

Your Wedding at Highland

CONGRATULATIONS

We share in your happiness as you prepare for a new life as husband and wife! Your wedding day will be one of the most memorable events in your life. Our desire is to help you have a memorable and sacred wedding service. We hope the information we provide here will give you a good start in the planning process.

At Highland we believe that

1) Marriage has been instituted by God for one man and one woman, and symbolizes the relationship between Jesus Christ and His Church. (Genesis 2 and Ephesians 5), and that 2) healthy marriages are so important we want to do all we can to ensure couples enter into marriage with a strong biblical foundation. Our policies about weddings come from these convictions.

First, a few principles we follow:

- God's plan for marriage is that you be on the same page spiritually in order to build a firm foundation.
- God puts great emphasis on sexual purity before marriage. Couples we marry must honor this important mandate.
- We're interested in your having a good marriage, not just a good wedding. So we require several counseling sessions before your wedding.
- We desire that you plug into the life of the church as a couple.

You'll see these principles reflected in the policies in this brochure. God bless you as you prepare for a lifetime together—with Christ.



Love
Purity
Relationship
Vows

Highland Community Church Office
1005 N. 28th Avenue
Wausau, WI 54401
715-842-5683 ph
www.highlandcommunitychurch.com

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GETTING MARRIED AT HIGHLAND AND/OR WITH A HIGHLAND PASTOR

Because our objective is to establish Christian marriages in the context of a loving community, weddings are reserved only for individuals who are committed followers of Christ and who are regular attenders of Highland Community Church.

Because Scripture shows that living separately from each other and abstaining from sexual intimacy before marriage are God's design for each couple, we ask that you commit to these principles in respect for God's design, in respect for each other, and in order to get the most benefit from your pre-marriage preparation.

SETTING THE DATE

The earlier you can involve Highland in your planning process, the more likely we will be able to find a date that works for you and for Highland. We will do all we can to work with staff and facility commitments to try to accommodate your plans.

CHOOSING A HIGHLAND PASTOR

You may already have in mind the pastor you want to perform your ceremony. If not, we will help connect you with one. Please keep in mind it is customary for the bride and groom to give the officiating pastor and any other staff an honorarium for the services they provide both in pre-marital counseling and in helping to prepare the marriage ceremony and message. Suggested honorariums for a wedding:

Officiant for a wedding (including rehearsal)—a minimum of \$200

Musician for a wedding—a minimum of \$150

Sound Tech for a wedding—\$100 minimum depending on complexity and length of the wedding this should be higher.

CHOOSING A HIGHLAND CAMPUS

We have four campus locations: Marathon, Merrill, Wausau, and Weston to consider for your wedding ceremony. Highland will have the wedding room you choose set up with lecture style seating with a wide middle aisle for your wedding service. Decorating for the event can occur anytime after 8am on the Friday prior to a Saturday wedding. All decorations need to be removed after the wedding so the building is ready for church the next day. We do not charge for use of the facility.

PARTICIPATING IN PRE-MARITAL COUNSELING

We require couples to participate in at least 6 hours of pre-marital counseling that explore key issues of marriage including: understanding each other, spirituality, conflict resolution, finances, sexuality and others.

REHEARSAL

Typically our pastors like to have a rehearsal the evening prior to the wedding so that they can best understand the layout/decorations of the room as well as go through the many details with you and your bridal party. It would be customary to invite the pastor and his wife to a rehearsal dinner. Please be sure to include them in your rehearsal and wedding invitations so the pastor and wife know all the location and time details.

HAVING AN OUT OF TOWN OR OFF-SITE WEDDING?

It may be possible for a Highland Pastor to perform a marriage someplace other than Highland. In these instances, please plan to cover his additional expenses including gas, lodging and meals. These expenses are not covered by the church.

UNIQUE SITUATIONS

We understand that not every family situation looks the same. We know that people may come to know the saving grace of the Lord and realize some lifestyle choices may need to change but be in a living situation that doesn't fit our guidelines. If you feel your wedding situation is unique and that you are willing to have a conversation about it we would encourage you to reach out to us.

WANTING TO USE A HIGHLAND CAMPUS AND USE AN OUTSIDE PASTOR?

We are not able to accommodate weddings for those outside the Highland Church body and/or to rent the facility for weddings using only an outside pastor due to facility and schedule constraints.

HOW TO SCHEDULE A WEDDING

The first step if you would like to use a Highland campus is to contact Jolene Fenwick at jfenwick@highlandcommunitychurch.com.

If you are having an off-site wedding and would like to use the services of a Highland Pastor who you know then please feel free to reach out to them directly. Each pastor keeps his own calendar.