

WEDDING GUIDELINES

Resurrection Lutheran Church
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Marriage is a Gift from God

Holy Scripture first illustrates the marriage relationship in the Garden of Eden (Genesis 1 & 2), set out as a lifelong relationship between a man and a woman. In the Bible, the sacred institution of marriage is used to describe the enduring faithfulness and love of Jesus Christ to the Church.

Marriage as Worship

To have a Christian wedding is to worship. In the worship service, Jesus Christ is the focus and center of what occurs. Words and music are either God speaking to the worshipers, or the worshipers speaking to God. Even the vows are given in the presence of God, asking for God's blessing.

Guidelines for Resurrection Lutheran Church Weddings

As happy an occasion as almost any marriage ceremony might appear to be, at times RLC pastors must decline the request to perform a wedding. The reasons are related to our understanding of the Scriptures and the dictates of conscience. While every situation is unique, the following guidelines do shape the view of the church and its pastors.

- A marriage is the mutual commitment of one man to one woman for one lifetime.
- A previous marriage will be addressed by what the Scriptures have to say on the topic of reconciliation and forgiveness.
- A church wedding is between two baptized, believing, and practicing Christians. Any departure from this which may be in accordance with Scripture and conscience is, nonetheless, performed by exception.

Time and Space Realities

We also find it impossible to honor all requests for weddings due to time and space limitations. In the use of our facilities, members of Resurrection Lutheran Church are given priority until six months before a specific date. After this, regular attenders and near relatives of members are considered. We also welcome those of LCMS Southeastern District Circuit 13 West congregations who may need a facility like ours. Those not fitting these descriptions are generally refused not on spiritual grounds, but due to time and space limitations.

Setting the Date and Time

The first step toward setting the date of a wedding is to contact the church office for availability of the facilities, and a pastor for a specific date and time. **The dates for the ceremony and rehearsal must be cleared with the pastor's schedule and the church calendar. Invitations should not be engraved, nor shall reception places be booked, until the date has been reserved and the pastor has agreed to perform the ceremony.** Usually only one of our pastors is involved in a couple's wedding service, and only one wedding per day is normally scheduled in the sanctuary. Saturday weddings must begin no later than 3:30 pm. Unavailable dates include Easter weekend, Christmas Eve & Christmas Day, Holy Week, and the Saturday before Reformation.

The rehearsal date is usually set at the same time the wedding date is confirmed. Allow 1½ hours for most wedding rehearsals.

Please schedule a time to meet with the pastor leading your wedding to establish a pre-marital counseling schedule. Each pastor uses a number of visits to help prepare couples for marriage.

The Church will be opened **1 hour** before rehearsal and **2 hours** before the wedding unless other arrangements are made.

If you would like the pastor and/or musicians to be present at a rehearsal dinner or wedding reception, please make that invitation as it is not assumed.

Use of Facilities

Room is available for the use of the bride and her attendants, as well as for the groom and ushers.

Our Fellowship Hall and Family Life Center is available for informal receptions and rehearsal dinners. There is a fee for non-members. Please check with the church office for availability. We allow alcohol only for toasts (champagne, etc.) and clean-up must be done by that evening.

We ask that you be responsible for removing all wedding items from the building and leaving the facility set-up for the next event. Custodial services will be needed, especially for larger weddings using many spaces.

Please contact our Director of Operations, Margaret Hyatt, to plan for custodial services and to make any inquiries you may need to make, regarding use of the building. You may contact her at the church office (919-851-7248).

Helps in Planning Your Wedding

The pastor will help you plan a worship service, considering your preferences, and adapting to amount of congregation participation. One style is simple ceremony of Scriptures, music, prayers, and vows with little participation from the congregation. Another style would include more participation from the congregation using hymns, Psalms, responsive prayers, etc.

Music

After your wedding date has been confirmed, you must call our Music Director Bob Unger, at 919-851-7248, ext. 25 as soon as possible to assist you in your music plans. Resurrection has available a Schantz two-manual, nineteen rank pipe organ and a Kawai grand piano. Other musicians, instrumentalists or vocalists may be available. The pastor and music director will work with the couple to determine need of organist, sound technician and soloist or other musicians.

Wedding Director

For members of Resurrection, the use of the church's wedding director is preferred, but not required. For non-members, it is required, and the wedding director should be contacted as soon as possible after setting the wedding date and time with the pastor. The wedding director will meet with you to go over wedding details in accordance with the traditions of our sanctuary, suggest local florists, photographers, caterers etc., and handle other requests of the wedding party. While we would not share a service or business with which we have been displeased, this in no way constitutes a recommendation of any kind. MaryAnn Unger (919-239-9084) is our wedding director. Her fee covers all consultations and directing and ministering to you both during the rehearsal and wedding/worship service.

Choosing the Bulletin/Program

Our church office has access to a number of publishers from which you may wish to order bulletins. You may also wish to check with local Christian stores. The publishing and printing of the bulletin is the responsibility of the wedding couple. The church office has a few sample bulletins on file if this is helpful. ***The couple should provide a copy of their proposed bulletin to the pastor for review before submitting it for printing.***

Decorations

A wedding in the church can be simple and inexpensive or it can be more elaborate, with simple being preferable. The altar and rail remains free of decorations at all times. Decorations of other areas of the sanctuary are freely welcomed in consultation with the Wedding Director. The church furnishings may not be moved from their established positions for the sake of decorative effect. Seasonal liturgical hangings will also remain in place. A wedding banner is available - ask the Wedding Director. Flowers/ candelabras may be placed on either side of the altar. Flowers may also be placed on the shelf behind the altar, in front of the pulpit, or in front of the baptismal font.

Video and Pictures

Please plan to have your photographer contact the Pastor or Wedding Director at least by rehearsal night for specific guidelines. In general, there are no flash pictures during worship, and all video is from a fixed, inconspicuous position. The wedding couple should notify family and friends of our photographic guidelines as well. After the ceremony, various portions of the service may be re-enacted for the sake of photographs and video. Please contact the wedding director for a list of those available to videotape the wedding/worship service.

Live Streaming

Wedding services can be live streamed of a live stream team is available on the wedding date. The live stream team is comprised of 2 people – a camera operator and a producer. An additional camera operator can be requested if needed.

The live stream will be available through the church's YouTube channel. The live stream can stay viewable on the church's channel for up to 24 hours after the event. After this time, the event becomes private. Once private, the specific URL for viewing can be made available to you. A recording of the event can also be made. Please provide a thumb drive (minimum 16 MB) if you would like a copy.

Once again, you may contact Margaret Hyatt in the church office if you would like to request this service.

About Throwing Rice, Birdseed, Petals, etc.

Wedding guests are asked to kindly refrain from throwing rice, birdseed, or petals anywhere on the property.

Articles of Clothing and Items Left

Articles of clothing and items of any kind will be held at the church for two weeks.

Remunerations	<u>Members</u>	<u>Non-Members</u>
Use of Sanctuary	-0-	\$400
Church Organist/Pianist	\$200	\$250
Sound Technician	\$75	\$75
Wedding Director	\$200	\$250
Soloist	\$125	\$125
Custodian	\$100	\$125
2 Person Live Stream	\$300	\$300
Use of Fellowship Hall	-0-	\$400
or Family Life Center		
Pastoral honorarium	\$300	\$300

*(Because the pastoral honorarium is an honorarium rather than a fee, the listed amount is a recommended minimum.
Compensation should take into account premarital counseling services also.)*

All fees for use of the main sanctuary, Family Life Center and Fellowship Hall should be paid to the church 30 days prior to the wedding. All other compensation may be submitted at the time of the wedding rehearsal.

A Final Word

These guidelines are given in a spirit of joy and love. We celebrate with you at this special time in your life. We pledge ourselves to support you in your newly married life in any way possible. The pressures on family and married life today are many. The church wants you to grow more and more in faith and love toward God, toward one another, and toward all.

Last Revised 7/12/21