

LOVE

Love is *patient*,
love is *kind*.
It does not *envy*,
it does not *boast*,
it is not *proud*.

1 Corinthians 13:4

Wedding Information and Policies

For

St. Luke United Methodist Church

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The Wedding Ceremony

The marriage ceremony in the church is a worship service. It is one of the most sacred rites which the minister performs under the ordination and authority of the church. All wedding ceremonies performed in this church have the blessing of the church.

In order that you may have a sacred and dignified wedding ceremony, you are urged to make thorough preparations, spiritual as well as temporal. The ministers and staff at St. Luke UMC wish to extend every possible assistance to you so that your wedding will be a memorable experience.

Making the Reservations

Arrangements should be made with the minister as soon as possible. Tentative reservation of date and facilities to be used, may be made through the church office and will be confirmed during a personal interview with the minister. Because of problems securing adequate help, we do not encourage scheduling a wedding on holidays. Our facilities generally are not available on a rental basis for a wedding party to use.

Pre-Wedding Conference

Any wedding conducted at St. Luke shall include pre-marital counseling, either with the minister or with another approved counseling agency.

Guest Minister

A minister from another United Methodist Church or another denomination is welcome to assist in or perform the wedding ceremony. If it is desired that another minister be involved in the ceremony, the St. Luke minister should be informed so that an invitation can be extended.

The Rehearsal

The rehearsal is an integral part of the wedding preparation and should proceed in a reverent manner. The following suggestions will help guide you as you prepare for your rehearsal:

1. The minister will be in charge, but a wedding consultant may be present.
2. All members of the wedding party should be present.
3. Deliver the marriage license to the minister before or at the rehearsal.
4. Before you arrive for the rehearsal, please furnish the following information to the minister:
 - a. Who will light the candles?
 - b. Who will seat the mothers?
 - c. How many family pews are needed?
 - d. A list of the attendants in the order they will process.

The Wedding Dress and Other Personal Valuables

The church cannot accept delivery of the bride's or attendant's dresses or tuxes and cannot be responsible for personal items brought to the church. However, every reasonable effort will be made to protect such property. It is suggested that some friend of the family be assigned to be responsible for these valuables during the ceremony and reception.

Dressing rooms will be provided for the bride, groom and their attendants.

The Ceremony

All arrangements should be made and all persons present and ready at least 40 minutes before the ceremony is to begin. Decorations while acceptable for enriching the setting for the wedding service, are not a necessity. The bride and groom will be furnished a copy of instructions for the florist and photographer at the time the wedding date is confirmed. It is their responsibility to review these instructions with both the florist and photographer and provide them with a copy in making plans so there will be no misunderstanding concerning the policies of St. Luke. If the couple wishes to keep the floral arrangements, they must have the flowers picked up following the service. The church cannot be responsible for them.

The Photographs

Photographs of the ceremony may be made from the back of the sanctuary or balcony in existing lighting; flash lighting is not acceptable. A video tape recording of the ceremony may be made from the balcony with existing light if previously prearranged with the minister.

The Music

As soon as the date is confirmed, the bride and groom should contact the Music Director to discuss the wedding music. The church wedding is a sacred service and the purpose of the music is to glorify God. Only music of a classical or sacred nature is appropriate. Popular music or tunes for Broadway shows are acceptable for rehearsal dinners or receptions but not in good taste for the religious ceremony.

The Reception

Receptions may be held in the church by arrangement with the church office. The person in charge of the reception, whether a family member, friend or professional caterer, is responsible for all clean-up.

Members may use the church dishes, silverware, cloths, punch bowl, etc. Persons using any linens are responsible for having them laundered and returned to the church within five of the reception. If the kitchen is used, it will be inspected afterward. No items from the kitchen are to be loaned.

The throwing of rice is prohibited. The use of wild birdseed is encouraged instead. No smoking or alcoholic beverages are permitted.

The Financial Arrangements

The church is available for weddings, subject only to prior schedules and limitations. The church cannot accept responsibility for seating or handling of more people than stated in each of the areas listed below.

The pastor's fee including pre-marital counseling is \$150 or \$50 if counseling is done with another agency.

<u>Facility</u>	<u>Capacity</u>	<u>Member</u>	<u>Non-Member</u>
Sanctuary (Wedding)	300	No Charge	\$300
Marshall Hall (Reception)	150	No Charge	\$150
Organist		\$125	\$125
Custodian		\$100	\$100

The church office hours are 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. If you will require access the building at other times, please make arrangements with the church office for opening and closing of the building.