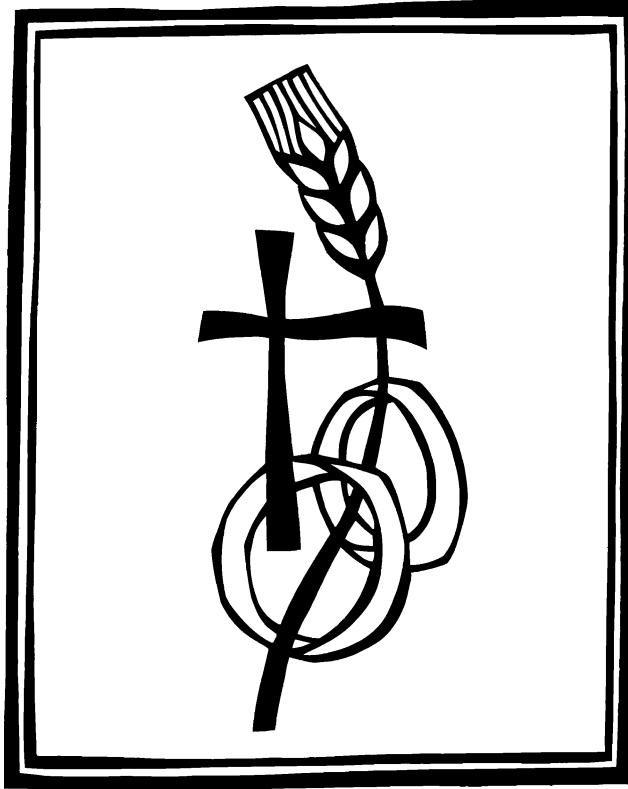


Wedding Guidelines

Reformation Evangelical Lutheran Church
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We know how much God loves us, and we have put our trust in his love.
God is love, and all who live in love live in God, and God lives in them.
- 1 John 4:16

The Wedding

A wedding in the church is the joyful occasion of a couple making promises to one another in the presence of God and the gathered community. It is a time of celebration! And, with prayer and blessing, scripture and music, it is also a worship service. As God promises, God is present, as are God's blessings.

The Marriage

Marriage is not merely a legal contract; it is the lifelong union of two people, based on sacred and solemn vows made before God and witnesses. This union is in body, mind, and spirit, and is of far greater significance than – as joyful and beautiful as it may be – the wedding itself. It is the goal of the church to support the marriage as well as to provide the place and structure for the wedding.

Premarital Counseling

Before the wedding ceremony the couple will meet with the pastor to plan the service. They may also choose to embark upon a time of intentional preparation, which can include a pre-marital inventory (Pastor Metzloff uses the Prepare/Enrich Program). During this time, the couple may also announce their intention to marry to the congregation and ask for their prayers.

Planning Considerations

It's best to start planning a wedding as early as possible – please contact the church and pastor with potential wedding dates prior to reserving the reception location, as well as to schedule an initial meeting. At this meeting, the pastor will go over the order of service, options for vows, scriptures to be read, and other details.

Music

Music, though of course not required, is often an important part of a wedding. It's an expression of the joy of the day! And, as such, thought should be given to musical selections. The pastor will help with planning the music for the wedding at the initial meeting, in conjunction with the Director of Music. It is normally expected that Reformation's Director of Music will provide the music for weddings; should you want other musicians, this can be discussed during the planning process.

Additional Guidelines

We ask that flash pictures not be taken during the actual ceremony (that is, the portions when people are speaking); they may be taken during the processional and recessional (entry and exit). Videotaping of the service is fine. Also, photos can be taken in the sanctuary after the ceremony and any necessary portions re-enacted as desired.

Floral arrangements for the sanctuary and pews are optional; they can be taken after the service or donated to the congregation. Please have your florist contact the church for delivery, or use the congregation's florist.

If the couple desires to have the assembly celebrate their departure after the service, we ask that you use birdseed or bubbles rather than rice outside.

Rehearsal

A brief rehearsal is usually held the evening before the wedding. It is helpful to bring the marriage license (which is the couple's responsibility to obtain from the county) to the rehearsal.

Fees

The total cost for non-members is \$550, broken down as follows: pastor, \$200; music, \$200; printing costs, \$50; building use, \$100. The cost for members is \$250, for the music and printing, though they are welcome to make a gift to the pastor and congregation if they choose. If paying by check, please make separate checks for each. Thank you!

God's blessings upon you as you plan and prepare for marriage!