

WEDDING POLICIES FOR WEDDING SERVICES

We of St. John's Lutheran Church are eager for your wedding to be a beautiful and happy occasion. The Christian wedding ceremony is primarily a service of worship to our Lord. The information, which follows, will help your plan for your wedding at St. John's.

AS YOU SET THE DATE

Always check with the Pastor and Church Secretary to make sure he and the church are available on the date you have selected. The weddings at St. John's are performed only by the resident Pastor; other Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod clergy may participate after consultation and at the invitation of the Pastor.

MARRIAGE IS AN HONORABLE ESTATE

If you are living together or have become sexually active we ask that you consider your actions in light of the Sixth Commandment. We pray that God would lead you to confess this sin, receive His forgiveness and seek to change your lives. If you have established a home or family together, we ask that you seriously consider getting married as soon as possible.

PREMARITAL CONFERENCES

In our day and age it is advisable that a couple consider all the challenges of marriage before entering into the blessed state of marriage. This is why your Pastor will generally offer several opportunities for you to speak with him about some of the important matters about to take place in your lives. Take seriously this opportunity to speak with your Pastor, he is there to help you in your future plans.

THE LICENSE

The State of Iowa requires that you apply for a marriage license at least four days before your wedding. There is a three-day waiting period from the day of issuance. Both applicants must sign the license, and at least one must pick up the license from the county courthouse. The law also requires that both applicants must be 18 years or older, otherwise a parent or legal guardian must sign for you as a court order is required. The license must be in the possession of the pastor before the wedding can take place. Please bring the license with you to the wedding rehearsal.

INVITATIONS

When sending out invitations, remember that our church can seat approximately 250 people at the max.

THE REHEARSAL

The wedding rehearsal will be held on the evening prior to the wedding, unless other arrangements are made with the Pastor. The time for the rehearsal will be determined according to the Pastor's schedule. Allow one to one and one-half hour for the rehearsal. All members of the wedding party will present themselves with manner and dress befitting the honor due the house of God.

REHEARSAL DINNERS AND RECEPTIONS

These functions may be held in the church basement. If you should want to use the church hall, contact the church office or Pastor to reserve it. There is a fee for the use of the church basement. Check the fee section at the end of the brochure. You may give this fee to the Secretary in the church office. Note: No alcoholic beverages are permitted on the church property. We suggest for the rehearsal or reception non-alcoholic wine or champagne.

The Rehearsal or Wedding Reception is the responsibility of the couple to take care of the food, setting up and taking down according to the policy posted in the kitchen area. Everything is to be put back the same way it was when you arrived.

Table Linens: If you use the church linens they are to be left on the church kitchen table and will be laundered by one of the Ladies Aid members. Inform the church office they are there. Be sure to try to protect the cloths with plastic etc. when using food that will soil them.

Dishtowels: Are to be taken home and laundered and returned to the church.

Garbage: All garbage is to be removed and new bags put in the containers. Garbage is to be put in the dumpster outside by the garage.

Kitchen Utensils: All kitchen coffee pots, trays, dishes, silverware etc. can be used with care and need to be put back in the places they were found.

Clean-up: All tables should be washed and put back as was. The floors need to be swept and countertops need to be washed. Be sure all lights are off and the doors are all locked before you leave.

DECORATIONS

Decorations may be used in the church and fellowship hall for both the wedding and any reception or dinner. It is preferable that these be as simple as possible. We believe our church is beautiful in and of itself. Check with the Pastor or Secretary to see what is appropriate. Flowers, ribbon bows, white aisle runner, unity candle, all of these are acceptable. Aisle candles should be non-drip and for protection have a cup underneath for dripping. Use tape that does not pull the finish off the pews.

WEDDING BULLETINS

Wedding Bulletins can be ordered through the church office. The secretary can order these for you. The secretary will run the copies off. If you ask her to type up the ceremony there will be a charge for doing so, you can see the fee information in the fee section at the end of this document.

MUSIC

It is customary that a regular church organist from St. John's play at all weddings. If an exception to this rule is desired, proper procedure is to have the approval of the Pastor. Before selecting any music for your wedding, speak with the Pastor about what is suitable music for a Christian Wedding. Some music is not appropriate for use in a Christian wedding even though it may often be associated with weddings on TV, in movies, or in other than Christian weddings.

Your Pastor and Organist are concerned and ready to advise you in suitable music for your Christian wedding. A quick rule is this: The music should honor Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord, the Author and Head of marriage. The music should also display a proper Christian attitude towards the marriage relationship. All music for weddings at St. John's must meet with the approval of the Pastor. Therefore, we require that you bring the music and words to the Pastor well in advance (at least three weeks) of the wedding so that this approval may be granted. Finally, plan to compensate the organist (St. John's Organist: \$100.00) pianist, or soloist for their services at your wedding.

PHOTOGRAPHY/RECORDINGS

Photographers will not be allowed to take flash pictures during the wedding service. Pictures without flash may be taken during the service as long as there is no interference with the worship service. Many pictures may easily be pre-posed before the service. (i.e, unity candle, soloists, ring ceremony, etc.) Group pictures of the wedding party can be taken before or after the wedding service, whichever is desirable. However, it should be noted that pictures taken after the wedding cause the guests at your wedding undue waiting. Audio tape recordings can easily be made of your wedding. Videotape recordings can also be done. Check with the Pastor for these special arrangements.

CLEANING-UP

At St. John's it is the responsibility of the family to clean up after the service. You may ask a friend etc. to help you with this job. If you wish to clean up after the wedding yourself, it is your responsibility to have all rooms cleaned, decorations and personal items removed. All flowers and birdseed etc. should be vacuumed up. If you use the kitchen the counters and floors need to be cleaned and all food removed.

FEES

Organist : \$100.00

St. John's Organist has a set fee and it is suggested that she be paid by the night of your rehearsal.

Secretary : \$25.00

Fee is for **Typing the Wedding Bulletin**, ordering and running off the bulletin is at No charge

Bulletins can be ordered through the church office.

Church Rental for Use of Fellowship Hall:

Members \$10.00

Non-Members \$20.00

This is for Rehearsal Dinners or Receptions, not the Wedding. Pay this fee to the church secretary or Pastor before the wedding.