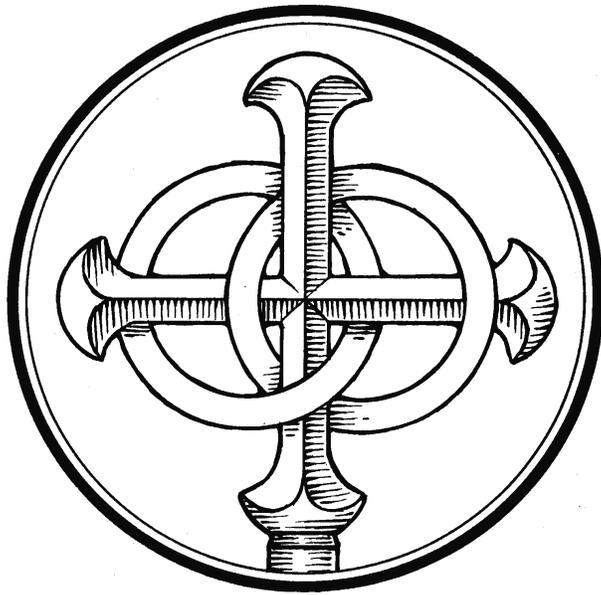


Wedding Manual



St. Peter's Lutheran Church
Waterford, Wisconsin



St. Peter's Ev. Lutheran Church and School

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Dear Friends in Christ,

So you're getting married -- congratulations! I'm sure that there are many things on your mind at a time like this. So many plans to make -- pictures, flowers, the license, the cake, the reception, and, of course, the most important part of all -- the church service itself.

As far as many of these plans go, you're on your own. But when it comes to the worship service itself, I stand ready to guide and assist you. And that's what this **WEDDING MANUAL** is all about.

From the church's standpoint, here are some things that you will need to attend to:

1. SET THE DATE: If you have not set the date for your wedding and if you have not contacted me concerning my availability and the availability of the church for this date -- please do so immediately!

2. QUESTIONNAIRE: Fill out the QUESTIONNAIRE FOR BRIDAL COUPLES enclosed in this manual and return it to me as soon as possible. All of the items on this sheet need not be entirely filled-in. We can complete some of that later.

3. CALL ME: Next you will want to contact me to set up an appointment so that we can get together to share any questions or concerns that you might have. Read over the enclosed materials carefully. If you have any questions about them, bring these questions to our meeting.

4. LICENSE: Be sure to check into the State of Wisconsin's requirements for a marriage license. Your nearest county courthouse will be able to help you with this. MY OFFICE WILL NEED TO HAVE YOUR LICENSE BY NO LATER THAN 3-4 DAYS BEFORE YOUR WEDDING!

Again, congratulations! I hope to hear from you soon.

Serving Him and His people,

Pastor Bischoff

Pastor Bischoff

WEDDING POLICIES

In order to assist you in planning your wedding, and to answer some of the questions most frequently asked about the customs and principles of the church, these guidelines have been prepared by the Pastor and the Board of Elders of our church.

THE MAIN PRINCIPLE

The following rules and guidelines have not been drawn up to be arbitrary or harsh. There is one principle that guides the planning of a Christian wedding and the wedding service itself. Every phase of your wedding preparations must keep in mind this guiding principle. **THE PRINCIPLE IS SIMPLY THIS:** The wedding service, like all services in the church, is a service of worship in which Jesus Christ is the center. The Christian wedding is held in God's House and it is designed to thank and praise Him for His goodness and to ask His blessing on your marriage. Keeping this simple principle in mind is the best way to avoid "circus" weddings where worship and decorum become a shambles. We want to do everything that we can to insure that your wedding is all that you want it to be, namely, a service not only pleasing to you and your families, but also a service pleasing to the Lord.

If you have any questions about these policies, please feel free to call the Pastor or bring them up during one of your visits with him.

POLICIES

1. Because the Christian wedding takes place in the church, it is never a private affair. It is automatically open to the entire congregation. A private wedding takes place only in the Pastor's office or in someone's home. It is the reception, not the service, which may have a limited number of invited guests.
2. Since the wedding is a worship service, the Bridal Party and guests are expected to follow standard worship decorum.
 - A. No applause or hand-clapping either during or after the service.
 - B. The throwing of rice is both pointless and wasteful, and has its origins in ancient pagan wedding practices. The throwing of rice is not allowed either inside or outside the building.
 - C. The kiss after the pronouncement of marriage is not a part of the Lutheran rite of marriage. Talk to pastor if you want it included.
 - D. If, during the service, there are some present who will not respect the church, the service, or the sacredness of marriage, the Pastor will stop the ceremony and deal with the problem.
3. The Pastor has the sole responsibility for directing the wedding service. He will gladly accept reasonable suggestions and requests on rehearsal night or before, providing they are in keeping with Christian worship practices and are God pleasing.

FLOWERS AND OTHER ITEMS

1. Artificial flowers are not allowed on the Altar or in the Chancel [the raised area in the front of the church].
2. All Chancel furnishings [cross, candelabra, etc.] are dedicated items and may not be removed or concealed under wedding decorations or flowers.
3. No wedding decorations or flowers should be attached to any of the church furnishings or pews with tacks, nails, or tape that will leave a residue when removed.
4. Decorations should be limited to palms, Altar vases, and one or two pairs of standing baskets or arrangements.
5. Church decorating should be done on the day of the wedding, but far enough in advance so that no decorating is being done as guests arrive.
6. Following the wedding, no flowers or decorations are to be removed from the Chancel until all of the guests have been ushered out.
7. We strongly discourage having the flower girl spread flower petals along the aisle as she processes. The dye in these petals permanently stains the carpeting when they are walked on.
8. **THE WEDDING CANDLE:** If a Wedding Candle is to be a part of your wedding service, you are required to provide one. Most Christian bookstores and most card shops carry them. The two small candles and candlesticks used in the lighting of the Wedding Candle can be provided by the church if your Wedding Candle

does not come with them.

9. **THE RUNNER:** If you desire to have a white runner down the center aisle of the church, you are responsible for providing one. They can usually be purchased or rented from a florist. The center aisle of our church is 50 feet from the front step to the back wall.
10. You are responsible for removing flowers, Wedding Candle, etc. after the service. Please use care in removing the Wedding Candle. The wax is usually still quite liquid and is almost impossible to remove from Altar linens, carpeting, and clothes.

PHOTOGRAPHS

1. **OFFICIAL PHOTOGRAPHER:** Only one photographer and/or videographer are allowed to take pictures or video-tape during the wedding service. Please ask family and friends who arrive with cameras and camcorders to refrain from using them until the wedding party reassembles, after the service, for group and individual pictures.
2. The official photographer may take flash pictures only during the Processional [marching in] and Recessional [marching out]. At all other times, his picture taking is limited to time exposures [no flash] from either the choir loft or back of the church. At no time during the service is he allowed to enter the Chancel. The same rules of decorum outlined here for the photographer apply to the videographer.
3. **AFTER THE SERVICE AND AFTER THE GUESTS HAVE LEFT THE CHURCH:**
 - A. The wedding party, family, and friends may reassemble for group and individual pictures.
 - B. At this time guests with cameras may take pictures.
 - C. At this time the Pastor would be happy to reenact parts of the service for the benefit of the photographer and/or videographer.
 - D. Extreme informality is to be avoided. Only those having their picture taken are to be in the Chancel.
 - E. At no time are Chancel furnishings [candelabra, Altar-ware, etc.] to be moved or removed for picture taking.
 - F. The photographer and/or videographer is never to place any camera equipment on the Altar.
4. If the above regulations are not followed [especially the use of flash by the official photographer or guests during the service] the service will be stopped and the problem will be dealt with. Please have your ushers inform camera-carrying guests of this.

MUSIC

1. All musical selections [Processional, Recessional, Solos] must be cleared by the Pastor.
2. The traditional Wedding March is allowed, but there are other fine Processionals that can be used -- ask the organist about them.
3. Solo selections are to be in keeping with the concept that the wedding service is a worship service.
4. You may want to consider having the guests participate by singing a hymn or two. See The Lutheran Hymnal [#620-623] for possible ideas.

A FINAL WORD ON POLICY

At no time are suggestive or lewd slogans, signs, etc. permitted in or on the building or on the cars of guests, visitors, or members of the wedding party. Failure to observe proper decorum in this matter will result in delay of the service while such signs and slogans are removed. Please advise friends of this policy.

ALCOHOL: At no time either before, during, or after the service are alcoholic beverages to be consumed on or near church property. Members of the wedding party who do not abide by this rule or who show up for the wedding service intoxicated will not be allowed to participate in the service. If this should happen to include either the Bride or Groom, the wedding service will be postponed until such time as they are made aware of the fact that marriage before God requires a sound, sober, and disposing mind.

NOTE FROM THE PASTOR

You have a rich heritage of worship to support the liturgy of the marriage rite in the Lutheran Church. The entire wedding service is designed to lead you and your family to have the glory and praise of God uppermost in your minds. You come to seek His blessing. This is the reason for the sacredness and godliness that surrounds the persons and actions of the wedding service, and all preparations and rehearsals.

We surely have no right to ask the blessing of Almighty God upon a marriage service that ignores Him and His own House and tries to center everything on the beauty of the Bride, the flowers, the decorations, or the festiveness of the occasion. Certainly these things add much to the joy of the day -- but there is only one thing that is truly worthy and memorable -- one thing that will last when all the pictures and flowers have faded -- THAT ONE

WEDDING COST GUIDELINES

The following policy has been set up by the Board of Elders and the Board of Trustees of this congregation. These guidelines are designed to help the Bridal couple plan the financial aspects of their wedding.

It is understood that costs are to be paid on rehearsal night. Please make out separate checks or envelopes for the church rental [if applicable], organist, soloist, custodian, etc. If you are unsure to the name of the organist, custodian, etc., call the church office or talk to the Pastor. If you wish, you may give these envelopes to the Pastor and he will see that they get to the proper people, or you may mail or distribute them yourselves.

We do not perform weddings at your church to make a profit. These costs merely reflect the cost of heating, air-conditioning, and other utilities, as well as time spent by the organist and soloist [rehearsal night and wedding day], and time spent by the custodian [who will clean the church for your wedding and again after the wedding].

If you have any financial difficulties, please feel free to forego the Pastor's perquisite. He serves you as a friend, not because he's getting paid.

Church.....	No Charge
Organist	\$ 125.00
Soloist	\$ 100.00
Custodian	\$ 60.00
Pastor	At your discretion

(Please write down the appropriate names in the spaces below so that you will have them when needed.)

Your Organist will be _____

Your Soloist will be _____

Your Custodian will be: _____

Order Of Service

*The following is a sample of the Order of Service that will be used for your wedding. The portions marked **optional** will be determined by the number of solos you select, whether you use the Wedding Candle, etc.*

PRELUDE MUSIC & SOLOS [optional]

THE PROCESSIONAL

(The Bridal Party marches in and takes their places.)

THE INVOCATION

("In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.")

THE ADDRESS

(Explanation of Christian marriage and a Prayer.)

THE SCRIPTURE READINGS

THE WEDDING SERMON

THE WORDS OF PROMISE

(By the Father of the Bride: "Her mother and I do.")

(By the Groom: "I will." and Bride "I will.")

(By the Congregation: "We will.")

SOLO OR HYMN [optional]

(The veil is lifted by the Maid/Matron of Honor.)

THE LIGHTING OF THE WEDDING CANDLE [optional].

THE VOWS

(Repeated by the Bride and Groom after the Pastor.)

THE GIVING AND RECEIVING OF RINGS

(Bride and Groom exchange rings and repeat vows after the Pastor.)

THE PRONOUNCEMENT

(Bride and Groom kneel as the Pastor pronounces them husband and wife.)

THE PRAYERS

(Prayer by the Pastor and THE LORD'S PRAYER spoken by all, or sung by the Soloist.)

THE BENEDICTION

THE RECESSIONAL

(Wedding Party marches out.)