

Wedding Planning and Preparation Guide
St. John's Lutheran Church Shell Creek
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Congratulations!

We at St. John's look forward to sharing your wedding day with you. We hope that it will be one of the happiest, most God-filled days of your lives. It is our wish to work with you to make your wedding a worship service which reflects the glory of God and celebrates your commitment to each other. Here is a booklet that we provide in an attempt to help you prepare for that day.

Services conducted at St. John's must be officiated by St. John's clergy or Interim Clergy. Other clergy may participate in a service only after they have spoken directly with St. John's clergy and requested to participate. The guest clergy must agree to terms of participation presented by St. John's Clergy.

Please consult with our Pastor on the date of the wedding at least four to six months in advance. We do not do marriages during Holy week because it is a solemn time in the church year when we reflect in the Cross of Christ and his death for us.

Pastor and the couple usually have up to four sessions together before the wedding. Pastor uses a preliminary inventory to help find areas of agreement and disagreement in the couple's relationship. This serves to open discussion about marriage in general, Christian marriage, and the couple's Christian marriage in particular. Together, we will also talk about the service, choose Biblical passages for reading during the marriage service, the vows the couple will make before God and the congregation, the music to be used at the service, and the order of the service.

The Order for Marriage from the Lutheran Book of Worship or Evangelical Lutheran Worship will be used. All music needs to be approved by the Pastor. Worship music should be Christ-centered, dignified music, appropriate to a

(as of 1/16/2023)

service of worship in the church building. A non-religious love song expressing the couple's commitment for each other may be used following the vows.

If the service includes the celebration of Holy Communion, the Altar Guild will need an estimate of the number of persons you estimate to receive. Some couples celebrating Communion at their wedding have baked the bread and bought the wine to be used. Our altar candles use liquid paraffin. Please feel free to use them, but keep the burning time to a minimum during pictures and rehearsal. Please do not substitute your own candles. Please be in touch with the Altar Guild member in charge of the month about the candles.

Only real flowers are to be used on the stands on either side of the altar. The candelabrams may be decorated with flowers or greenery (these can be artificial). These should be affixed so that the candelabra and the candles will be not marred or scratched.

If you use a unity candle, the credence table may be moved to the area between the altar and the lectern. Please use the heavy plastic provided to protect the table from the dripping wax.

If you use pew bows, please attach by a ribbon. No wire if possible! If tape must be used, remove all residue as soon as possible from the wood.

Please have all photographers and video photographers check with the Pastor about the placement of cameras. Please do not have any flash pictures taken during the service, professionally or by relatives. Silent shutter pictures may be taken by a professional during the service.

No rice or bird seed may be used at weddings out of the consideration of the custodial and maintenance staff. It is the responsibility of the wedding couple to remove items from the wedding, and to see that the church is cleaned and ready for the next worship service. St. John's custodians need to be hired and paid before the rehearsal. A check may be left in the "property" mail slot in the Narthex of the church. Please contact either Denise Stevenson or Deb Runge, as one or the other will be cleaning the month of your wedding ceremony.

Pastor does not charge a set fee for weddings, but will accept an honorarium. If you are a non-member, you will be charged a set fee by the Pastor. You will need to consult the soloist and other musicians about their reimbursement.

If you wish to have the church bells rung, it is your responsibility to invite two council members to ring them.

Frequently Asked Questions:

1. Do weddings and rehearsals usually begin at the scheduled time? Yes, we work hard to respect your time and your guests' time, and we expect that you will, too.
2. How long is the wedding ceremony itself? The wedding service is typically 30 minutes.
3. What items can be left at the church on rehearsal night? The unity candle, programs and decorations may be left overnight at church, but we cannot be responsible for any clothing, jewelry, electronic equipment, or other valuables.
St. John's is not responsible for lost or stolen items at the church.
4. What about bulletins? If you are using a bulletin, please purchase it and have it printed yourself. Pastor will provide a basic order of service for you to use when service planning is done.
5. Do you have a wedding banner? Yes or the couple may use their own. Paraments for the wedding will be those appropriate for the season of the church year. Seasonal banners will be displayed in addition to the wedding banner unless a couple wants only the wedding banner. Please be in touch with the Altar Guild member in charge of the month about this.

Alcohol & Tobacco Use

For legal reasons, we do not allow the consumption of alcoholic beverages/smoking on the premises or the grounds at any time. Please inform your family and friends of this. That being said, if your or any other member of your wedding party is intoxicated and obviously impaired on the day of the wedding, we will ask that person to excuse him/herself in the ceremony.

Costs for the Wedding

After you have confirmed the wedding date with the church office, a deposit of \$60 is required to secure your wedding day at St. John's Lutheran Church. The deposit is required 3-4 weeks after the wedding is booked. (This deposit will also go toward the Custodial Staff fee)

Wedding Fees

Building Use: Members-no fee Non-member \$100

Custodial Staff: \$60.00 (Your deposit will go toward this fee)

St. John's Organist/Pianist: \$150

Media Tech and Projection: \$100 (optional)

Church Wedding Coordinator: \$50

Thank you for choosing St. John's!

Please feel free to call St. John's (office 402-564-8707)

or Pastor's cell 402-910-0817) with any questions you may have

or Bethany Wilke (402-276-2900)-church wedding coordinator.