

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

A Christian desire is 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 lives, 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 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

Either the bride or groom must be a member of our congregation to be married here at Peace Lutheran Church. Offsite weddings are at the discretion of the pastor.

RESERVING THE WEDDING DATE

Contact the church office (793-9025) to begin the process of reserving a date for your wedding. The Office Manager 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, please return the included form enclosed 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. You may request a particular pastor; however, the pastor assigned may be subject to availability. 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 a 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 The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod. If you are planning to involve a guest pastor in your wedding, you must receive approval from the officiating Peace pastor.

MUSICIANS

You should plan to meet with one of Peace's music director's a month before the wedding. They 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(s). If guest musicians will require the use of Peace's sound system, you will also need to hire a sound technician from Peace. Please see Personnel and Fees on page 7.

MUSIC

Your wedding here is first and foremost a Christian worship service; therefore, the music chosen should be a reflection of that. 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. He or she helps in the set-up and use of the facilities at the rehearsal and wedding and assists in many other details of your wedding at the church. The coordinator is available to help you as needs arise and may be contacted 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 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 courthouse. The marriage license can be brought with you to 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. This is the responsibility of the bride and groom.

ORDER OF WORSHIP/SERVICE FOLDER

In general, we use a standard order of service of the Lutheran Church, which may be found on the back of this booklet. Some parts can be personalized to a certain extent. Your pastor will be glad to discuss the service with you and help you make it special. If you would like to produce your own order of service for your wedding ceremony, please discuss this with your pastor prior to printing. Peace Lutheran Ministries does not print order of service folders for your wedding ceremony.

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.

Traditional Verses

Genesis 2: 18-24
Ephesians
5:24-25,28-31
Matthew 19: 4-6

Old Testament Verses

Joshua 24:15
Ruth 1:16-17
Psalm 67:1; 121; 127;
128
Proverbs 3:5-6; 18:22
Jeremiah 29:11-12;
32:38-39
Ecclesiastes 4:9-12

New Testament Verses

Matthew 6:33;
John 2:1-11; 15:9-12
Romans 14:19; 15:5-6
1 Corinthians
13:4-8a,13
Colossians 2: 6-7;
3:12-19
1 John 4:7-12
Jude 20-21

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. It is also your responsibility to provide all materials.

REHEARSAL

A wedding rehearsal is required. 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.

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. If a photo with the pastor is desired, this should take place first following the ceremony.

RECORDING OF SERVICE

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. Silk flower petals may be used inside the sanctuary and bubbles used outside.

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 paper-mâché) 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 candle holders—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.

WEDDING RECEPTION

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. You are welcome to invite the pastor to attend the wedding reception; however, you are not required to do so. He may or may not be able to attend

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

****Fees are subjected to change****

Fees are paid to the individuals. The specific names will be on the invoice sent to you in the mail. If paying by personal check: we must receive payment **TWO WEEKS before the wedding. A \$35 fee will be added to all returned checks.** If paying by cash: we must receive payment by **ONE WEEK before the wedding.** You can either drop payment off at the church office or mail it in.

Pastoral Fee: On-Site: *minimum \$350.00*

Off-Site: *minimum \$350*

Off-Site distance travel (10 miles or more): *\$1/mile*

Off-Site lodging/Meals: *all costs must be covered*

- *Any premarital classes or 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: *minimum \$75.00*

Wedding Coordinator Fee: *minimum \$250.00 (Required)*

- *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: *minimum \$75 (Required)*

- *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: *\$125 (optional)*

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

Facility Use Fee: *\$75.00 (Required)*

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

The Marriage Celebration of

ℒ

Peace Lutheran Church

Saginaw, Michigan

Date – Time

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

September 2024

WEDDING GUIDELINES



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Saginaw, Michigan

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