

Wedding Policy

A Church wedding seeks God's blessing on the marriage and publicly testifies to the couple's intention to live according to the direction that God has established for marriage. Marriage is of mutual giving and is a covenant relationship, which means there are a vow and a promise. The promise is to each other and the vow is to and before God. A Christian wedding is a religious event with social trappings, not the other way around.

St. John's Congregation encourages your active participation in the life of the Church. We invite your active participation here at St. John's, both before and after your wedding. Members of the congregation will already have a sense of what worship is like at St. John's. Non-members who request the services of St. John's are expected to request information about the meaning of the church of worship.

1. Since a wedding is primarily a worship service, couples are encouraged to celebrate it in the Church Building. Couples wishing to hold the service at some other location should consult with the Pastor
2. Other Ministers may not use the Church Sanctuary without prior permission by Church Council and the presiding Pastor. As a general rule, the church sanctuary will be used as it is set up for Sunday Worship.
3. The Pastor may refuse to perform any marriage that is not consistent with the requirements of the ELCIC. Those that are not baptized or practicing Christians should carefully consider why they are approaching our church for their wedding.
4. There is no fee for the Pastor presiding at a member's marriage ceremony. Membership is defined in the Constitution of St. John's Lutheran Church. (See Fees attached)
5. Non-member are required to pay all fees/deposits prior to the wedding rehearsal. (See Fees attached)
6. The wedding ceremony should be in keeping with the dignity and sacredness of Christian worship. The Lutheran Book of Worship and the supporting directives in the Ministers Desk Edition may be used for the wedding service. Variation may be considered in consultation with the Pastor.
7. Pre-marital counseling is required. The Bride and Groom shall meet with the Pastor to prepare for marriage and the wedding. Marriage Preparation Councelling is required to be taking from a reputable Christian Counselor.
8. A marriage license is required before the wedding ceremony can take place.
9. The Pastor directs the rehearsal and presides at the wedding ceremony. Pastors of other Churches may be present but need to coordinate their activity with St. John's Pastor.
10. The congregation's organist/pianist usually plays at the wedding. If the couple wishes to use their own musician, it must be coordinated with the Pastor
11. Music used during the wedding ceremony, organ, piano, vocal or instrumental, shall be in keeping with the standards of church music and shall be approved by the Pastor.
12. The marriage service is sacred. For this reason, flash pictures are not allowed during the service. Flash pictures may be taken during the processional (as the bridal party enters), the signing of the register, and during the recessional (as the bridal party leaves). Videotaping, without additional lighting, is allowed during the service providing there is no excessive noise or movement.
13. Confetti, rice, birdseed, etc. is not allowed on Church property.

Reinhard Dunse
Chair, Church Council

14. The consumption of alcoholic beverages is not permitted on church property except as part of Holy Communion.
15. The use of the Church basement facilities shall be per St. John's Rental Policy.

Procedures

1. Couples should contact the Pastor as early as possible (four to six months minimum) to ensure that the Church is available and to arrange for pre-marital sessions. Request for clergy other than the presiding pastor of St. John's Lutheran Church will be directed to Church Council and the presiding Pastor for prior approval.
2. One of the couple must be a baptized Christian. The unbaptized partner is also encouraged to seek baptism. Non-practicing Christians need to consider carefully why they are approaching our Church for their wedding. Preparation for Baptism and membership can be coordinated through the Pastor.
3. All couples will meet with the Pastor for sessions before the wedding as a general preparation for marriage and the wedding ceremony. The Pastor will confirm if he will perform the ceremony after the first meeting.

For your first interview, call – **the presiding Pastor at (780) 922-3443**

4. All couples are expected to attend a marriage Preparation Workshop prior to their wedding. These may be taken through another agency acceptable to our pastor or provided by St. John's Pastor.
5. The couple must obtain a marriage license. The license must be handed into the Pastor no later than two weeks before the wedding date.
6. All persons who are involved in the ceremony should be present at the rehearsal.
7. Pew markers and floral arrangements should be brought into the Church at the time of the rehearsal. The Church is not normally open until one hour before the wedding.
8. The Pastor will remind the congregation as to when they can take flash photos or video
9. The Pastor will remind the congregation that the use of confetti, birdseed, or rice is not permitted.

Reinhard Dunse
Chair, Church Council

Fees (to be reviewed annually)

Last review February 20, 2005

Members:

- There is no fee for the Pastor or the Church Sanctuary for members as defined by our Constitution. Couples may give a gift to the Pastor as an expression of gratitude
- \$100 for the organist if using St. John's Organist
- \$150 deposit for cleaning the Church after the wedding. The deposit will be refunded if the Church is cleaned prior to the following service.
- use of the Church basement facilities will be in accordance with St. John's Church Rental Policy
- GST will be charge as required

Non-Members:

Non-members are charged fees/deposits that are payable to the Church prior to the Wedding.

- \$ 150 for Pastoral Preparations, Counseling, and Wedding Service.
- \$150 for the use of the Church excluding the Basement facilities
- \$150 for the organist if using St. John's Organist
- \$150 deposit for cleaning the Church after the wedding. The deposit will be refunded if the Church is cleaned prior to the following service.
- A charge for the use of the Church basement facilities will be in accordance with St. John's Church Rental Policy
- GST will be charge as required

Payment of fees/deposits must be received before the rehearsal.

Cheques can be made out to St. John's Lutheran Church and mailed to:

St. John's Lutheran Church, 52233 Range Road 221, Sherwood Park, AB T8E 1C9

Reinhard Dunse
Chair, Church Council