

Wedding Information

and

Policy

St. John’s Lutheran Church

Updated: August, 2011

Mission Statement

“We are a community of Christians who, through God’s Word and Sacraments, are enabled by the Holy Spirit to grow and serve Christ at home and in the world.”

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**Welcome to St. John’s!**

Reading this document is the first step to planning a wedding here at St. John’s. Please take a moment to read the information below. It will help familiarize you with the focus of a Christian wedding, and provide you with an understanding about the wedding practices we welcome and value here at St. John’s. Congratulations on the start of planning your special day.

Grace and Peac**e**,

# Pastor Shawn

#  Introduction to a Christian Wedding

Marriage is a gift of God, intended for the joy and mutual strength of those who enter it and for the well-being of the whole human family. God created us male and female and blessed humankind with the gifts of companionship, the capacity to love, and the care and nurture of children. Jesus affirmed the covenant of marriage and revealed God’s own self-giving love on the cross. The Holy Spirit helps those who are united in marriage to be living signs of God’s grace, love, and faithfulness.

“Marriage is a gift of God, intended for the joy and mutual strength of those who enter it.”

Marriage is also a human estate, with vows publicly witnessed. The church in worship surrounds these promises with the gathering of God’s people, the witness of the word of God and prayers of blessing and intercession.

With this being said, the pastor is open to suggestions about the service, but has the ability to create or refuse to do something, in order to uphold the sacred nature of the ceremony.

# Wedding Checklist

**1. The Date**

Call the church office (717-259-0796) to see if the date is available for your wedding. Allow at least six months before the wedding. If the date is available, make sure the secretary marks it on the calendar. If a clergy person, other than the one from St. John’s, is to preside at your wedding it must be cleared through the Pastor. In addition, if you are a non-member interested in booking the church, a $100.00 deposit is owed in order to book the date.

**2. Preparatory Sessions**

It is a policy adopted by our Church Council that all members planning a wedding at St. John’s participate in pre-marriage counseling (more on page 5).

A meeting should be scheduled for the purpose of music planning and preparation with our Organist. This meeting should take place no later than two months before the wedding. Discussion on music and soloists will be handled at that time.

**3. Rehearsal**

Ordinarily, a rehearsal is necessary. It is about 45 minutes long and is usually held the night before the wedding. The following people should be present for the rehearsal: members of the wedding party, the ushers, the parents of the bride and groom, members of the family that are part of the processional, and the organist.

**4. Musicians**

The Church Organist at St. John’s should be contacted as soon as possible to plan for weddings where organ music is desired. Because our church organ is a complex and expensive piece of equipment, we do not allow the use of the organ by anyone who is not trained to play such an instrument. An appointment must be made with the organist to discuss the wedding music and reserve his/her time on the wedding date. The Organist does not automatically play at every wedding.

**5. Marriage License**

 The marriage license must be given to the Pastor no later than the night of the wedding rehearsal. A couple cannot be married without the Pastor receiving a valid wedding license.

# Marriage Counseling and Meeting with the Pastor

The Pastor expects that a minimum of three meetings will be held by both the bride and groom. Specific timing in relation to the wedding will be arranged by mutual agreement, directly with the Pastor. In addition, Pastor Shawn is certified in Prepare and Enrich couples counseling and will strongly recommend that all couples take the suggested inventory as a part of the Pastor’s counseling. This inventory comes at no cost for members. It will cost non-members $35.00. You can find more information at [www.prepare-enrich.com](http://www.prepare-enrich.com).

# Wedding Guidelines

**Flowers**- All arrangements regarding floral decorations are the responsibilities for the bride and groom. The arrangements placed at the altar must include liners if the church’s vases are used. It is common that the altar flowers be left for the Sunday service. If you would like to share the altar flowers with the church, please contact the church office, so that the altar flowers for that Sunday can be canceled. In addition, make sure you sign up on the bulletin board for the altar flowers.

**Bulletins**- It is common to use a bulletin listing the order of the service, music, participants in the ceremony, etc. The couple should purchase the appropriate bulletin cover needed for the ceremony and have information needed for the bulletin no later than one month before the service. If the couple wishes to have the bulletins professionally printed, a copy of the bulletin needs to be viewed by the Pastor one month prior to the service to ensure that the service is correctly presented.

**Pictures** – Pictures taken by members of the congregation during the wedding ceremony is prohibited, in that it distracts from the sacredness of the moment. Immediately after the ceremony, the Pastor will be available for re-enacting any part of the wedding service for the purpose of taking pictures.

Photographers may take pictures before and/or after the service, during the processional and recessional, and during moments of the liturgy as long as it is discussed with the pastor prior to the ceremony. Friends and family should be discouraged from taking pictures until after the wedding is over. There is no objection to a professional photographer taking pictures without flash during the appropriate parts of the ceremony, and from a suitable location in the back of the church. At no time during the service are cameras allowed behind the altar rail.

**Receptions** – The Church Fellowship Room is available, providing no smoking and no alcoholic beverages are involved. See more details in the section listed as Fee and Honorariums.

***\*\*\*Deviations from Guidelines- All deviations from the guidelines set forth must be approved by the Pastor and Congregation Council.***

# Fees and Honorariums

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Facility UsageMembersSanctuaryPrice: $00.00Fellowship Hall/ ParlorPrice: $35.00Kitchen Price: $00.00 | Non- MembersSanctuaryPrice: $300.00Fellowship Hall/ ParlorPrice: $150.00KitchenPrice: $50.00 |
| Pastor/ OrganistMembersPastorPrice: $100.00 (suggested honorarium) OrganistPrice: $100.00 | Non- MembersPastor Price: $150.00OrganistPrice: $150.00 |
|  |  |

# Music Selections

**Appropriate Prelude Music**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Title** | **Composer** |
| Arioso | Bach |
| Liebstraum  | Liszt |
| O Perfect Love | Barnby |
| Lord of Love, Unfailing | Haydn |
| Sheep May Safely Graze | Bach |
| Ave Maria | Bach |
| Ave Maria  | Schubert |
| Jesu, Joy of Man’s Desiring | Bach |
| Canon in D | Pachelbel |
| The Lord’s Prayer | Malotte |
| This is the Day (A Wedding Song) | Brown |
| Walk With Them Lord | Besig |
| Wedding Song (There is Love) | Anonymous |
| The Gift of Love | Hopson |
| Theme and Variations on “Hyfrydol” | Young |

**Processional or Recessional**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Title** | **Composer** |
| Trumpet Tune | Purcell |
| Trumpet Voluntary | Purcell |
| With Trumpets and Horns | Handel |
| Joyful, Joyful WE Adore Three | Beethoven |
| Largo | Handel |
| Thanks Be To God | Handel |
| Praise to the Lord, the Almighty | Lowe |
| Praising | Martin |
| Psalm 19 (The Heavens Declare) | Marcello |

\*\*\*There is more music to choose from, but all music must be approved by the Organist one month prior to the ceremony.