

GUIDELINES FOR WEDDINGS at Christ Church Lutheran

Introduction

Your wedding is an important event. It is time of deep spiritual significance. A wedding at Christ Church Lutheran is a service of Christian worship, and everything that is said and done at the wedding should be in harmony with the central act of worshiping God, seeking God's blessing, and remembering God's love given uniquely to us in Jesus Christ.

When a couple chooses to be married in a church, they do so because they come to ask God's blessing on their marriage and on the home they are establishing. The church is a house of prayer. It is much more than a "nice place" for a beautiful event where flowers, music, and color schemes can be blended together. All parts of the service are to reflect the depth, beauty, and meaning of Christian worship.

Presiding Pastor

Because every wedding here is an official act of the church, a pastor of Christ Church will preside at all weddings. If a couple chooses to have another minister assist, that pastor should make arrangements with the pastor of Christ Church so that the customs and procedures of this church are understood. The pastor may ask for a brief introductory meeting with a couple in order to become acquainted, and to familiarize the couple with procedures. You can arrange for a time like this with the pastor by calling the church office. The pastor will also want to set up a session to plan your wedding service—this typically takes 1½ hours. The pastor will provide you with a copy of the Order of Service for Marriage, which will guide the planning of your marriage service.

Premarital Counseling

The pastors of Christ Church take seriously their involvement in your wedding, and your life in God as a married couple. It is the responsibility of the couple to make arrangements with the pastor for two individualized pre-marital counseling sessions. All couples will take part in this counseling. Each session typically takes one hour.

At Christ Church, we use a very fine tool called "Prepare" in our pre-marital counseling. You can learn about it at prepare-enrich.com. "Prepare" is an online tool, taken individually by both members of a couple. The pastor receives the results, which will be shared with you and used as a resource for your pre-marital counseling. Couples find "Prepare"

to be a most helpful window into their family backgrounds and into their relationship. It assesses your “assets” and “growth areas” as a couple. The cost to take “Prepare” is \$35 per couple, and is paid online directly to Prepare-Enrich, Life Innovations, Inc., by credit card, when you take it.

Please note that some counties give a discount on the cost of a marriage license if you bring certification from a pastor that you are taking pre-marital counseling. Check about this with the county office administering your marriage license.

The Marriage License

A valid marriage license must be brought and given to the church office administrator or the pastor one week prior to the wedding. The license is obtained by going to the appropriate county office. Remember to let them know that you are taking premarital counseling, in case there is a discount on your wedding license for doing this. (See previous section.)

The Rite of Marriage

Worship at Christ Church Lutheran offers the best of the ecumenical liturgical tradition, whether in the Sunday assembly or at a special service like a wedding. Thus, the service follows forms approved for use in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Any deviation is subject to the consent of the pastor. The wedding party should provide a written order of service for their guests, and must make their own arrangements with an outside source for typing and printing this bulletin. The pastor will guide you in arranging the order of service.

Music

Excellence in music at all worship services is deeply valued by the congregation, and thus weddings at Christ Church also benefit from this commitment. The director of music (known as the *cantor*) at Christ Church will play for all weddings, except as mutually agreed otherwise by prior arrangement. The cantor will help you select appropriate music and suggest meaningful ways to use music in the service. After the wedding date has been confirmed with the church and the couple meets with the pastor, a conference with the cantor should be arranged. Please do not select any music or arrange for soloists or other musicians until this conference has been held.

The Rehearsal

The wedding rehearsal is usually scheduled in the late afternoon of the day prior to the wedding. The rehearsal requires the presence of the entire wedding party, including readers, ushers, and parents, so it should be set for a time when all participants can be on time. The purpose of the rehearsal is to establish movement and placing of the wedding party for the service. The cantor/musicians are not normally present at rehearsals. Typically, the rehearsal takes approximately 1½ hours. The site coordinator will assist with the rehearsal.

Site Coordinator

The site coordinator is available to assist you in your planning for your wedding at Christ Church. Please call her whenever you have questions as you plan your wedding. It is the responsibility of the couple to make arrangements to meet with the site coordinator during the early stages of your decision making. At this meeting, sanctuary decoration, guidelines for photography and/or video, and room usage will be discussed. The site coordinator will be in attendance at the rehearsal and the day of your wedding.

Dressing Rooms

A carpeted room with full-length mirror is available where the women may dress. A dressing room for the men is also available on request. All rooms used by the wedding party are to be left in good condition. Boxes, bags, and trash are to be gathered and disposed of before the wedding party leaves the building. A table for food and refreshments in the dressing rooms is permitted; however, alcoholic beverages are not allowed. The dressing room will be locked during the wedding service for security reasons. However, Christ Church Lutheran is not responsible for damage to clothing or other personal effects; or for any items left behind.

Fees

The charge for the use of Christ Church for a wedding is \$1400 for Christ Church members and \$1700 for nonmembers. The fee includes staff services and use of the sanctuary and dressing rooms for the ceremony and the rehearsal.

Once a wedding date has been designated and a \$250 deposit is made to Christ Church Lutheran and given to the church office administrator, the date will be reserved, pending consultations with

the pastor, cantor, and site coordinator. The deposit is refundable up to 30 days prior to the scheduled date if the wedding is moved to another location or canceled. The remainder of the fee is due to the office administrator one week prior to the ceremony.

Limitations

- Use of alcohol is not allowed on church property.
- Due to safety concerns, aisle runners are not allowed.
- Please note that the sanctuary is not air conditioned. You may want to keep this in mind when planning a summer wedding.

Setting your Wedding Date, Making your Deposit

Please call the church office and speak to the office administrator to check on date availability. Once a \$250 deposit is made, the date is secured. The office administrator may be reached during office hours, Monday through Friday, 9:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Photography/Videography

Memories of the wedding day are often preserved through the services of photographers and/or videographers. Plans for photography sessions before and/or after the service should be scheduled in advance with the site coordinator. Guidelines for photography and videography during the service should be confirmed with the site coordinator or pastor; in general, photography and videography is limited to designated personnel who remain out of the sight lines of the worshiping congregation, and flash photography is discouraged except during the procession out of the church.

Receiving and Celebrating with Wedding Guests

Many weddings include a receiving line so that guests may greet the couple and wedding party following the service. The outdoor covered arcade and courtyard are especially inviting for a receiving line during much of the year (spring, summer, fall). The church narthex (foyer) may also be used for this purpose.

Christ Church Lutheran, a National Historic Landmark

The architectural significance of Christ Church, designed by the father and son Eliel Saarinen and Eero Saarinen, was affirmed when in 2009, the church was designated a National Historic Landmark, one of only 23 such

sites in the State of Minnesota and the only church among them. The church may be visited by attending worship on Sunday at the regularly scheduled time of 9:30 a.m. Guided tours of the church are provided on the second Sunday of the month at 11:00 a.m. The church's website (christchurchluth.org) offers many photographs highlighting the features of the church building. Other visits to view the church's facilities may be possible, as time permits; contact the church office.

CHRIST CHURCH LUTHERAN CONTACT INFORMATION

3244 34th Avenue South
Minneapolis, MN 55406
612.721.6611

E-mail: mail@christchurchluth.org

Website:
www.christchurchluth.org

Office hours: Monday—Friday,
9:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

(Contact through the office:)

Pastors: Kristine Carlson,
Erik Haaland

Cantor: Robert Buckley Farlee

Site Coordinator: Joanne Seltz

Office Administrator: Laurel
Jacobson

WEDDING PLANNING CHECKLIST

- _____ Attend a Sunday worship service at 9:30 a.m., or take guided tour on the second Sunday of the month at 11:00 a.m.
- _____ Introduce yourself to the pastor briefly after worship/before the tour.
- _____ Call the church office to check on availability of preferred date(s).
- _____ Submit \$250 deposit to the church office to reserve date.
- _____ Arrange with pastor for Prepare/Enrich sessions and service planning session.
- _____ Arrange with cantor for consultation about music for the service.
- _____ Arrange with site coordinator for consultation about wedding details.
- _____ One week prior to wedding, deliver valid marriage license to church office; pay balance of fee owed; and finalize times when building will be open on the day of the rehearsal and wedding.
- _____ Come to the rehearsal and wedding joyful and calm, knowing that you have prepared well!