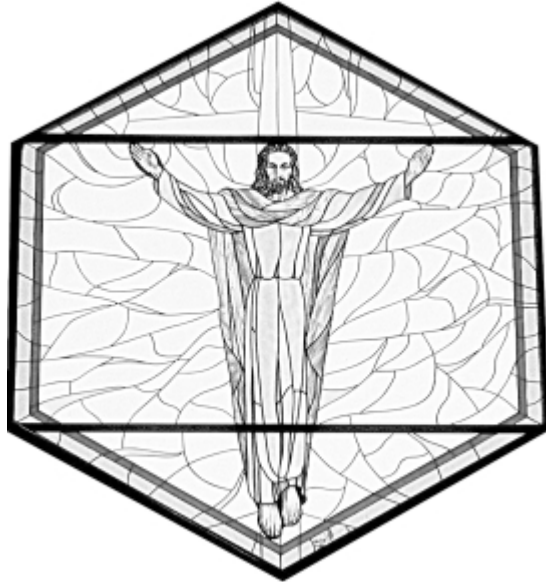


WEDDING GUIDELINES AND POLICIES

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WEDDING GUIDELINES AND POLICIES

We are pleased to share with you the joy and excitement that are part of preparing for a Christian marriage.

It is our sincere prayer that your wedding day and married life will be happy and filled with God's blessing.

PLANNING YOUR WEDDING

The very first step in planning your wedding is to contact the pastor to be sure the church and pastor are available on the date you have chosen. It is important that this be done prior to any other planning.

It is also important that you permit adequate time for pre-marital instruction. In order to avoid scheduling conflicts and provide time to plan the wedding service, we suggest that you allow at least three months between your first meeting with the pastor and your wedding day.

Due to additional worship services, weddings will not be scheduled during Holy Week or on the day prior to Christmas. With those exceptions, every effort will be made to accommodate the schedule of all concerned.

PRE-MARITAL INSTRUCTION

In accordance with the responsibilities and duties of being a pastor in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (E.L.C.A.), the pastor must instruct all couples planning to be married prior to the date of their wedding. A minimum of three sessions is required, each lasting approximately 90 (ninety) minutes. This is the time for the pastor and the couple to get acquainted prior to the wedding. It is also the time to explore issues involved in marriage that might not otherwise be discussed or looked at carefully. You will take a premarital inventory, which costs \$35.

It is the pastor's concern that the couple is prepared for marriage and that the marriage be one that is blessed by God. To help get at some important issues, each couple will take part in a pre-marital survey. Each couple is unique and will be instructed according to their individual needs.

PLANNING THE CEREMONY

During the time of your pre-marital instruction, the pastor will also discuss your wedding service with you so that everything is ready for the rehearsal and the wedding.

It is important to keep in mind that your wedding service is a service of Christian worship, performed for those who have been initiated into the life of Christ by baptism, who profess a commitment to Christ, and for whom marriage is an entrance into a stage of Christian living which demands a different type of maturity than the single life.

In any church of the E.L.C.A., the installed pastor of the church usually presides at all weddings held in the church. If you wish to have another minister in the service, it is important that the installed pastor at Cross of Christ be told well in advance. Often such a request needs the approval of the church council which meets once a month, so the sooner the better.

Music is always an important part of any wedding. The music you choose should direct attention to God and special care should be taken to assure that it is suitable for Christian worship. If you desire, the congregation may be invited to join in the signing of hymns at the beginning and conclusion of the ceremony. If you plan special music for the wedding service, please consult the pastor well in advance so that any problems or questions can be worked out. All music must be approved by the pastor and the Music Director. If none of the church musicians are available, you must arrange to obtain a satisfactory substitute.

Flowers are also an important part of our wedding tradition. They can enhance the beauty of God's house or they can totally hide the beauty of your ceremony. We would therefore ask that your flowers and decorations not be overly elaborate. Also nothing should be placed on the Altar except for a unity candle, if used.

Pictures may be taken prior to or immediately following the service. A professional photographer may take pictures during the processional and recessional, only if it is done discreetly. Videotaping of the service will only be allowed from the back of the church and only if it can be done without the use of special lighting.

All members of the wedding party are expected to participate in the rehearsal so that they may be at ease during the service.

THE MARRIAGE LICENSE IS TO BE BROUGHT TO THE WEDDING REHEARSAL.

Needless to say, no alcohol may be served or consumed in the church, except for Holy Communion. Also, note that any person who is obviously "under the influence" will not be allowed to participate in the rehearsal or wedding service. Smoking is prohibited in all areas of the church building.

USE OF THE CHURCH BUILDING

We invite you to use the church facilities for your reception/rehearsal dinners as well as for your wedding ceremony. Arrangements can be made through the pastor.

FEES

All fees for the church must be paid at least two (2) weeks prior to the day of the wedding.

Wedding – Member	Church Cleaning	\$25
Wedding – Non-Member	Building	\$100
	Pastor	\$150
	Premarital Inventory	\$35
	Church Wedding Organizer	\$25
	Church Cleaning	\$25

Music for both Members and Non-Members is to be arranged with the Church Music Director.

SPECIAL REQUESTS

1. Rice and confetti are not permitted. We suggest birdseed or bubbles.
2. The bride and her attendants should arrive one hour prior to the wedding.
3. The groom and his party should arrive thirty (30) minutes before the service.
4. The Marriage License must be brought to the rehearsal.
5. Any special items for the ceremony (unity candle, bulletins, etc.) should be purchased a full two (2) weeks before the service.
6. Other than for Holy Communion there will be no food or beverage in the sanctuary.

We hope that your wedding at Cross of Christ Lutheran Church will be a joyous occasion. Please make certain that you allow yourself enough time for planning and instruction.

Revised August 13, 2003
Contact info updated May 2009