



St. John's Lutheran Church Wedding Policy

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Dear Couples,



St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church is honored you have committed yourselves to each other for the rest of your lives and wish to marry in our church.

A church wedding is a worship service, in which the couple, in the presence of God and the gathered assembly, publicly declare their love for each other and earnest desire to build a future together. It also demonstrates that you understand the assembled congregation shares your joy and joins with you in asking God to bless your marriage.

This brochure has been written by the Church Council. Its purpose is to help you plan your wedding service at St. John's in accordance with our policies. During your pre-marital counseling sessions, the pastor will discuss these points with you. Any expectations must be disclosed and cleared with the Pastor. Please read carefully so that you are clear on what is expected of you as well as what you can expect from St. John's Lutheran Church.

God bless your future together,

The congregation of St. John's Lutheran Church

St. John's Lutheran Church, 229 S. First St. Pearl City, IL 61062

Ever Loving, Caring Always





Overview of Policy Booklet



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- Pre-marital Counseling
- Officiating



Planning the Wedding Service

- Music and Musicians
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- Photography and Videography



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- Members and Non-Member rates

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Getting Started



Setting the Date

Before you make plans, be sure to reserve the date for the wedding and for the rehearsal by contacting the parish administrator. It is important you clear these dates and times before making other arrangements such as invitations, etc. Unless an exceptional should occur, a minimum of a 90-day notice is required.

"Love is patient, love is kind" 1 Corinthians 13:4

Pre-Marital Counseling

All couples married at St. John's Church are required to meet with the pastor for pre-marital counseling. Pre-marital counseling will begin at least 6 months prior to the wedding to ensure enough time to complete the sessions. Pre-marital counseling is designed to help couples get the best possible start in marriage. Couples may be asked to complete one or more counseling tools. Any costs incurred by the use of tools will be paid for by the couple. During the counseling sessions the pastor and the couple should be in mutual agreement with all aspects of the wedding ceremony (music, readings, vows, etc.). It is understood that the pastor will have the final decision should a disagreement arise.

Officiating at the Wedding

It is understood that the pastor of St. John's will officiate at the wedding. If the couple would like additional clergy to participate, this must be discussed and prearranged during pre-marital counseling sessions. In case of a pastoral vacancy at St. John's, the officiating pastor will be approved by the Church Council.



Planning the Wedding Service



Music and Musicians

Kathy Hillmer (443-2852) or Karen Bremmer (443-2478) are St. John's organists who are available for weddings. It is St. John's Council recommendation to use these individuals for weddings. They are familiar with the lighting, the organ and the sound system and can be available to assist in these areas. The expected fee is included in this packet. You are also welcome to arrange for other musicians. The couple is responsible for contacting, making arrangements, and paying all musicians.

Altar Paraments

The altar paraments are determined by the season of the church year. As a wedding is occurring during a particular season, the paraments for that season will be used during the wedding. Please check with the pastor for the liturgical colors.

Wedding Rehearsal

A wedding rehearsal will be scheduled prior to the wedding day. Usually occurring the evening before the wedding. All participants in the wedding must attend this rehearsal and are expected to be on time and sober. Anyone drinking, intoxicated or high during either the wedding rehearsal or the wedding will be removed. It is the responsibility of the couple to schedule and arrange for the wedding party to be at the rehearsal. The pastor will direct the rehearsal.





Planning the Wedding Service continued

Use of the Church Building

It will be the sole responsibility of the wedding party to leave the church and premises in the same condition as they found them. Nails, tape, and other adhesives which will in any way damage surfaces will not be used. There will be no moving of sanctuary furniture without specific permission. All decorations and belongings of the wedding party and guests must be removed from the church building immediately after the service. If you wish to leave a flower arrangement for the weekend service in honor of your wedding, you may do so. Damage to the church building or garbage left in the building will result in additional usage fees charged to the couple.

Seating capacity of St. John's is 225 persons. If more guests are expected to attend the wedding, a church with a larger capacity will need to be selected.

St. John's center aisle is 65 feet long. If you desire to use an aisle runner, we strongly encourage one made of real fabric, not interfacing-type materials. The runners made of interfacing are quite light, blow with the fans, tear when people walk on them, and are very difficult to keep in place.

Photography and Videography

We recommend photographers speak with the pastor prior to the ceremony so they can discuss how best to capture memories in our sanctuary without detracting from the service. Videography is allowed as long as the camera is placed on a stationary tripod in an inconspicuous place. Livestreaming is also allowed.





Fees



Building Usage Fee

Member \$100

Non-Member \$400

Includes custodian fees, utilities, and printing of bulletins.



St. John's Musician

Member \$100

Non-Member \$100

Soloist

Member \$75

Non-Member \$75

Honorarium for Pastor

Member \$175

Non-Member \$175



These fees must be paid by the start of the wedding rehearsal by cash or check. Failure to do so will delay the rehearsal. Please write out a separate check to each party.





Wedding Policy Addendum

Be it resolved, we the congregation of St. John's Lutheran Church, Pearl City, IL in light of the Religious Freedom and Marriage Fairness Act, in effect as of June 1, 2014, in the state of Illinois, as well as the Supreme Court decision, Obergefell ET AL. v. Hodges, Director, Ohio Department of Health, ET AL, on June 26, 2015 allowing same-sex couples to legally marry, do add the following addendum to our Wedding Policy:

Same-sex couples licensed by the state of IL to marry, may use our sanctuary and church facilities for their wedding. (All weddings are subject to the wedding policies and procedures of St. John's Lutheran Church. All weddings are subject to the discretion of the pastor, but no couple shall be denied marriage based solely on sexual orientation or gender identity.)

Miscellaneous

No animals will be allowed in the wedding rehearsal or wedding ceremony with the exception of service animals.

It is understood that weddings will not take place during Holy Week.

No tossing of bird seed or rice.

