearsal as well as playing for the wedding itself. This includes the playing of a pre-service music, a processional, any solos, hymns or additional service music, as well as a recessional and post-service music. The organist provides all the organ music for the marriage service from his/her own personal library of organ music.

*In general, the organist rehearses with the soloist and/or instrumentalist for the purpose of coordinating the accompaniment with the soloist's and/or instrumentalist's part, not for teaching the soloist and/or instrumentalist his/her part. In the event that the organist agrees to schedule more than the usual amount of rehearsal time to assist a guest performer(s) in learning the music, an adjustment to the organist's fee is in order.

Wedding Fees

Payment of fees and honoraria, and the Marriage License:
Please arrange to pay all fees and honoraria during the week before your wedding or the night of the Wedding Rehearsal. (All checks should be made out to "Bethany Lutheran Church). We recommended that you bring your marriage license to the church office at the same time. Pastor will not perform a wedding without the marriage license in hand.

Comprehensive fee for use of the church A \$100.00 Non-Refundable Deposit payable at the time the church is reserved and an additional \$200.00 at Rehearsal)	\$300.00
Use of Fellowship Hall for reception <i>Additional cleanup or damages will be billed, if necessary.</i>	\$150.00
Candles per set-up Three Branch Candelabra, Seven Branch Candelabra, or Aisle Candles	\$30.00
Organist (wedding ceremony and rehearsal) Additional fee for accompanying a soloist	\$150.00 \$50.00
Soloist or other musicians	<i>As agreed upon</i>
Bethany Wedding Coordinator	\$150.00
Sexton fee Additional fee if reception is held at Bethany	\$100.00 \$50.00
Pastor's Honorarium	\$200.00

Notes

Approved by the Worship and Music Committee of Bethany Lutheran Church and by the Congregation Council of Bethany Lutheran Church on September 23, 2013.

The approval of these guidelines by the Congregation Council of Bethany Lutheran Church is still pending.