



CHRISTLUTHERAN
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Marriage Matters

GOD'S DESIGN FOR MARRIAGE & FAMILY
MARK 10:7-9

Planning a Christian Wedding at Christ Lutheran Church

You have asked about getting married at Christ Lutheran Church, and we are privileged to be part of this great day in your life. We celebrate marriage as the foundation of our human relationship instituted by God between a man and a woman. After an initial session with one of the pastors, and after a date has been placed on the church calendar, you will probably have questions about the many details of your wedding at the church. These guidelines are meant to give direction to your planning but may not cover every possibility. These are general answers to frequently asked questions. Please ask for clarification of specific requests, either in conversation with the pastor or minister of music officiating.

A wedding is a service of worship celebrating the commitment the two of you make to each other, and inviting Christ to be a constant partner in that relationship. As such, marriages are typically arranged when at least one partner is a member of Christ Lutheran Church. Weddings for non-members may be considered at the discretion of the pastor. Most of all, our desire is for the church in which you are married to be not only a special place for you, but an important fellowship in which the two of you grow in faith and love.

PLANNING

Wedding ceremonies are conducted at Christ Lutheran Church only in consultation with and the supervision of one of the pastors.

The date for the wedding is planned in consultation with the pastor who is performing the ceremony; it is especially important to do this *as early as possible* in order that an available date may be secured on the church's calendar and the pastor's calendar.

The pastor will want to meet with the two of you for several pre-marital sessions (about one hour in length). These meetings will include planning the ceremony and discussing pre-marital counseling options.

In the event there are two wedding ceremonies scheduled on the same day, a minimum of four (4) hours between services is required.

OFFICIATING PASTOR(S)

One of the pastors of Christ Lutheran Church will officiate at your wedding. Guest pastors are welcome to participate. When the couple desires to have another pastor participate in the service, they are to get the consent of the pastor of Christ Lutheran Church. It is customary that the host pastor will invite the assisting pastor.

WEDDING CEREMONY

Altar, pulpit and lectern paraments (cloths) are required to be the color of the liturgical season during which the wedding occurs. You can find out what the color of the paraments will be on the day of your wedding by calling the church office. Flowers and candles are recommended to be limited to the normal two altar vases and two altar candles. It is permissible to place one single, large arrangement of flowers in the center of the altar. Unity candles and extra candelabra are optional; arrange for this through your

florist. Any additional decorations should be discussed with the officiating pastor early in the planning process. Nothing may be attached to any pews or windows, either permanently or temporarily. Please inform the church office as to your intentions regarding leaving altar and/or other flowers for Sunday worship.

MUSIC

Music is one of the most important considerations when making your wedding plans. All decisions concerning music for weddings at Christ Lutheran Church are made in consultation with the Minister of Music at least one month prior to the wedding.

A wedding at Christ Lutheran Church is a service of worship and therefore needs to include the basic essentials of any worship service. All music used in your wedding service is to be congruent with the style and nature of a Christian worship service in the particular space in which the wedding is conducted; weddings at Christ Lutheran Church are worship services, and we are careful to avoid music selections which might suggest we believe otherwise. While secular music is not prohibited, the style and nature of the music used in the wedding must be congruent with the style and nature of a Christian wedding service. Music selections such as popular music, show tunes, or movie soundtracks that evoke a message contrary to Christian love are not permitted. It is our practice to suggest that couples consider including popular music at their reception or rehearsal dinner because those venues are more appropriate for that style of music. The minister of music stands ready to work with you as you plan your service with music that is beautiful and appropriate. Suggestions can also include potential soloists, instrumentalists, vocal and instrumental ensembles.

Any guest organists or pianists must be approved by the minister of music. The tracker pipe organ of Christ Chapel is unique and requires a trained musician to play it. Practice times for guest organists may be arranged through the minister of music. Likewise, use of all instruments belonging to the church such as the timpani, handbells, and piano should be approved by the minister of music.

MARRIAGE LICENSE

To remove additional pressures from the events of the wedding day, the marriage license should be given to the pastor *at the beginning of the rehearsal* along with the honoraria envelope (see page 4). The license is a legal necessity of the day and the pastor is charged by the State of North Carolina with this responsibility.

WORSHIP BULLETIN

We encourage the use of a wedding bulletin for your wedding service. This allows your guests to participate with you in this service of worship. These may be purchased locally and printed professionally. Be sure to discuss this with the officiating pastor.

WEDDING REHEARSAL

Wedding directors help with the ceremonies but they are always chosen in consultation with the officiating pastor. The pastor is aware of persons who are experienced in directing weddings at Christ Lutheran Church and will offer suggestions. In any case, it should be understood that the pastor is specifically in charge of the rehearsal and the wedding, and that the director's job is to implement the plans and guide the wedding party in their movements during the big day.

Please instruct your wedding party to be *on time* for the rehearsal. A rehearsal should take no more than

45 minutes and has the purpose of preparing you for a smooth wedding.

FEES

All fees are due *before your rehearsal begins*. Proper etiquette suggests that you either give the officiating pastor or wedding director a large envelope of individually labeled envelopes to distribute for you, or the best man may disburse them individually for you before the rehearsal gets underway. Your wedding party will need to plan on the following expenses related to the church and fees for the following leaders:

- a) Facility use
- b) Officiating pastor
- c) Organist/musician
- d) Instrumentalists and soloists (optional)
- e) Sexton, for opening, closing, and cleaning the building
- f) Wedding director
- g) Sound Technician (N/A in Lackey Chapel)
- h) Video Tech (optional; N/A in Lackey Chapel)

See “FEE SCHEDULE” below for specific fees.

PHOTOGRAPHY & VIDEO

Photography during the service is limited to still photography *without flash*. Photographing from the balcony in Christ Chapel is permitted if the photographer agrees to consult with the organist, as the center view of the aisle may not be obstructed. Photographers must consult with the pastor, the wedding director, and the minister of music before the service begins.

Couples wishing to have their wedding ceremony video recorded and/or live-streamed by Christ Lutheran Church must contact the church office 1 month in advance so that personnel can be scheduled. There is an additional fee for this service. This service is only available in the Sanctuary and Christ Chapel.

HYMN & SCRIPTURE SUGGESTIONS

Readings from the Bible help us understand marriage in the context of God’s creative love for his people. Consider the following suggestions as you select readings for your wedding:

Genesis 1:26-31	Male and female made in God’s image
Genesis 2:18-24	God creates male and female for each other
Song of Solomon 2:10-13	Love in the spring
Song of Solomon 8:7	Unquenchable love
Isaiah 63:7-9	God’s love for his people
Romans 12:1-2	A living sacrifice to God
1 Corinthians 12:31–13:13	Paul’s hymn to love
Ephesians 5:21-33	Marriage reflects Christ’s love for the Church
Matthew 19:4-6	One flesh
John 2:1-10	Jesus at the wedding at Cana
John 15:9-12	Love one another

Inviting your guests to share in singing a hymn or song at your wedding is a thoughtful gesture and recognizes the corporate body of Christ's role in celebrating with you as a new husband and wife. Here are some song and hymn suggestions that work well with weddings at Christ Lutheran Church.

TRADITIONAL: ("LBW": *Lutheran Book of Worship*, the green hymnal in Christ Chapel)

- Hear Us Now, Our God and Father (LBW 288)
- O Perfect Love (LBW 287)
- Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee (LBW 551)
- Let All Things Now Living (LBW 557)
- Love Divine, All Loves Excelling (LBW 315)

CONTEMPORARY:

- This Day
- Love Is The More Excellent Way
- One Thing Remains (Your Love Never Fails)
- Perfect Charity
- Because of Your Love
- Live Christ
- Love Has Done It

FEE SCHEDULE

Reminder: All fees are due at the rehearsal. See "FEES" above for more information.

	Christ Lutheran Member	Non-Member
Personnel:		
Pastor	At the discretion of the couple	\$450
Organist/Musician	\$300	\$400
Wedding Director	\$300	\$350
A/V Technician	\$250	\$350
Sexton	\$250	\$300
Soloist/Instrumentalist	\$250	\$250
Video Technician	\$250	\$350
Screen Operator (Sanctuary)	\$250	\$350
Facility:		
Sanctuary (Providence)	\$500	
Christ Chapel	\$300	
Lackey Chapel	\$150	
Christ Concord	\$250	

MISCELLANEOUS

Bird seed or bubbles may be used outside of the building. Rice or confetti are not allowed.

Christ Lutheran Church has a policy that no alcoholic beverages may be present or consumed on the premises (either in the buildings or in the parking lot). Additionally, no one may arrive to the wedding under the influence of alcohol.

Personal articles should be removed from the premises immediately after the service. Due to the lack of storage, we ask that you have the best man or another person take charge of the removal of all items. We cannot guarantee the safety of articles left behind.

Use of the Sanctuary, Christ Chapel, Lackey Chapel or Christ Concord Sanctuary requires approval of the Senior Pastor.

Rental Fee due at time of booking.

No cancellation refund given within 14 days of event.

Typically, the wedding party will have use of the facilities up to three hours prior to the wedding for preparation and photos. Any other arrangements require prior approval.

Snacks are allowed but complete meals are discouraged.

Refer to Facility Fees under Resources for room rental rates if additional space is required.