

WEDDING GUIDELINES

Faith Lutheran Church, ELCA
2740 Fuller Ave. NE
Grand Rapids, MI 49505



Phone Numbers

Office 616.361.2679

Coordinator: Marcy Devries 616.292.2626
Church Organist/Pianist: Carole Kaufman 616.365.0684
Church Office: 616.361.2679

Guidelines and fees effective September 2009

THE MARRIAGE SERVICE

The Marriage Service is an integral part of our congregation's ministry and reflects the whole life and purpose of our community: to worship God, giving God thanks for God's love for us in Jesus Christ.

The Marriage Service is one of the worship services of a Lutheran congregation. Receiving God's blessings in the Marriage Service is a small part of our lifelong walk with God in Christ. Faithfulness in worship is an important part of our overall faith journey. If you are not now members of a congregation of faith, we invite you to seriously consider becoming one. We also invite you to join us for worship on Sunday mornings. All weddings performed at Faith Lutheran Church will be conducted in ways compatible with and traditions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). ***Presiders other than the pastor of Faith Lutheran Church are required to consult with the pastor prior to the service and submit a copy of the service to be used.***

When two Marriage Services are scheduled on the same day, they are scheduled with a minimum of two hours (if one is in the Chapel) or three hours (if both are in the Sanctuary) between the start of one and the beginning of the next. Knowing the tentative date and time of your Marriage Service allows us to make commitments to other couples. Please contact the church office as many months in advance as possible.

PREPARATION FOR MARRIAGE

When couples preparing for marriage wish the pastor of Faith Lutheran Church to preside at the wedding, they should plan to meet with the pastor on 4 - 6 separate occasions for pre-marital counseling and wedding planning. Each session will last approximately one hour. Sessions will focus on the following:

- The importance of Christian faith and life in Christ in the marriage
- Maturity and readiness for marriage
- The spiritual meaning of the Marriage Service
- Specific plans for the order of service, vows, lessons, etc.

MUSIC

Though permitting a fairly wide discretion, the music selected for use during the service should "reflect the praise of God, God's steadfast love in Christ as the foundation of and model for marriage, and the asking of God's presence and blessing." Selected music ought not "cloud communication of the context and mood of the service with musical triteness or associations bordering on sentimentality."¹ Questions of musical appropriateness may be directed to the pastor or the organist of Faith Lutheran Church. The couple is encouraged to choose music from a wide variety of church music, both traditional and contemporary, provided by the organist.

THE REHEARSAL

The rehearsal is scheduled the day before or two days before the Marriage Service. To alleviate anxiety on the part of the bride and groom, the pastor, coordinator, and organist work as a team, doing their best to be aware of the needs of the worship service and plans of the couple. The pastor, coordinator and organist are responsible for seeing that the wedding is celebrated in good order, reflecting the dignity required of any worship service conducted in the facilities of Faith Lutheran Church.

THE PHOTOGRAPHER

In keeping with the worshipful mood and context of a worship service, pictures only by the photographer (no flash) are permitted during the service. Guests at the wedding, family or friends, are requested not to take pictures during the service. Times for taking pictures prior to the wedding must be scheduled with the coordinator by rehearsal. Persons videotaping the service and photographer must speak with the coordinator regarding when and where pictures may be taken, before, during and after the wedding ceremony.

MARRIAGE LICENSE

To ease last-minute pressure before the wedding, we ask that you bring your marriage license to the church office sometime during the week prior to the wedding service. If this is not possible, the marriage license must be presented to the presiding minister before the wedding service.

THE FLORIST

Flowers are permitted at the entrance to the chancel area. Flowers are permitted on either side of the altar area. It is not permissible to have flowers strewn down the aisle during the wedding service. If there are questions about flowers, please talk to the coordinator or officiating pastor.

OTHER CHURCH POLICIES

- Faith Lutheran Church is a smoke-free environment. There is to be no smoking anywhere inside the church facility at any time.
- Use of alcoholic beverages is not permitted on Church premises.
- Food, snacks, sandwiches, etc. may be eaten in the kitchen area. No food or drink is permitted in the Bridal Room or Library/Lounge.
- For environmental, safety, and custodial considerations, we ask that neither bird seed or rice be used on church premises.
- The church will be opened two hours prior to the wedding ceremony and not more than two hours following the ceremony's conclusion. All personal or rented property must be promptly removed from the premises during this time and is not the responsibility of Faith Lutheran or its representatives.

GOD'S BLESSINGS

We pray God will bless you as you plan for your marriage and begin your new life together as husband and wife. We welcome continued ministry with you in the name of Christ our Lord.

FEES

A non-refundable deposit of \$100.00 will be required to reserve the date for the wedding. Half of the balance will be due 60 days prior to the wedding. The remainder of total sum is due 30 days prior to the event. Checks are to be made out to: *Faith Lutheran Church*. Note on the check or envelope the date of the wedding and the last names of the marrying couple.

Sanctuary Weddings (approximate seating capacity of 300)

Church \$550.00 (non-member) or \$250.00 (member²)

Pastor \$200.00 (non-member and member²)

*Organist/Pianist \$200.00 (non-member and member²)

**Organist fee includes organist and/or use of church equipment.*

Total \$950.00 (non-member) or \$650.00 (member²)

Chapel Weddings (approximate seating capacity of 60)

Above fees apply minus \$100 from church fees.

Total \$850.00 (non-member) or \$550.00 (member²)

Please note: additional fees apply for on-site rehearsal dinners and/or wedding receptions. These events are subject to the calendar availability of the Fellowship Hall and are subject to all guidelines and fees as published in the Faith Lutheran Church Building Use Policy, available upon request.

¹ Manual on the Liturgy: Lutheran Book of Worship, p. 347

² Only one of the *marrying couple* need be an *active* member of Faith Lutheran.