

*Your Wedding
At
Our Savior's Lutheran church*



*4831 Grand Avenue
Duluth, Minnesota 55807
218-624-3648
www.oursaviorsduluth.org*

Marriage and the Church

There is a difference between a marriage and a “Christian” marriage. Basically marriage is a social and legal contract regulated by the state. Therefore the pastor has credentials registered with the state.

A Christian marriage is that and more. A wedding at Our Savior’s means you understand that you are asking God’s blessings on your life together.

A Christian marriage is rooted in God’s unconditional love for us, even when we ourselves don’t love unconditionally. The love of God in Christ is a model and power to help nurture our human love.

A Christian marriage is a covenant characterized by faithfulness, joy, love, forgiveness, and fulfillment.

Who May Be Married at Our Savior’s

Normally one of the people getting married should be an active member of Our Savior’s (participating in worship, communion, and financial contributions). You must be a member **prior to scheduling your wedding to receive the “member” pricing.**

Non-member weddings can be scheduled at the church, in consultation with the pastor. Wedding date preference will be given to members until January 1st of the year of the wedding.

First Steps in the Planning Process

- 1) Contact the church office (624-3648) to set up the date of your wedding. This should be done at least three months before that date. Some basic information will be taken at that time.
- 2) The pastor will need to be contacted to arrange for pre-marriage counseling. Non members should consult with the pastor before Making further plans, as member weddings will take priority over non members. Non members may arrange for a guest pastor to Officiate, with prior approval from the church and the pastor.
- 3) If you desire organ music, our church organist has the right of first refusal.
- 4) A church custodian fee of \$75 is required, payable to the custodian on rehearsal day.
- 5) A \$150 refundable damage deposit must be paid two weeks before the wedding.
- 6) The wedding license must be obtained at least 5 days before the wedding.

Details of the Planning Process

Pre-marriage Counseling

Pre - marriage counseling can be done in several ways. Pre-marriage courses are offered at OSLC, arranged in consultation with the pastor. Course topics include a relationship inventory, finances, family, conflict management, faith/values, and details of your wedding service (choice of scriptures, vows, etc.). An affidavit of pre-marriage counseling is provided upon completion, which results in significant savings when purchasing your marriage license. If you are currently living out of town, you can go through pre-marriage sessions where you are living, and your counselor should write a letter to the pastor indicating completion of counseling.

Music

The wedding ceremony is a joyful worship service. The music chosen should have that in mind. It doesn't have to be sacred music as much as it should be tasteful and express the love you have for one another. The music will be chosen with approval from the pastor. Our organist has the right of first refusal and is available to help you pick out music, including processional and recessional music. The instruments available are a pipe organ, a Clavinova electronic piano, and a CD player.

Rehearsal

The rehearsal is usually scheduled the day before the wedding, normally lasting an hour. The wedding party, ushers, parents and musicians should be present. The soloist can rehearse at a different time, in coordination with the musician.

Pictures/Video

This is an important part of your day. Please have the photographer consult with the pastor about picture taking. Flash photography is not allowed during the wedding ceremony. Please include that fact at the bottom of your wedding bulletin. Video cameras are to be inconspicuous. Please let the pastor know if you are taking pictures before and/or after the wedding.

Decorating the Church

This should be in consultation with the pastor and the custodian. Natural or artificial flowers can be used. Only artificial petals can be used in the aisle. Available for your use are:

- * a Unity candle holder
- * two altar candelabra that hold 7 candles each
- * 14 aisle candelabra that hold 3 candles each.

Candles are not provided. Candles must be dripless or part beeswax. If using an aisle runner, it should be 75 feet long. There are 20 pews on each side of the aisle. Please use masking or clear tape, no thumb tacks. You will be responsible for removing all decorations, rented equipment and personal items. **It is strongly suggested that you designate someone to be in charge of coordinating set-up and clean-up.**

The church paraments in the altar area are according to the church year. They cannot be removed or changed without consulting the pastor.

Wedding Bulletins

Couples can choose to make their own bulletins or ask the church to print them out. If you would like the church to print your bulletins, you must provide your own bulletin covers and have them and your information to the church secretary **at least two weeks before the wedding. There will be a charge for this service.**

Seating Capacity

The main floor seats 350 people, the balcony 50. If the Fellowship Hall is used for the reception, it holds 225 people seated at tables.

Dressing Rooms

Often the bride and bridal party change at the church. The bride and bridesmaids may use the church lounge next to the sanctuary. There is a dress rack available, mirror and sink. There are a number of restrooms available, however there is no shower facility. If the men wish to dress at the church, they may use the Choir Room. The lounge and Choir Room will be locked during the ceremony for security purposes.

Butts and Booze

The inside of the church building is a non-smoking area. Butt cans are provided in the parking lot for those who smoke. No alcoholic beverages are to be consumed on church property, inside or outside. The exception is champagne or wine at the reception for toasting purposes.

Other Matters

- No rice or bird seed is to be thrown at/after the wedding.
- Only artificial flower petals may be used down the aisle.
- If you have a reception at the church, no styrofoam may be used. You may use the kitchen and equipment in consultation with the church staff. There will be a fee for use of the kitchen.

Church Usage Fees

Member Non-member

\$150 \$200

12 Hours pre-marriage counseling.....

Due upon completion of course, payable to the pastor.

\$150 \$200

Pastor/Rehearsal and ceremony.....

Payable to the pastor at rehearsal.

N/C \$500

Sanctuary.....

Payable to OSLC two weeks prior to wedding.

N/C \$250

Fellowship Hall.....

The Fellowship Hall is available for wedding receptions. Champagne for toasting is allowed, cash bars are not. No styrofoam products may be used. Please inform the church office if you are using an outside caterer.

Payable to OSLC two weeks prior to wedding.

See separate sheet

Organist.....

Payable to organist/musician at rehearsal

Custodial Services (required for all).....

The custodian will show you what is available to use for your wedding service, he will set up tables and other equipment, post signs for entry into the church, secure the lounge during the service, and will clean up after the wedding when all of your personal and rented equipment is removed. Payable to custodian at rehearsal.

\$75

Fees vary

Vocalist

The vocalist should be contacted ahead of time and paid appropriately for the music performed on the wedding date. The church organist is available on request for vocal music.

\$50 \$100

Sound.....

For recorded music only, otherwise this charge is included in organist fees.

Projector.....

Prior setup to ensure compatibility required.

N/C \$50

Bulletins

Payable to secretary two weeks prior to wedding.

\$25 \$50