

Planning a Wedding Ceremony

The St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church

Your consideration of a church wedding would indicate that you are seeking the blessing of Almighty God upon your union, and that you are requesting a wedding ceremony consistent with the Christian Faith. We will be pleased to work with you to make your wedding as meaningful and as beautiful as possible.

- 1 Please contact the Pastor well in advance of your intended wedding date so the date may be confirmed, allowing time for adequate preparation in consultation with the Pastor and other staff.
- 2 Your church is committed to strengthening marriage bonds through a couple's married life. Pre-marriage counseling and other related programs have long been identified as significantly assuring a more lasting and a more rewarding life together. For this reason, we would like to schedule several sessions together. We will want to plan the service, become better acquainted, enable you to check respective values, and improve communication skills. Indeed, it will be a good time to review Christian teaching regarding marriage and how these beliefs are reflected in the marriage ceremony. We will want to allow time to cover details relative to the organist, special music, flowers, the rehearsal, etc. To achieve these needs, a minimum of two sessions should be scheduled with the Pastor when both the bride and groom are present.
- 3 The Pastor of The St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church, The Reverend Dana Karen Reardon, will preside at all weddings held at the church. Should you desire another Pastor to officiate or assist, this may be possible with the consent of Pastor Reardon. Indicate your interest in this regard as early as possible.
- 4 The organist of The St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church, Susan Brunelle, will be the organist at all weddings held at the church. Should her schedule not permit, the church will be able to arrange for an alternate. Should you desire another organist, this may be possible with the consent of the Mrs. Brunelle. Indicate your interest in this regard as early as possible. After you have consulted with the Pastor, you should next contact the organist. She will welcome an opportunity to meet with you, preferably after a Sunday worship service. She will guide you in the selection of music for your wedding ceremony. Her home phone number is (401) 885-2323.
- 5 You are welcome to decorate the sanctuary for your wedding. However, several restrictions should be kept in mind. Decoration may not be affixed to pews, walls, etc. with any substance that would mar the surface (i.e. tape, staples, etc.). Please ask your decorator or florist to consult with the church office prior to any agreement. If a candelabra and/or pew candle holders are requested, arrangements must be made with the altar guild of the church for setup and removal. Please do this well in advance.
- 6 The Wedding Rehearsal is typically the evening before the wedding. All participants, including the parents of the bride and groom, are encouraged to be present. The organist's presence is typically not required, however.

- 7 Flash photography is allowed during the ceremony, as long as it is done as unobtrusively as possible. Non-flash pictures and video may be taken from the balcony, as long as no special lighting is required. The Pastor will be pleased to cooperate for photos at the altar following the ceremony.
- 8 It is the responsibility of the bridal couple to obtain their marriage license in time to present it to the Pastor no later than the night of the rehearsal. The Pastor is legally forbidden to perform the marriage if not given a proper license prior to the service. Following the service, **and payment of all associated fees**, the Pastor will sign the license and mail it to the Town Clerk's office. To obtain a copy of the marriage license, you must contact the Town Clerk.
- 9 The church will provide you with a Wedding Certificate. It will be signed by the Pastor. However, spaces are left blank on the certificate for the signing of two witnesses (generally the Best Man and the Maid of Honor). On the night of the rehearsal, the Pastor will give the Certificate to the Best Man, who should sign the Certificate and make sure the Maid of Honor signs it as well. The Best Man should then give the Certificate to the couple at a time when it is convenient, preferably after the wedding ceremony.
- 10 Please inform the Pastor early of your expectation regarding her attendance at the reception. Her presence at the rehearsal dinner, however, is strongly recommended.
- 11 You may wish to design and print your own wedding bulletin. Before taking the copy to your print shop, be sure to review the copy with the Pastor. She should be given a copy well in advance of your having it printed. Unless otherwise notified, the church office will design and print wedding bulletins by default.

Wedding Fee Schedule – Members of The St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church

- 1 The Pastor does not require a fee for member weddings at The St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church. It is customary, however, to supply an honorarium for preparation time and for officiating at the ceremony. This check should be made payable to **The Reverend Dana Karen Reardon.**
- 2 The Church does not require a fee for member weddings in the Sanctuary or the Chapel of The St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church. It is customary, however, to supply an honorarium gift for use of the facility. This check should be made payable to **The St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church.**
- 3 The Sexton requires a fee of **\$75.00**, for custodial duties required in association with the wedding ceremony. Should the wedding require extra custodial duties, there shall be an additional fee of **\$25.00 per hour.** This check should be made payable to **Robert Gauthier.**
- 4 The Organist requires a fee of **\$175.00** for members, which includes one conference (either in person or via telephone). This check should be made payable to **Susan Brunelle.**
- 5 The church office requires a fee of **\$20.00** to design and print bulletins for weddings at The St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church. This check should be made payable to **The St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church.**
- 6 The Church does not require a fee for member receptions in the Fellowship Hall of The St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church. It is customary, however, to supply an honorarium gift for use of the facility. This check should be made payable to **The St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church.**

**All checks should be distributed on
the evening of the Wedding Rehearsal.**

Wedding Fee Schedule – Non-Members of The St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church

- 1 The Pastor requires a fee of **\$250.00** for non-member weddings at The St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church. This check should be made payable to **The Reverend Dana Karen Reardon.**
- 2 The Church requires a fee of **\$300.00** for non-member weddings in the Sanctuary, or a fee of **\$150.00** for non-member weddings the Chapel of The St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church. This check should be made payable to **The St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church.**
- 3 The Sexton requires a fee of **\$75.00**, for custodial duties required in association with the wedding ceremony. Should the wedding require extra custodial duties, there shall be an additional fee of **\$30.00 per hour.** This check should be made payable to **Robert Gauthier.**
- 4 The Organist requires a fee of **\$200.00** for non-members, which includes one conference (either in person or via telephone). This check should be made payable to **Susan Brunelle.**
- 5 The church office requires a fee of **\$25.00** to design and print bulletins for weddings at The St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church. This check should be made payable to **The St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church.**
- 6 The Church requires a fee of **\$150.00** for non-member receptions in the Fellowship Hall of The St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church. This check should be made payable to **The St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church.**

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Examples of Wedding Promises The St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church

The promises are those of the bride and groom, and provision should be made for those who wish to write their own. The promises must indicate the complete sharing which marriage implies and make clear that the promises are a lifelong commitment. It is not a formula, but the promise of fidelity that makes the marriage.

Below are examples of wedding promises:

I take you, _____, to be my 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.

I take you, _____, to be my wife/husband, I promise before God and these witnesses to be your faithful 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.

_____, I take you to be my 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 all of my being, until death parts us.

Suggested Readings for the Wedding Service
The St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church

Old Testament Readings

Genesis 1:26-31
Song of Solomon 2:10-13
Song of Solomon 8:6-7
Isaiah 63:7-9

Psalms

Psalm 1000
Psalm 103:1-18
Psalm 117
Psalm 136
Psalm 150

New Testament Readings

Romans 12:1-2
Romans 12:9-21
1 Corinthians 13:1-13
Ephesians 3:14-19
Philippians 2:1-5
Philippians 4:4-9
Colossians 3:12-17
1 John 4:7-12

Gospels

Matthew 19:4-6
John 2:1-10
John 15:5-17

**To receive a copy of any of these readings,
please contact the church office at
(401)737-6758 or office@stpaulbythemall.org.**

Wedding Information Form
The St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church

Wedding Date		Wedding Time	
Wedding Location		Officiant	

Bride Information

Name _____ Date of Birth ____ / ____ / ____
Last First Middle

Address _____ Are you a member of St. Paul?

City _____ State ____ Zip _____ Phone (____) _____ - _____

Groom Information

Name _____ Date of Birth ____ / ____ / ____
Last First Middle

Address _____ Are you a member of St. Paul?

City _____ State ____ Zip _____ Phone (____) _____ - _____

Which address will you use after the marriage? Bride's Groom's Other *(please specify)*

Rehearsal Information

Rehearsal Date _____ Time _____ Organist Requested? No Yes

Where will your Rehearsal Dinner take place? _____

Please note – the Pastor's attendance at the Rehearsal Dinner is mandatory and expected.

Other Information

Bulletins Needed? _____ Will you be having Holy Communion at your ceremony? _____

How many people are you expecting to attend the **wedding ceremony** at the church? _____

Where will your reception take place? _____

Please continue on the next page.

Scripture Readings

	<i>Reading</i>	<i>Reader's Name</i>
<i>Old Testament</i>		
<i>Psalm (optional)</i>		
<i>New Testament</i>		
<i>Gospel Reading</i>		

Wedding Party

<i>Best Man</i>	<i>Maid of Honor</i>
<i>Ushers</i>	<i>Bridesmaids</i>
<i>Ring Bearer</i>	<i>Flower Girl</i>

**Please submit both pages of this form
to the church office as soon as possible!**

For office use only.

Date Paperwork Filed _____

Date Certificate Drafted _____

Date License Submitted _____

License Number _____

Sexton Notified _____

Altar Guild Notified _____