

## **THE CHRISTIAN WEDDING AT LORD OF LIFE LUTHERAN**

The Christian Wedding is an occasion of worship in which the blessing of God is asked for your marriage. In the service we come together to offer special thanks for your life together as husband and wife and consider the importance of keeping Jesus Christ central in your relationship. It is also a public event during which your community of support, family, friends, congregation, gather to celebrate your relationship, witness your promises, and support you in your new relationship. It is also a time when a couple makes promises. These are promises to serve – to serve God, to serve each other, to serve the community from which you come. And to serve God's world. Since the Christian wedding is an occasion of worship, the form of the service follow that of a Christian worship service.

### **LOCATION AND OFFICIATING**

It is the preference of Lord of Life Lutheran that weddings take place in that location where the people of God regularly gather to hear God's Word. In the church sanctuary we come to worship God, pray to God, and hear God's Word. Therefore we gather in the church sanctuary for the wedding service. It is a place where the symbols of our faith are central, freeing us from other distractions so we can hear God's Word.

It is also our pastor's preference that weddings occur in the church sanctuary. However, because of a family or personal relationship with a particular couple our pastor may at his discretion make an exception to this policy.

Only the pastor(s) of Lord of Life are to perform wedding services in the church. However, our pastor welcomes the participation of other Christian pastors, as well as friends and family of the bride and groom. On occasion we have let couples who are members of another Christian congregation have their wedding at Lord of Life using the services of their own pastor when that congregation has a problem with its own facility. In that case, we would appreciate it if your pastor would have a conversation with the pastor of Lord of Life

### **DATES AND SCHEDULES**

#### **The Date:**

In order that you may plan effectively, that there may be time to meet with the pastor, and that you might fit into the schedule of the pastor and congregation you will need to plan early. A minimum of one month is suggested.

Your date can be made final only after you have talked directly to the pastor concerning his calendar and the calendar of the church. You will not be able to have invitations printed until you have reserved the date through the pastor. Be sure to check the invitations carefully for all the correct information.

#### **Pastoral Counseling:**

The pastor wants to meet with you two times:

**The Frist Session** is an opportunity to exchange information concerning the wedding and it's planning. Do not commit yourself to a wedding at Lord of Life until after this first meeting as you will want to know all that is involved. Exchanged at this session will be:

1. planning information, responsibilities, and fees
2. information for the wedding license
3. information for planning the service

**The Second Session** occurs close to the wedding date in order to finalize plans for the service. All wedding fees are due at this time.

**Pre-marital Counseling:** In order to receive the best preparation for your life together we ask that you spend some time talking about marital issues with the skilled and professional therapists of Lutheran Counseling Network. They offer regularly scheduled group pre-marriage counseling sessions. The pastor has a copy of their scheduled and prices. They will be a real benefit to your marriage.

**Music:** The music shall be in keeping with a Christian occasion of worship. The music shall be tasteful in words, mood and instrumentation. Be sure it has the approval of the pastor. As music can be a sensitive matter for both the congregation and you

## **WHO ARE YOUR HELPERS**

**Accompanist:** The church requires the use of the church accompanist. She is very skilled on both piano and organ. You will need to call her early in the planning. She will not only play at your wedding but will help you with the selection of music. In the event that her schedule will not allow her to play at your wedding she is able to suggest the names of other good accompanists approved by the church. In addition to paying for her skill and training, your fee includes her time in preparation, the wedding and coordination with a soloist.

**Soloists and Musicians:** Most people use friends and acquaintances for vocal solos. However, within the congregation there are several people with excellent vocal ability who may be able to assist at your wedding, if you like. The pastor or our accompanist can make some suggestions. Please ask early for time to prepare. Soloists have varying fees so speak directly to them about the cost.

**Wedding Coordinator:** In order that your wedding go smoothly, and as a help to the pastor, the services of our coordinator are necessary. She will be available to assist during both the rehearsal and the wedding.

## **CARE OF THE FACILITIES**

**Custodial Work:** The church is cleaned on Friday afternoons. If you choose a date other than a Saturday you will need to arrange to clean the church yourselves. The church will not be cleaned for the rehearsal.

Generally cleaning up the sanctuary after a wedding involves very little and we take care of it.

The clean up of the fellowship area after a reception is more involved and is done by the church. There is an additional fee for this cleaning. Members have the option of cleaning the fellowship hall themselves and avoiding the cost of cleaning.

**Decorations:** Decorations, including flowers, ribbons, candles, etc., shall be furnished by the wedding party. Decorations shall be used so as not to mar the building or furniture. NO CONFETTI, RICE or BIRD SEED shall be used in or around the buildings.

Our fellowship area has various decorations/crafts on the walls. The congregation considers these to be a part of the decor, and are to be left up. If you choose to use the fellowship area we ask that you be prepared to leave the wall displays in place.

**Alcoholic Beverages:** You may use Champaign for a toast at your reception; other than this NO ALCOHOL is to be used in the church buildings or grounds.

### THINGS FOR WHICH TO PLAN

**License:** It is your responsibility to secure the civil license. It must be acquired within 60 days of the service but no nearer than 3 working days. The pastor CANNOT perform the wedding without the license. Please bring it to the rehearsal. Information about the license can be found at: <http://www.metrokc.gov/lars.marriage/index.htm>

**Rehearsal:** The rehearsal for your wedding should be held when all members of the wedding party can be present, including both sets of parents. The rehearsal requires about one hour.

**Publicity:** If you desire an announcement in the local papers contact them early to get information on the material you will need.

**Photography and Videography:** Please tell your photographer and friends to avoid flash photos during the service. We recommend that pictures be posed before the wedding hour and that they be completed a half hour ahead of the starting time. However, they can be taken following the ceremony. Please let the pastor know of your plans so that the facilities can be made available.

You may use video, if you choose. Be sure to keep the camera out of the attention of the congregation and to ask the permission of the musicians involved for recording.

**Receptions:** In addition to the fellowship hall you are welcome to use the kitchen, its non-perishable service supplies, and the tables and chairs in the building. Service items are limited so you will probably need to supplement or substitute with your own.

The church does NOT have a catering service and does NOT provide and/or serve food for the reception.

The following is a list of items available at the church for your use. Please let us know immediately if anything gets broken or is in need of repair:

200 - Chairs

16 – 60” Round Tables (requires a 72“ to 90” tablecloth)

8 – 8’ Banquet Tables (requires a 108“ tablecloth)

6 – 6’ Banquet Tables (requires a 90“ tablecloth)

16 – White Platters (9” x 14”)

16 – White Serving Bowls (10” round)

16 – Salt & Pepper Shakers

16 – Cream and Sugar Sets

16- Clear Glass Water Pitchers

16 – Insulated Coffee Carafes

3 – Punch Bowls with Ladles

2 – Heated Chafing Dishes (requires Sterno)

1 – 30 Cup Coffee Pot

**Financial Obligations:** At your first meeting with the pastor you will be given the most recent listing of costs for the wedding. The congregation charges differently for members and non-members since members are already contributing to the maintenance and upkeep of the buildings. **ALL FEES FOR FACILITIES AND SERVICES SHOULD BE PAID AT THE YOUR LAST APPOINTMENT WITH THE PASTOR.**

### **WEDDING COSTS**

(Updated: 11/01/03)

We ask that the wedding and reception fees be paid at your last meeting with the pastor.

#### **Members - \$200.00**

Includes:

Building Use

Organist

Coodinator

Does not include:

Counseling from **Lutheran Counseling**

Soloist (from congregation)

Reception (see below)

#### **Non-member - \$600.00**

Includes:

Building Use

Organist (see below)

Coordinator  
Pastor  
Does not include:  
Counseling from **Lutheran Counseling**  
Soloist (from congregation)  
Reception (see back)

**Our Accompanist/Organist:**

We require that you use the church organist. It is important for you to speak to her directly **as soon as possible**. If our organist needs to meet for practice with your soloist at a time other than the rehearsal or just ahead of the wedding we charge **an additional \$20.00**

**RECEPTION COSTS**

(Updated: 11/01/03)

**Members - \$0 to \$100.00**

Includes:  
Hall  
Any serving items at the church  
Clean Up (\$100)

Does not include:  
Food  
Catering  
Perishable Items  
Decorations

**Non-member - \$250.00**

Includes:  
Hall  
Any serving items at the church  
Clean-up

Does not include:  
Food  
Catering  
Perishable items  
Decorations