
Getting Married at Faith

Our Core Values

We are a Church that is . . .

*Biblically Based
and
Culturally Relevant*

Our Ministry is . . .

*Centered on Grace
and
Reliant on Prayer*

Our People are . . .

*Called and Gifted by God
and
Living and Strengthened
in Community*

Our Faith is . . .

*Personally Experienced
and
Practically Applied*

Faith Lutheran Church is a pro-life, pro-marriage and pro-family church. Because God takes marriage seriously, we also take marriage very seriously.

We believe that marriage belongs to God. It was His idea as demonstrated in His creating Adam and Eve for each other. He sent His Son Jesus Christ to die upon the cross in order to pay the debt for the sins that destroy the joys of marriage. He alone is the one Who can give us the strength through the power of the Holy Spirit to love and forgive each other in marriage.

It is God's intent that a Christian marry only another Christian (2 Corinthians 6: 14-16). Therefore, all of our pre-marital programs and counseling will be from the Christian perspective and we will only marry couples where both parties profess a belief and trust in Jesus Christ as the forgiver of their sins and the leader of their life.

God's intent is for married couples to remain together as husband and wife until death separates them. Marriage is the foundation for the human community and the building block for godly families. We, as a congregation, pray that as you enter into marriage, you will prayerfully ask God the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit to be present in your individual lives as well as in your relationship as a couple.

"But at the beginning of creation God 'made them male and female.' For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh.' So they are no longer two, but one. Therefore, what God has joined together, let man not separate."

Mark 10:6-9

Our Wedding Policy

Faith, as a community of believers in Jesus Christ, recognizes it has both the privilege and the responsibility to perform marriages that are God-pleasing. The marriage ministry of Faith seeks to glorify God and encourage one another. When a couple wishes to be married, we are concerned that we minister to them as fully as we can. Therefore, we offer these policies as guidelines for our ministry.

Couples wishing to be married at Faith, should desire a married life that is truly Christian. Evidence of the couple's desire to build a God-pleasing home should be demonstrated in their openness to the ministry of Faith. Because of the size of our congregation, and the desire to provide a quality marriage experience, we must limit the marriage ministry to those that are worshipping with us on a regular basis, members or non-members. Those that are new to Faith should worship with us for 5 weeks before considering Faith as a place to have their wedding.

Our pastors, while having the authority to perform marriages, are not obligated to do so. Our pastors will not conduct marriages when there are signs of indifference to the Christian faith, impenitence or anti-Christian beliefs, immorality or disregard for regular worship. Our goal is to build a healthy and Christ-centered marriage love that lasts for a lifetime. In order to do this, we have a marriage program to equip couples in developing, maintaining and nurturing a successful and joyful marriage. This includes worship, counseling classes and mentoring.

Re-Marriage

The Bible teaches that marriage is God's idea and it is His intent for those who get married to continue to work on their relationship, applying love and forgiveness until death separates them. Divorce is the willful ending of a marriage before death. Jesus called "divorce" and/or the situation surrounding it what it really is . . . sin.

Since God's intent for marriage is that it be for a lifetime, we do not encourage divorce. We wholeheartedly support marriage and offer continual opportunities to prepare for, to enhance and to enrich marriages. Our ministry is always to encourage the healing of broken relationships. However, divorce is a fact of life because of the sinful nature of people. Therefore, after a "relationship" has been broken, our ministry then focuses on the "person" who has been broken. Jesus offers forgiveness of sins to individuals who sincerely ask for it. Depending on an individual's circumstances, and their acknowledgement that there is a need for forgiveness, we will counsel a divorced person thinking about a new marriage. Where there is repentance and the conclusion that reconciliation is not possible, then we will commit to marry them.

When the parties in a marriage are both members of Faith and where the divorce occurs, for the sake of wisdom and good order, it is usually best that only one remains a member and that we direct our ministry to the one who is remaining. The pastors and elders of the church will determine through prayer and discussion how God's wisdom would lead in each individual case.

Sex, Living Together and Marriage

God has a special gift for every couple that He brings together in marriage—the gift of sex. However, with His gift there are some guidelines. God’s word is clear when it states that marriage has been established by God as His way for a couple to demonstrate their love and commitment to one another and to Christ.

Sex is an incredible gift that God has given to a couple for marriage. This biblical thought is not always popular in our modern society. Often our culture says things like: “Why could this be wrong when it feels so right” or “If we don’t live together, how do we know we’ll be compatible?” Outside of marriage, God calls sex what it is . . . sin. . . disobedience to God. We believe that sex before marriage and living together is not the way God has chosen for His people.

God wants to give you the very best for your marriage. In order to experience that fullness of the blessing—we must follow God’s design for the gift. Modern psychology is now finding this out about God’s wisdom. Statistical evidence states people that live together are more likely to get divorced after marriage than those who have not lived together.

Our God, who has never changed, offers practical wisdom for everyday life today. He not only strengthens us to live a life that honors Him, but also guides us out of His everlasting love for us.

“God wants you to be holy, so you should keep clear of all sexual sin. Then each of you will control your body and live in holiness and honor—not in the lustful passion as the pagans do, in their ignorance of God and His ways. . . God has called us to be holy, not to live impure lives. Anyone who refuses to live by these rules is not disobeying human rules but is rejecting God, who gives His Holy Spirit to you.”

1 Thessalonians 4:3-8

“You may say that, ‘I am allowed to do anything.’ But I reply, ‘Not everything is good for you.’ . . . Run away from sexual sin! No other sin clearly affects your body as this one does. For sexual immorality is a sin against your own body. Or don’t you know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who lies in you and was given to you by God? You do not belong to your self, for God bought you with a high price. So you must honor God with your body ”
1 Corinthians 6: 12a, 18-20

As followers of Christ, our lives belong to Christ. All that we do is to be a reflection of our relationship with Him. We look to Him for guidance, direction and most of all, forgiveness. He stands not as a judge, but as a Savior offering forgiveness and guidance for our lives. No matter what your past, God offers a “fresh start”.

“No matter how deep the stain of your sins, I can remove it. I can make you as clean as freshly fallen snow. Even if you are stained as red as crimson, I can make you white as snow. Isaiah 1:18

“If we say we have no sin, we are only fooling ourselves and refusing to accept the truth. But if we confess our sins to Him, He is faithful and just to forgive us and cleanse us from every wrong.”
1 John 1:8-9

We take the issue of church membership very seriously. God has already established that living together before marriage is against His will. A “fresh start” is not always easy, but it is always worthwhile. If you need help to make the necessary “next steps” before your wedding, please take time to discuss it with a pastor when you meet with him. They are here to serve and assist you to be the people God wants you to be. Therefore, you place us in a compromising position if you ask us to marry you while living together.

Expectations & Requirements

We are delighted that you desire to get married here at Faith Lutheran Church. Our goal is to equip every couple to have a Christ-centered and love-filled lasting marriage. We want to give every couple the tools to build a successful marriage. Pre-marital ministry is not designed to talk you “into” or “out of” marriage. The decision to marry rests with you as a couple. The following pre-marital requirements are designed to assist you in exploring various aspects of your relationship in marriage.

You should expect to be challenged, strengthened, educated and better prepared for your upcoming marriage. You will probably experience some laughs, some tears and some pleasant surprises! May God richly bless you as you embark on this exciting journey together!

1. Worship

The love and forgiveness that are the center of Christian worship are also the center of your Christian marriage. Weekly worship is not a ritual, but a relationship with Christ. It is a chance to worship our Savior and look to Him for help in our life. God’s desire is to give you practical guidance in your daily life, help you know Him more, and strengthen you in your relationship with each other. God never calls people to be “Lone Ranger” Christians; He calls us to be a part of a local community of believers. We were created to have a relationship with God and to be connected with others in His church. Developing the habit of weekly worship is foundational for a successful marriage.

2. “2=1”

for Nearly-Wed & Newly-Weds

We offer a pre-marital enrichment class in which each couple can explore the Scriptures to find insights for their marriage. The class will run for 11 weeks and you will have the opportunity to meet with other couples and share various studies.

“**Prepare**” is an inventory designed to help you build upon the strengths you have as a couple and to assist you in more clearly identifying areas of your relationship that may be problematic or in need of enrichment. The cost for this inventory program is \$35. This inventory is given during the first week of the “2=1” Class and is referred to continuously throughout the class.

3. Membership Class

This four week class will enable you to hear the basics of the Christian faith, learn more about Faith Lutheran Church, and basic scriptural truths that will make a difference in your everyday life. It is offered at various times throughout the year. coming to the class does not mean that you have to become a member of Faith. Make your decision after the class is completed.

4. T.J.T.A.

The pastor will use the “Taylor-Johnson Temperament Analysis” to help you take a closer look at your individual temperaments and how they will blend in the context of marriage. You will complete the analysis 2 to 3 months prior to your wedding and the pastor will review the results with you.

After You're Married

KEEPING A MARRIAGE STRONG

Marriage is all about community. Community with Christ, with each other and with your Christian family at Faith. We encourage you to experience Christian community by participating in worship, getting connected in a small group and growing through marriage enrichment programs.

Worship

Every Christian couple needs to stay active in their worship life. We pray that as Christians you will worship not only out of obedience to God's commandment but also out of a desire to celebrate Christ's love in your life. Your faith is one of the best support systems for your marriage. Allow God's Spirit to nurture and bring your faith to maturity by opening up your life to the Word and Sacraments.

Small Groups

Faith Lutheran is a very large congregation and we want everyone to connect with a smaller group of Christian friends. A "Faith Group" is a place to call "home" where you can connect with other couples, share experiences and grow in your relationship with Christ. There are a number of groups meeting in various locations. Contact Don Hanney, Director of Community at 248-689-4713 Ext. 300, to find a couples group in your area or contact Harry Krupsky at 248-689-4713 Ext. 207.

Couples Retreat

We encourage you to participate in this retreat within the first two years of marriage.

The retreat is a Friday–Sunday getaway retreat. A unique combination of praise, worship, instruction, study, application, drama and prayer—all woven together in a way that will leave you forever changed! Always new and comfortably familiar, the retreat is something you will want to do year after year.

Summary of Things To Do

To begin the process, read through this booklet and commit to:

1. Practice weekly worship and complete the "Worship Attendance" card in the pew rack every week. If you are new to Faith, attend worship at least 5 times to be sure that Faith is the church for you.
2. Commit to our Expectations & Requirements. Complete the Marriage Application and return it to the Church Office.
3. Pastor will contact you for your pre-marital interview. Interviews are scheduled Monday through Thursday, between 9 am and 4 pm. In order to complete all of our Marriage Ministry Expectations and requirements, interviews should be scheduled at least 6 months prior to your wedding date.

**The wedding date will not be confirmed until this meeting time with the pastor.*

CHAPEL/WORSHIP CENTER AVAILABILITY

All Friday and Saturday weddings will be held in the Chapel. Weddings may be scheduled in the Worship Center only on Sundays (late afternoon) and are subject to Worship Center availability. Rehearsals in the Worship Center are also subject to Worship Center availability. It is recommended that you send in your reservation request early to ensure the date is available. **Reservations may take up to one month for approval.**

FEEES

All fees are due at the time of the wedding rehearsal and fees should be inserted in separate envelopes.

Fee Schedule:

◆ Facility Fee	\$200
◆ Music Leader	\$100
◆ Soloist /Musician	\$ 75 (each)
◆ Tech—Chapel	\$ 50
◆ Tech—WC	\$225
◆ Wedding Coordinator	\$100
◆ Pastor	\$_____

Before the Wedding

MARRIAGE LICENSE

You must have a legal “Marriage License” (obtained from the County Clerk’s Office) before a marriage service can be performed. The license is good for 30 days. **Deliver the license to the Church Office one week prior to your wedding date.**

MUSIC

It is the responsibility of the couple to make the necessary musical arrangements through our Director of Music., Dee Dee Davis at 248-689-4713 Ext. 220. Make an appointment, 4 to 6 months before your wedding, to determine the music for the processional, recessional, solos, hymns and instruments etc.

The wedding service that you are planning is different from many other wedding services in that it is a Christian wedding. The wedding ceremony should be characterized not only by dignity, reverence and joy, but by the very Spirit of Christ Himself. The Christian wedding service is a joyful act of God-directed, Christ-centered worship. It is God that should be uppermost in your wedding service and in the hearts and minds of those who attend.

With these thoughts in mind, the music should be chosen with care and should keep Christ as the focus of the service. The words and music contribute to the worship atmosphere of the service. The words of the songs should correspond to themes which are appropriate in a Christian marriage, for example, God’s love for the church displayed through Christ, forming the foundation for the love a man and a woman share; God’s blessing for the marriage; and the praise of God expressed when Christians rejoice. You will meet with the pastor to coordinate all other aspects of your wedding service.

WEDDING COORDINATOR

The Wedding Coordinator assists the pastor and the couple in coordinating all of the details associated with the wedding service. The coordinator will contact you 3-6 months prior to your wedding to determine your needs and answer any questions regarding building use, decorations and pictures in the Chapel. The coordinator will oversee the rehearsal and wedding day flower set-up and clean-up etc. The Wedding Coordinator will help you with all of the “wedding day details” so you can relax and enjoy the day.

DECORATIONS

The Chapel has little need for ornate decorations. Flowers are always in good taste and serve to enhance the beauty of God’s altar. The flowers are placed on the altar or on stands. Many couples order a white runner (100 feet) from their florist to be used in the center aisle. This is optional and the couple’s responsibility. The Unity Candle (one large and 2 small) is also optional and the responsibility of the couple. All other candles must be “dripleless”.

PICTURES/VIDEOS

No flash pictures are allowed in the Chapel during the wedding service. We want nothing to interrupt the dignity and beauty of the service. A picture may be taken unobtrusively from the back of the Chapel and pictures are allowed outside the Chapel in the lobby.

Make arrangements with the Wedding Coordinator for pictures after the wedding service in the Chapel.

It is the couple’s responsibility to review these requirements with the photographer. If the service is being video taped, consult with the pastor on camera positioning.

PROPER CONDUCT

It is expected that members of the wedding party will recognize that the church is the House of God and will conduct themselves at all times in a manner befitting the atmosphere of a place of worship. Members of the wedding party are not to have intoxicating drinks prior to the rehearsal or wedding service. Inasmuch as the wedding itself is a church service, all due propriety must be shown. Where evidence of intoxication is apparent, that individual will not be permitted to participate in the wedding service. No alcoholic beverage may be served on the church premises at any time. Smoking is not allowed in the building. Confetti, rice, birdseed or any other hard to pick up substances are not to be thrown in the church building or on the church property. Helium balloons must remain outside at all time. Ushers must make sure these guidelines are followed.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Music Director

Dee Dee Davis
248-689-4713 Ext. 220

Head Wedding Coordinator

Patty Fargo
248-689-4713 Ext. 200

County Clerk

Oakland

1200 N. Telegraph
Pontiac, MI
248.858.0571

Macomb

40 N. Main
Mt. Clemens, MI
586-469-5210



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Weekend Services

Saturday 6 pm | Sunday 9:15 am & 11 am

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