

WEDDING GUIDELINES



Peace Lutheran Church
Saginaw, Michigan

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CONGRATULATIONS on your upcoming wedding! May God richly bless your wedding plans and your lifetime of marriage together.

A Christian desires to do all to the glory of God and believes that he or she needs God's blessing upon every undertaking. Therefore a church wedding is a confession of faith, an act of worship, and a seeking of God's blessings. As such, it is reserved for those who sincerely worship God, who seek His presence in their life, and who desire to be united in the name of our God. Your wedding here is an opportunity to share your faith with those you love and to witness to your commitment to the Lord in your lives together, as you begin your marriage with His blessing.

This information is provided for you as a guide to planning your wedding in our church and to answer questions you may have. Please feel free to call the church office if you have any further questions.



MEMBERSHIP POLICY

Normally either the bride or the groom must be a member of our congregation to be married here at Peace Lutheran Church.

RESERVING THE WEDDING DATE

Contact the church office (793-9025) to begin the process of reserving a date for your wedding. The secretaries will work with you to find an open date and time when the church is available for your wedding. Once a date is tentatively scheduled, they will send you a letter with several forms that need to be filled out. Please return these forms as soon as possible to the church office. One of the pastors will review the forms and confirm your wedding date. The pastor may request a meeting with you before finalizing the date. Once the pastor has confirmed the date with you, your wedding day and time are guaranteed. Additional weddings or services may happen that day at Peace. You will be informed in advance if more services have been scheduled.

RESERVING THE WEDDING TIME

Weddings usually begin between 11 am and 4:00 pm on Saturday afternoons. Days other than Saturdays need to be approved by all those who are involved, including the pastor, organist, wedding coordinator, etc.

Occasionally there may be more than one wedding on the same date here at Peace. If this happens for the day of your wedding, you will be notified ahead of time. The wedding scheduled first has preference as to the time of day. The second request will either plan a service time to fit the day or consider a different day where no wedding is scheduled. Whether yours is the first or second wedding of that day, special consideration for the other wedding party is important. There will be time constraints, shared facilities, and set-up issues to deal with. Our wedding coordinator will help you with the specifics of how the two wedding parties can work best together. A spirit of cooperation and respect will help make this special day a joy for all involved.

GUEST PASTOR

A guest pastor may participate in your wedding if he is on the clergy roster of our Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod. If you are planning to involve a guest pastor in your wedding, you must receive approval from a Peace pastor.

MUSICIANS

Many couples today choose a traditional style of wedding with music played on the organ, piano, or other instruments. Christian contemporary music led by a soloist or members of the church's praise team may also be used for weddings here. Please see Personnel and Fees on page 8.

You should plan to meet with Peace's music director—our regular organist/pianist—or our contemporary worship leader at least a month before the wedding. He will be glad to help you choose and plan music for your wedding service.

If you are using other musicians not from Peace, you must receive approval in advance from the music director. If guest musicians will require the use of Peace's sound system, you will also need to hire a sound technician from Peace.

MUSIC

Since your wedding here is first and foremost a Christian worship service, whatever music is used must be God-centered, rather than based on romantic or sentimental feelings. The words of songs should express the themes of a Christian wedding—asking God's blessing on your marriage and expressing praise to God on this joyful occasion.

If you choose to have a vocalist sing for your wedding at Peace, be sure he/she is willing to sing songs that follow the guidelines above. Most popular songs are for entertainment, not worship, and express only worldly love. Non-religious music will be more appropriate at the reception.

You may have the congregation participate in singing hymns and other spiritual songs in the service, as a way for them to share in the thanksgiving, praise, and invoking of God's blessing on your marriage. The music director can suggest songs and hymns, sung by a soloist or the congregation, appropriate for your wedding. All music must have the approval of the music director or the pastor.

Even if your wedding service has no other music, it is likely to have music for your entrance (processional) and exit (recessional). As the bride and groom and their attendants enter, we use instrumental music or a song that expresses the joy of the occasion. The recessional reflects the celebration of the assembly as you leave. The music director can suggest many appropriate musical selections.

WEDDING COORDINATOR

After your wedding date is finalized, you will be assigned a wedding coordinator from Peace. She helps in the set-up and use of the facilities at the rehearsal and the wedding, and she assists in many other details of your wedding at the church. She is

available to help you as needs arise. You may contact her anytime in the weeks before the wedding if you have questions.

PRE-MARRIAGE COUNSELING

Peace Lutheran Church requires all those being married here to participate in Pre-Marriage Counseling, including:

- Attendance at the Pre-Marital Workshop (Group sessions are scheduled in the January or February prior to your wedding.)
- Meeting privately two additional times with the pastor performing their wedding

MARRIAGE LICENSE

No wedding can be performed without a legal marriage license. A license is good for 30 days following your application at the court house. The marriage license, should be delivered to the church office during business hours (8am-4pm. M-F) one week before the wedding. At that time we also need the full legal names of your witnesses. Witnesses are normally the best man and maid/matron of honor.

THE WEDDING SERVICE

The Lutheran Church is strongly committed to the understanding that a church wedding is a Christian service of prayerful worship and joyous celebration directed to His glory. For this reason, the wedding ceremony should be conducted with a dignity and reverence that show our love and respect for Him. This philosophy carries over into all areas of the wedding. Therefore music you have heard or things you have seen done at other weddings may not be appropriate for your wedding here. The pastor and music director will be able to advise you if you have questions.

ORDER OF WORSHIP

In general we use the standard wedding service of the Lutheran Church. Parts of this service are always included. Other parts can be personalized to a certain extent. For example, you may suggest Scripture texts, a sermon theme, hymns, and other musical pieces. Your pastor will be glad to discuss the service with you and help you make it special.

WEDDING SERVICE FOLDER

A service folder for your wedding guests is not required. However, if you would like to produce one, the pastor can share a few samples of folders from past ceremonies. He will also help you determine what should be included in the folder. Wedding folder covers are available for purchase at local Christian bookstores. You must get the pastor's approval on the folder and text **before** printing. The church staff at Peace does not print wedding folders.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

The following is a list of selected Bible passages particularly suited for a marriage service. As a couple, you may choose from this list or pick your own with the advice and approval of the pastor doing your wedding. Normally, three passages are selected: an Old Testament, an Epistle, and a Gospel reading.

Traditional Verses

Genesis 2:18-24

Ephesians 5:21-33

Matthew 19:4-6

Psalms 67:1

Psalms 121

Psalms 127

Psalms 128

Other Old Testament Readings

Joshua 24:15

Ruth 1:16-17

Psalms 37:5

Proverbs 3:5-6

Proverbs 30:8-9

Jeremiah 32:38-39

Other Gospel Readings

Matthew 6:33
Matthew 18:20
Matthew 19:4-6
John 2:1-11
John 15:9-12

Ephesians 3:14-21
Colossians 2:6-7
Colossians 3:12-14 (-17)
Hebrews 13:5
1 John 4:7-21
Jude 20-21
Revelation 1:4

Other Epistle Readings

Romans 14:19
Romans 15:5-6
1 Corinthians 13

Other Suggestions

Your Confirmation verses
Your personal request

UNITY CANDLE

The unity candle or similar customs are not required as a part of your wedding ceremony. If you would like to include this in the service, please mention it to the pastor during your planning session.

REHEARSAL

The wedding rehearsal is usually held the evening before the wedding. It is normally scheduled for 6:00 pm or earlier. The bride, groom, their parents, and anyone walking down the aisle should be present at the rehearsal. Practice for soloists may be arranged with the accompanist before or after the rehearsal or on another day.

PHOTOGRAPHY/VIDEOGRAPHY

The photographer and/or videographer must speak to the wedding coordinator at least a half hour before the wedding service to learn Peace's guidelines. No flash pictures should be taken during the service. The service begins with the opening words of the pastor and ends with the final benediction. Pictures can be posed after the service, but photo sessions following the service are limited to one hour.

RECORDING OF SERVICE

A CD recording can be made of your wedding service. Please request this from the music director or sound technician before the ceremony. If you hire a Peace video technician to live-stream your wedding, a DVD will be made of the service for you.

TRADITION OF THROWING RICE, etc.

No rice, birdseed, flower petals, or confetti are allowed to be thrown on church property—inside or outside. Other creative ideas that are allowed include using silk flower petals, bubbles, butterflies, etc.

DRESSING AREAS

The bride and her attendants can dress and prepare in our Bride's Room—Room 209 in the hallway behind the gym. The groom and his attendants can prepare in the church parlor in the lower level. The wedding coordinator will make sure these rooms are open and available for your use.

FLOWERS, DECORATIONS, AND AISLE CANDLES

Dimensions of vase pot liners (plastic or papier-mache) should be:

- 7" across top
- 4-1/2" across base
- 7" tall

Flowers may be ordered from our church's florist—Rockstar Florist (792-8831)—or a florist of your choosing.

If you would like to use the aisle candles, there is a \$25.00 set-up fee. There are fourteen candleholders—seven on each side of the aisle spaced every fourth pew. The candles are provided. If you wish to decorate the aisle candles, the decorations should be tied—not tacked, taped, or wired. The length of the aisle is 90 feet.

CONDUCT

Please keep in mind that the church is God's house, and members of the wedding party are to conduct themselves in a manner appropriate to a house of worship. Smoking and alcohol are not allowed on the premises. Food and drink should be confined to the kitchen in the basement.

RECEPTIONS AT PEACE

If you would like to have your reception in Peace Lutheran Church's parlor or gymnasium, please contact the church office for a fee schedule and requirements for use.

PERSONNEL AND FEES (fees listed are for members of Peace Lutheran Church)

Facility Use Fee (payable to the custodian) \$75.00

- *Setting up and cleaning the sanctuary following the ceremony*
- *Setting up aisle candles* (optional) additional \$25.00

Pastoral Fee (payable to the pastor) minimum \$200.00

- *Group sessions*
- *Counseling sessions*
- *Rehearsal night*
- *Officiating of ceremony*

Organist/Pianist/Lead Musician Fee minimum \$150.00

- *Music planning meeting*
- *Rehearsal night*
- *Wedding ceremony*

Additional Musician Fee \$75.00

Wedding Coordinator Fee (required) \$100.00

- *Opening and closing of church (rehearsal and wedding)*
- *Assist with opening areas for bride, groom and attendants to get ready*
- *Help setting up unity candle (if used)*
- *Lighting candles*
- *Communication with pastor and organist prior to service*
- *Turning on lights and sound system*
- *Guide timing for all those in the processional*
- *Generally assist with needs as they arise*

Sound Technician Fee (if required) \$75.00

- *Sound level checks for all microphones*
- *Setting levels for soloists, CD's, etc.*
- *Sound checks and levels for instruments*
- *Supervising at the rehearsal and the wedding ceremony*

Live Online Streaming (if requested) \$125.00

- *Live video production*
- *Online chat room*
- *DVD of the service*

Fees are given in separate checks made out to the individuals. The correct names to be used on the checks are available by calling the church office (793-9025). All fees, along with the marriage license, should be delivered to the church office during business hours (8am-4pm. M-F) one week before the wedding.

The Marriage Celebration of

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*Peace Lutheran Church
Saginaw, Michigan
June 10, 2017 – 3:00 PM*

*Prelude
Seating of the Family
Lighting of the Unity Candles (optional)
Processional
Invocation
Scripture Readings

Solo (optional)
Message
Exchange of Vows
Blessing and Exchange of Rings
Announcement of Marriage
Lighting of the Unity Candle (optional)
Prayers
Lord's Prayer
Benediction
Recessional*

January 2017