



**2024 WEDDING POLICY AND GUIDE
PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH
400 Franklin Street SW
Hutchinson, MN 55350
320-587-3031**

"For this reason, a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh." (Genesis 2:24). Marriage is a gift of God given for the encouragement, comfort, and multiplication of the human race. Marriage is indeed a gift from God and is not to be entered into lightly. The love in a marriage, husband for wife and wife for husband, is based on the sacrificial love which Jesus Christ first showed to us in submitting Himself to death on the cross. By His love and His commitment, He enables us to love and commit ourselves to each other.

Your brothers and sisters in Christ at Peace Lutheran Church rejoice with you in your decision to enter the sacred relationship of Christian marriage. We are grateful that you have chosen to let us share in this most important service of worship and celebration. Our hope is that your marriage will be blessed by lasting happiness and ever-increasing love. As you are reminded of Jesus' commitment to you, we pray that you will grow in your commitment to each other and to the Lord and His church.

This wedding guide has been prepared by our church to help you as you plan your wedding. If you have any questions that are unanswered by this guide, please contact the church office.

RESERVING A WEDDING DATE

When you have selected a tentative wedding date, please call the church office (320.587.3031) and ask for an appointment with the Senior Pastor. The pastor will meet with you to:

- Discuss your wedding plans
- Make arrangements for pre-marriage counseling
- Check the availability of dates for the wedding and rehearsal

The date for your wedding will be reserved on the church's calendar AFTER you have met with the Pastor and completed the wedding form.

MEMBERSHIP

Wedding dates are reserved for couples where at least one person is a member of our congregation. If you are interested in learning more about membership and ministries at Peace Lutheran, please schedule a meeting with our Pastor.

MARRIAGE LICENSES

Marriage licenses may be obtained at any county courthouse in the state. Glencoe is the county seat in McLeod County. The engaged couple need not be residents of Minnesota to be married in the state. There is a five-day waiting period before the wedding may take place, not counting the day of application. The license is valid for six months thereafter. Marriage witnesses must be sixteen years of age or older. After obtaining your license, leave it at the church office at least one week prior to your wedding day.

If either the bride or groom is under the age of eighteen, a Consent to Marriage of Minor form must be obtained at the courthouse and by a judge. A licensed counselor or minister must sign a statement indicating that he or she feels a certain amount of maturity is evident, and that the marriage would have a good chance to grow and mature.

FACILITIES

On the day of your wedding, the building will be open at 9:00 a.m.

Because of our Saturday evening worship service, weddings must be scheduled no later than 4:00 p.m.

Wedding parties may use the church sanctuary, dressing rooms, restrooms and the reception area. If you would like to reserve additional rooms for snacks or refreshments, please contact the church office in advance to avoid conflicts with other groups and events. These spaces may require an additional fee.

Dressing rooms for the wedding party are located in the education building. Please designate a person to check these rooms after your wedding so no personal belongings are left behind. Please refrain from throwing rice, confetti, or birdseed.

Our facility is smoke free and no alcohol is allowed.

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Please talk with the Pastor about the order of worship. Solos, special music and congregational hymns can be placed in the service after consultation with the Pastor and the Director of Music.

Pre-Service Music
Processional
Invocation
Scripture Readings
Sermon
Vows
Exchange of Rings
Pronouncement of Marriage
Unity Candle
Prayers
Benediction
Recessional

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Possibilities for Scripture readings include the following:

From the Old Testament

Genesis 1:26-31	Male and female created by God
Genesis 2:18-24	God creates man and woman
Song of Solomon 2:10-13	Love in the spring
Song of Solomon 8:7	Unquenchable love
Isaiah 63:7-9	The steadfast love of God
Jeremiah 32:38-41	God's faithfulness
Ruth 1:16b-17	An example of commitment
Ecclesiastes 3:1-8	A time for everything

Psalms 23, 33, 100, 117, 127, 128, 136, 150

From the Epistles

Romans 12:1-2	A living offering
I Corinthians 12:31-13:13	The hymn of divine love
Ephesians 5:21-33	Marriage and the church
Colossians 3:12-27	Live in love and thanksgiving
Philippians 4:4-7	An "upbeat" word about life together
I John 4:7-12	Love one another as God has loved us

From the Gospels

Matthew 19:4-6	Faithfulness in marriage
John 2:1-10	The wedding at Cana
John 15:9-12	Love one another

WEDDING MUSIC

Dr. Joan DeVee Dixon (Director of Music) or Mr. Paul Otte (Director of Music Emeritus) will meet with you and assist in selecting music. Please contact Dr. Dixon after your wedding date is reserved. All music and guest musicians must be approved. Music must be Christian and appropriate for a worship service. Music that is ordinarily associated with non-Christian settings (Broadway musicals or popular love songs) are best performed at your reception. A music guide is on the church's website.

WEDDING DIRECTOR

Peace Lutheran Church will assign a wedding director to assist with rehearsal and wedding. The officiating Pastor is in charge of conducting the wedding rehearsal and also the wedding itself.

WEDDING REHEARSAL

The wedding rehearsal is usually scheduled on the evening prior to the wedding day. At that time, you will rehearse the procession, order of service and recession. The rehearsal will help you, the wedding party and families feel more comfortable with their various responsibilities. The entire wedding party, including the ushers, need to be present.

PICTURES

Making plans for the wedding, the couple will select a photographer. With regard to pictures, we ask that each couple counsel with their photographer and share the following information:

- 1) Photographs may be taken before or after the ceremony.
- 2) Aisle shots are permitted for the parents and the bridal party during the processional and recessional. The photographer should not be “center stage.”
- 3) No flashes or strobe lights are permitted in the sanctuary during the wedding ceremony, from the close of the processional to the beginning of the recessional.
- 4) Non-flash photographs may be taken from the balcony during the ceremony.
- 5) Video cameras/recorders are permitted in the balcony and from a stationery tripod placed at the side aisle, near the pillar closest to the chancel. Video equipment is not permitted near the chancel, nor in the chancel itself during the ceremony. **Roving video picture taking is not permitted in the sanctuary during the ceremony.**

FLOWERS, CHURCH DECORATIONS AND CANDLES

The following guidelines have been established by the Altar Guild concerning flowers and decorations in the church:

Flowers

1. If you wish to provide flower for the altar, please contact the church office.
2. The altar is the focal point and center of worship, and it is not to be disturbed.
3. Flowers are to be placed between the candles and altar crucifix, and are not to be taller than the arms of the crucifix. Only brass, crystal or glass vases may be used on the altar.
4. Only fresh-cut flowers may be placed on the altar. Artificial flowers, potted plants, ribbons and bows are not appropriate.
5. Please inform the church office if flowers are to be left for Sunday services, and if your family would like to pick up the flowers after the last service on Sunday.
6. The paraments are concurrent with the church year will be used.
7. If desired, a 75-foot white center-aisle runner may be purchased from your florist.
8. You need not order a boutonniere or corsage for the organist or Pastor. If you have a soloist, ask them if they would like to wear one. Sometimes allergies may prevent a soloist from wearing a flower.

Candles

1. While the brass candelabra candles are lit for weddings, the communion candles (single candles on the altar) are lit **only** when communion is celebrated.
2. The optional unity candle stand is placed in the south transept.
3. Your ushers may light the candles fifteen to twenty minutes before the wedding service. Please remind your ushers that the glass chimneys are very fragile. The church’s custodians will light the candles (if you wish) and they will extinguish all of the candles.

INVITATION TO THE STAFF

If the bridal couple wishes to invite any of the staff to either the Rehearsal Dinner or the Wedding Reception, or both, they should notify them at least a month in advance of the wedding. Prior invitation will enable them to consider busy schedules and decide if they can be present.

AUDIO-VIDEO RECORDING AND LIVE STREAMING

An AV technician is required for any AV needs beyond the Pastor's microphone and one soloist. Weddings are NOT automatically recorded. Requests must be made at least 14 days in advance of the event and are subject to the availability of staff. Couples should purchase a 32G flash drive for a digital copy and deliver it to the church prior to the wedding. Archives will be on the church's website for 90 days. A \$100 fee is paid directly to the AV tech at least 24 hours prior to the service.

COST OF A WEDDING AT PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

The fees for a wedding at Peace Lutheran Church include:

1. \$125 to Peace Lutheran Church, which includes the candles, wedding director and custodian.
2. Additional fees are: \$175 for the organist, \$125 for a soloist (optional) and \$100 for recording (optional). Each of these fees is to be paid directly to the individuals providing the services.

Revised: August 2024