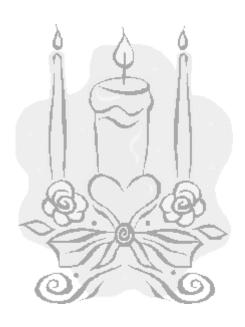
Wedding Guidelines



Pilgrim Lutheran Church 1935 Saint Clair Avenue Saint Paul, Minnesota 55105 www.pilgrimstpaul.org

> 651-699-6886 Revised January 2020

WEDDING TO DO LIST:

- 1. As soon as possible you will need to make appointments for the following:
 - ✓ Call Pilgrim Lutheran church office to check on available dates. A \$100 reservation fee is due to reserve your chosen date.
 - Call Wedding Coordinator JOANNA DEER @ 651-646-9425
 (joannadeer@yahoo.com), or KARIE JOHNSON @ 651-699-3432
 (karie.johnson10@gmail.com) to reserve their services for the wedding date. You may not hold a wedding at Pilgrim without the Wedding Coordinator's services.
 The Wedding Coordinator is the "go to" person for details about the wedding.
 - Members have the possibility of having a Pilgrim pastor conduct the wedding. Please call PASTOR CAROL TOMER at 651-699-6886. Non-members, however, will usually need to find a non-Pilgrim pastor to do the service. (We can offer some recommendations, if need be.) Your pastor will help you with consultation and administration of premarital tests. To be married at Pilgrim Lutheran, you will need to have had pre-marital counseling and present proof before we can proceed with your wedding plans.
 - ✓ Call the Pilgrim office to arrange for an organist and schedule if desired.

2. Two weeks before the wedding:

- ✓ Bring Marriage License to the church office
- ✓ Reread the guidelines
- Bring balance of fees that are made out to individuals performing in the service, i.e., pastor, custodian, organist, and wedding coordinator, to the church office.

 The Wedding Coordinator will prepare your license and distribute the checks.
- Call Wedding Coordinator with last-minute changes and concerns, and if you decide to have pictures taken after the wedding service.

First Steps in Planning Your Wedding or Blessing Service

1. Read This Booklet

Jot down questions raised in your mind as you read.

2. Reserve the Date of Your Service

The date and time of your wedding or blessing service must be reserved for you by our church office, 651-699-6886, and either Wedding Coordinator, Joanna Deer, 651-646-9425, or Karie Johnson, 651-699-3432. To qualify for a *member* wedding, you must have been a <u>member in good standing</u> for at least nine months before the wedding service. (Please note: Members are received at Pilgrim periodically, not monthly.)

A <u>non-refundable reservation fee</u> of \$100.00 is required at the time a wedding date is reserved for members and non-members. The remainder of the fees is due two weeks before the wedding.

The couples are required to pay the sanctuary fee two weeks before the wedding service so that their wedding process can continue. See the fee schedule on page 14 of these guidelines.

Non-members planning to be married in the Pilgrim Church sanctuary are encouraged to attend worship services with the congregation to become better acquainted with the parish and its facilities.

Rehearsal:

The time and the availability of the church building for rehearsal must be cleared with a pastor and the wedding coordinator as far in advance as possible. It is both <u>considerate</u> and <u>important</u> that the rehearsal begin at the scheduled time. Wedding rehearsal dinners must be scheduled for afterwards. Rehearsals that begin more than 20 minutes late will be charged an extra \$40.

3. Arrange for an Initial Planning Session with the Pastor

Contact the pastor for an initial planning session for your wedding, 651-699-6886.

Note: Reserving the church does not mean that you are guaranteed to have a pastor from Pilgrim officiate at your wedding. The pastors give first priority to persons who are members of the congregation. Non-members may need to schedule their own pastor, judge or justice of the peace to do the service. If <u>members</u> wish additional clergy to participate, they should first consult with the pastor from Pilgrim who is presiding at their service.

4. Arrange for Pre-Marital Counseling

All couples who are being married at Pilgrim Lutheran Church are required to make a plan for pre-marital counseling prior to your wedding service. The counseling sets the wedding in the context of God's word and wisdom. The minimum time required to complete arrangements and counseling is two months.

Most counselors use a relationship inventory called *Prepare*. *Prepare* is a 165-item inventory designed to help you look at yourself, your partner, and your relationship as you

prepare for married life together. The fee for the inventory is charged by the agency, which designed and processes the results of your inventory. This inventory becomes part of the basis for the pre-marital counseling that follows.

5. Arrange for an Initial Planning Session with the Keyboardist (Organ or Piano)

Normally, the organist or pianist for your wedding will be the organist of the congregation. Should you desire a different organist/pianist (other than from Pilgrim), arrangements and approval must first be made with the Pilgrim organist. In any case, it is your responsibility to consult with the organist of the church right after scheduling the wedding.

Before you make arrangements with singers or instrumentalists who will participate in your wedding, please read the section **Selecting Music** (page 8 of these guidelines), and discuss your plans with the church organist.

6. Contact the Wedding Coordinator

The Wedding Coordinator assists at your wedding rehearsal with the pastor and will consult with you about such wedding details as use of the church facilities, the rehearsal, decorations, receiving lines, and a host of other things. Your Wedding Coordinator is the "go to" person for questions and planning. Please contact them first, instead of the Pilgrim office staff.

7. The Marriage License

Minnesota law requires couples to secure a license to marry. You may apply for a license at the office of any County Clerk of Court. The license is good for 6 months. Note: There is a 5-day waiting period before you receive your license from the County Clerk. A fee for the license will be charged; however, if you bring proof of Pre-marital Counseling the fee may be discounted, depending on the policy of the county in which you apply for your license.

The license should be given to the wedding coordinator two weeks prior to your wedding in order that the license and the church's documents can be properly completed in readiness for your wedding service.

II

Marriage and the Church

We are pleased that you want to have your wedding at Pilgrim Lutheran Church. The pastor will work with you to make your wedding meaningful and to help you prepare for a fulfilling marriage.

Marriage does not belong exclusively to the church. While marriage is ordained by God and supported by the church, it is a social contract, governed and regulated by the state for the purpose of protecting individuals and providing stability to the social order. But to the Christian it is more:

We believe God ordained marriage to enrich the lives of partners, and to provide a sound basis for family life.

We believe God's intention for marriage is that it be a life-long relationship based on the commitment of each partner to the other.

We believe God's self-giving love and faithfulness toward us is the foundation of a committed relationship between partners. In the words of St. Paul to the Ephesian church, "Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you." Ephesians 4:32

We believe God, along with the church, desires marriage to be a source of faith, joy, love, and fulfillment. Marriages rooted in God's steadfast love will be the most likely to experience these qualities.

The pastor officiates at your wedding representing both Pilgrim Lutheran Church and the state of Minnesota, but it is you who bind yourselves to each other as life partners. By your promises before God and in the presence of the gathered community, you make your promises, trusting that God will bless and support you as you work together to fulfill them. Thus, to be married in the church is to recognize God's intentions for marriage and to affirm them as your own.

Blessing Services

Pilgrim also delights in hosting, as well as leading, blessing services. We will offer you all the same support and guidance in preparing for a blessing service that we do with weddings. So, whereas this document speaks mostly about wedding services, it all applies to services of blessing and commitment as well.

Ш

Planning the Service

As you meet with the pastor to plan your service, you are encouraged to bring ideas about ways to personalize your wedding. Of course, what is done in the service should be appropriate to a service of worship and consistent with the Christian understanding of marriage as expressed in the Order for Marriage, pages 286-291 of the Evangelical Lutheran Worship Book (ELW)

The Order of Service

The Order for Marriage in the <u>ELW</u> allows a variety of options. You may wish to modify the service or even construct your own. The marriage service in the worship book should be regarded as a kind of workbook out of which a marriage service appropriate to the particular occasion might be planned.

The order for marriage in the <u>ELW</u>, pages 286-291, is usually as follows:

Prelude music

Processional

Invocation

Hymn

Prayer

Declaration of Purpose

Questions of Intent

Solo

Scripture Readings

Homily/Meditation

Music/Hymn

Wedding Vows

Exchange of Rings

Lighting of the Unity Candle (Music during the lighting)

Declaration of Marriage

Prayer of Blessing

Lord's Prayer

Hymn

Benediction

Presentation of the Couple

Recessional

Postlude music

Selecting Wedding and Blessing Vows

The following vows, each expressing the promises of a couple's life-long commitment to each other, are examples of appropriate vows for use at your wedding.

1.	I take you,
	to be my partner/wife/husband
	from this day forward,
	to join with you and share all that is to come,
	and I promise to be faithful to you
	until death parts us.
2	I take you,
۷.	to be my partner/wife/husband,
	and these things I promise you:
	I will be faithful to you and honest with you;
	I will respect, trust, help, and care for you;
	I will share my life with you;
	I will forgive you as we have been forgiven;
	and I will try with you to better understand ourselves,
	the world, and God;
	through the best and worst of what is to come
	until death parts us.
	•
3.	I take you,
	to be my partner/wife/husband.
	I promise before God and these witnesses
	to be your faithful partner/husband/wife,
	to share with you in plenty and in want,
	in joy and in sorrow,
	in sickness and in health,
	to forgive and strengthen you,
	and to join with you so that together we may serve God and others
	as long as we both shall live.
4.	, I take you to be my partner/wife/husband
-	from this time onward,
	to join with you and to share all that is to come,
	to give and to receive,
	to speak and to listen,
	to inspire and to respond,
	and in all circumstances of our life together
	to be loyal to you with my whole life
	and with all my being
	until death parts us.

5.	In t	the presence of God and this community, I,	, take you,
		, to be my partner/wife/husband;	
		to have and to hold from this day forward,	
		in joy and in sorrow,	
		in plenty and in want,	
		in sickness and in health,	
		to love and to cherish,	
		as long as we both shall live.	
		This is my solemn vow.	
6.	Ι, _	, give myself to you,	·
		By the grace of God,	
		I promise to support and care for you.	
		In the love of Christ,	
		I promise to love and cherish you.	
		With the Spirit's help,	
		I promise to be faithful to you,	
		as long as we both shall live.	

Selecting Scripture Readings

You are encouraged to select scripture which will be consonant with themes you want to emphasize. One or more readings are appropriate. You may wish to choose a psalm to be sung, either by a soloist or by the congregation. Members of your family or wedding party may serve as readers of the scripture you select.

Old Testament Readings

Genesis 1:26-28	Woman and man created in image of God
Genesis 2:18-24	Companionship rather than loneliness
Proverbs 3:3-6	Loyalty and faithfulness written on the heart
Ecclesiastes 4:9-12	A threefold cord is not quick broken
Song of Solomon 2:10-13	The voice of the beloved
Song of Solomon 8:6-7	Many waters cannot quench love
Isaiah 63:7-9	God's steadfast love lifts up the people
Jeremiah 31:31-34	The new covenant of the people of God

Psalms

Psalm 33	Rejoice in the Lord
Psalm 67	May God be merciful to us and bless us
Psalm 100	We are God's people and the sheep of God's pasture
Psalm 117	The steadfast love of the Lord
Psalm 121	The Lord keeps watch over you
Psalm 127	Unless the Lord builds the house
Psalm 128	Blessed are those who walk in the Lord's ways
Psalm 136	Give thanks to God for God's steadfast love endures forever
Psalm 150	Let everything that breathes praise the Lord

New Testament Readings

Romans 8:31-35, 37-39 If God is for us, who is against us
Romans 12:1-2, 9-18 A living sacrifice and genuine love

I Corinthians 12:31-13:13 The greatest gift is love

Ephesians 3:14-19 The breadth, length, height and depth of Christ's love Philippians 2:1-11 Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus

Philippians 4.4-9 Rejoice in the Lord always

Colossians 3:12-17 *Clothed in compassion, kindness, meekness and patience*

I John 3:18-24 Let us love in truth and action

I John 4:7-12 Let us love one another for love is of God

Gospel Readings

Matthew 5:1-10 The beatitudes

Matthew 5:14-16

Matthew 7:21, 24-29

Matthew 19:4-6

What God has united must not be divided

Matthew 22:35-40 Love, the greatest commandment
Mark 10:6-9 They are no longer two but one

John 2:1-10 The wedding at Cana

John 15:9-12 Love one another as I have loved you

Selecting Music

The organist will assist you in selecting music appropriate to your wedding service and will offer suggestions regarding vocalists and instrumentalists who may participate in your wedding.

The Marriage Service is a service of worship, and the music therefore must be carefully chosen. It should embody high standards of quality, and the texts should reflect the praise of God, the steadfast love of Christ for the church as the model for love and fidelity in marriage, and the invocation of God's presence and blessing. In every case, music selected should be of high quality and not 'cloud the mood of the service with triteness or sentimentality.'

These guidelines lead to the conclusion that most secular (popular) music is not suitable for a worship service. As with vocal music, the processional, recessional, and other instrumental music used in your wedding should be carefully selected to enhance worship. Music which does not fit a service of worship is better used at a wedding reception.

In summary, if you can answer "yes" to any of the following questions, the music you propose is probably appropriate:

Does this music and its text reflect praise to God?

Is it based on or does it reflect a scriptural theme?

Is it appropriate for use in a regular service of worship?

Is the music within the ability of the musicians to play or sing with assurance?

Processionals and Recessionals

When you meet with the organist, s/he will help you select processional and recessional music from a large collection of beautiful compositions.

Processional:

Grand Celebrative Elegant Celebrative

Prince of Denmark's March/Clarke Jesu, Joy of Our Desiring/Bach

Trumpet Tune in D/Johnson Canon in D/Pachelbel

Trumpet Tune/Clarke Air from Water Music Suite/Handel

Trumpet Tune/Roman Arioso/Handel

Procession Alegre/Cornell

Recessional:

Hornpipe from Water Music Suite/Handel

God of Grace (Guide Me O Thou Great Jehovah)/Paul Manz

Rondeau/Mouret

Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow/Burkhardt

Coro/Handel

Prelude in Classic Style/Young

Prelude and Fugue in C Major/Bach

Congregational Hymns

A wedding is a service of worship in which the guests are invited to be participants, not mere spectators. Therefore, you are encouraged to incorporate hymn singing in your wedding, and you may use certain hymns as a processional or a recessional. The following hymns are among the many which are appropriate for weddings:

"Lord Jesus Christ, Be Present Now" "We Praise You, O God" "Praise and Thanksgiving" "Praise to the Lord, the Almighty" "Holy God, We Praise Your Name"	№ 527 № 870 № 689 № 858 № 414
"Love Divine, All Loves Excelling"	№ 631
"The King of Love My Shepherd Is" "Beautiful Savior" "Let All Things Now Living" "Lord of All Hopefulness" "Now Thank We All Our God" "Praise My Soul, the King of Heaven" "Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee"	№ 502 № 838 № 881 № 765 № 839 № 865 № 836

Other Details

Rehearsal

Rehearsals are usually held the evening before the day of the service, and must be scheduled with the wedding coordinator soon after you reserve your wedding date. Feel free to bring any decorations, guest book and programs at this time.

All members of the wedding party (wedding couple, attendants, ushers, flower bearers, ring-bearers, readers, and parents of the wedding couple) should be present at the time scheduled for the rehearsal. The purpose of the rehearsal is to acquaint everyone with the flow of the service, and to establish each person's duties and movements. Usually, musicians (soloists and instrumentalists) need not be present for the wedding rehearsal.

It is important that the ushers be present for the rehearsal, as the promptness of the service depends, in large part, upon them.

The wedding coordinator and pastor will walk the wedding party through the service from beginning to end, as well as acquaint everyone with dressing and restroom facilities. If everyone arrives on time, the rehearsal should not take longer than sixty to ninety minutes. The marriage license should be submitted to the office two weeks ahead of Rehearsal. The witnesses will sign before Rehearsal begins.

Ushers

A minimum of two ushers is necessary to seat guests and family members. More ushers will be needed if you intend to invite more than 150 guests. (The sanctuary seats 250 persons.) Attendants may not serve as ushers. All ushers should be adults as the nature of their tasks requires confidence and decisiveness. It is advised to have one usher for every 50 guests.

Seating

There are pews on each side which can seat approximately 200 and 40 more in the transept pews to the east and west. Seating 250 is quite crowded. A more comfortable seating is 200.

Dressing Areas

The Women's Lounge has a wide mirror and several electrical outlets, a counter, bathroom facilities, and chairs. In addition, there is a full-length mirror. This room is always unlocked. Men may dress in the Study, which includes a restroom and mirror.

Fireside Room

The Fireside Room is for the exclusive use of wedding participants, parents, and grandparents. The wedding party will gather in the Fireside Room fifteen minutes ahead of the service; this is the staging area from which the wedding coordinator will guide you.

Food and non-alcoholic beverages are to be used in the Fireside Room only. Pilgrim is a smoke-free building. In addition, there is to be NO ALCOHOL in the church or its premises.

Service Folders

It is helpful, but not necessary, to have a service folder to inform guests of the order of service and the names of participants in the wedding party. You should discuss the layout of

the service folder with the pastor one month before your wedding. You are responsible for the purchase and printing of the folders.

Decorations & Options

Floral decorations are not necessary, but, if desired, must be provided by you. They may be left on the altar for other Pilgrim worship services. Flowers will be placed in the appropriate vases in the chancel. Single flowers may be given to parents; memorial flowers commemorating special someone(s) may be placed in the chancel.

The color of the paraments on the altar is determined by the season of the church year. They are not changed for weddings.

All candles by the reredos will be lit for the wedding service.

Aisle candles may be rented from your florist. They must have glass chimneys. The sanctuary is rented out "as is." With prior permission and payment, certain seasonal liturgical decorations or flags used in worship on Sundays may be removed for a \$500 fee. Pilgrim literature or other elements of the worship space are not allowed to be removed. Please see that aisle candles are placed and removed with care in order to avoid damage to the pews. If you desire to use a unity candle in your service, you must provide the candle and two dripless taper candles to be placed in the church's unity candle holder. The two taper candles may be lit by ushers before the service or they may be lit by the mothers before being seated. Please be sure to coordinate the delivery of flowers with the time that the building has been reserved for your wedding. Floral arrangement(s) may be placed on the ledge below the reredos at the north end of the chancel platform. Others may be placed on the stands that are usually provided by a florist. We have a few stands available at the church for flower arrangements.

Personal Attendant

We request that you arrange for a personal attendant and/or hostess to make sure all honored guests receive their flowers prior to the service, as well as to be at the wedding couple's disposal for any last-minute needs. This person must not be in the wedding party.

Guest Book

A stand for a guest book is available near the main entrance to the sanctuary. The guest book should be closed for signing by the attendant five minutes before the service begins so that seating of late guests can be done in a timely manner.

Handicapped Access

Please notify the wedding coordinator if you have special parking needs for any handicapped guests. There is a handicapped parking sign on Prior Avenue. The church's elevator is located just inside the street-level entrance on St. Clair Avenue. There is a place near the front pews available for wheelchairs. The wedding coordinator can make suggestions for the seating of handicapped guests in the sanctuary.

Security

Pilgrim Lutheran Church is not responsible for personal items that are lost or stolen while you are in the church or on church property. While we do our best to help by locking doors, we need your help to ensure the safety of your purses, cameras, etc. Valuable items should NOT be left in the Fireside Room or dressing rooms, but rather left with friends.

Likewise, gifts which are brought to the wedding are not the responsibility of the church. Someone should be in charge of the gifts at all times. Please assign that person the job of transporting gifts out of the church prior to the beginning of the wedding

Conduct of Guests & Wedding Party

As the wedding is set within the context of worship, participants and guests are expected to conduct themselves accordingly. The use of alcoholic beverages or abusive chemicals is not permitted on the church premises (building or property). Persons under the influence of alcohol or other controlled substances will not be permitted to participate in the wedding. The entire church, including the washrooms, is a "no smoking" area. The pastor reserves the right to halt the service if a member of the wedding party or a guest is behaving in an inappropriate manner.

Trash, Recyclables, & Clean-Up

All rooms used by the wedding party should be left in the same good condition in which they were found. The unity candle, any floral arrangements not being left on the altar, and pew decorations must be removed before the end of the reserved time. Boxes, trash, and bags are to be gathered together before you leave the church building. The custodian will dispose of these items for you. Do <u>not</u> throw plastic bottles into the trash; place them together in one spot, so they can be recycled. Any articles mistakenly left behind will be placed in the church office "lost and found." If not claimed within one month, the items will be given to charity.

Aisle Runner

We do not use aisle runners due to safety concerns.

Flower Petals

It is the personal attendant's responsibility to pick up flower petals after the service.

Rice, Balloons, Confetti

In accordance with Minnesota's anti-littering law, balloon releases, small confetti, and rice are not permitted on the property. Rice makes the floors hazardous, is hard on floor surfaces, is dangerous for birds to ingest, and is difficult to clean up. Bird seed and bubbles are permitted for use outside the church buildings.

Photographs and Videos

Most people contract with a professional photographer to photograph or videotape their wedding. As a matter of courtesy to your reception guests, you should consider taking your formal wedding pictures prior to the service. Posed photographs must be completed 30 minutes <u>before</u> the service begins. Formal photography <u>after</u> the service may not exceed 30 minutes, unless the wedding reception is being held at Pilgrim.

Audiotaping

Pilgrim has a tape system by which your service may be taped on a cassette. Speak to the custodian or the wedding coordinator to make arrangements.

Reception

The Fellowship Hall and the Fireside Room are usually available for wedding receptions. If you desire to use either space, please reserve it at the time you reserve the sanctuary for your wedding.

As you make your plans, remember that alcoholic beverages may not be served on church premises, and that smoking is prohibited within the church building.

PLEASE NOTE: Failure to comply with any of the wedding guidelines could result in forfeiture of the right to hold the wedding at Pilgrim, in addition to any fees.

Telephone Numbers of Pilgrim Church Staff Members:

Joanna Deer, Wedding Coordinator 651-646-9425 joannader@yahoo.com

Karie Johnson, Wedding Coordinator 651-699-3432 karie.johnson10@gmail.com

Church Office 651-699-6886, ext. 10

Pastor Carol Tomer 651-699-6886, ext. 12

Chuck Regal, Custodian 651-699-6886

Paul Stever, Organist 651-699-6886, ext 20

Fees

All applicants will pay the non-refundable deposit fee of \$100 to hold the wedding date. Other fees are listed in this schedule. All fees must be paid by the time you bring your wedding license to the church office two weeks prior to the wedding. Checks for Wedding Coordinator, Custodian and Organist need to be written to the individuals.

Schedule of Fees I. Reservation Fee (separate from all other fees) Check payable to Pilgrim Lutheran Church	Member \$100	Non- Member \$100
Check payable to I lighth Latheran Charch		
II. Rental of facilities for rehearsal (90 minutes), wedding (5 hours), reception (5 hours). An additional pro-rated amount may be added for longer than 5 hours on site Times decided from beginning of decorating/set-up to conclusion of clean-up & departure		
Checks payable to Pilgrim Lutheran Church	\$150*	\$600*
A. Wedding: Sanctuary (plus Fireside Room for family, women's lounge and study)	\$130.	\$000.
B. Wedding or reception: Fellowship Hall & Kitchen Fireside Room	\$250* \$200*	\$500* \$300*
Use of linens, dishes, flatware, silver service, dishwasher, etc. is included in the fees above.	Ψ200	Ψ500
Removal of flags in sanctuary if applicable	\$500	\$500
III. Professional Fees		
Checks payable to individuals A. Pastor – wedding planning and service. Premarital counseling is required; make plans with pastor. There may be additional cost for counseling.	\$150 (honorarium)	\$350
B. Organist – one-hour consultation, 15-30 minute prelude and postlude music; accompaniment of soloists during the service, brief rehearsal preceding the service, and other music requisite to the service or liturgy Additional \$50 for rehearsal with wedding party, 1 hr	\$200	\$200
C. Soloist/Instrumentalist	As agreed	As agreed
 D. Wedding Coordinator – consultation, coordination of rehearsal & service (fee is \$40 higher if the wedding includes set-up and clean-up for serving communion) E. Custodian 	\$ 150	\$225
1) Wedding	\$100	\$150
2) Reception	\$100	\$150

^{*}Due and non-refundable four months prior to the wedding or when the reservation is set, if less than four months until the wedding.

Effective: January 2016