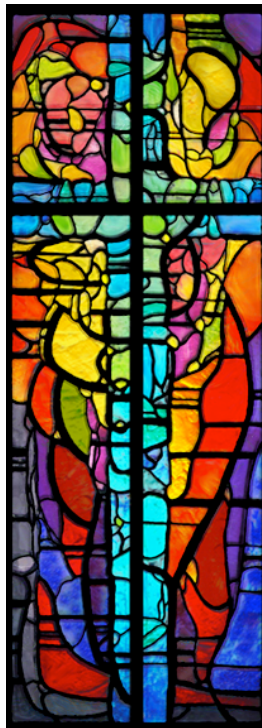


Bethel Lutheran Church Wedding Guidelines & Preparation Packet



4501 Hoover Road
Grove City, OH 43123
614.875.0510
www.bethel-lutheran.org

Dear Friends:

Congratulations!

May God bless your intended union.

We are glad that you are considering Bethel Lutheran Church as the place for your wedding. This booklet is designed to give you some basic information, including fees, and other expectations.

Please fill out the “Wedding Application” if you would like to continue this process and enter into a more formal arrangement.

Personally, I look forward to getting to know you and assisting you to build a strong foundation on which you will build your marriage.

Don't hesitate to call me if you have any questions or concerns, God bless you and your life together!

Rev. Peter I. Ray, Pastor

Bethel Lutheran Church Wedding Guidelines

Ceremony

1. Lutherans understand marriage, and especially the love it is based upon, to be a gift from God. Since it is a gift from God, Lutherans treat marriage with respect and honor. The ceremony, therefore, is first and foremost a worship service. During the service we will give thanks for all God's blessings to us. We will remember God's faithfulness as the basis for the wedding vows.
2. The Order for Marriage, provided by official Lutheran resources, will be used as the basis for all weddings. It provides flexibility of music, length of service and congregational involvement. Celebration of the Holy Eucharist is encouraged, but optional, and if selected, will be extended to the entire congregation. The sacrament is never to be offered exclusively for certain persons in the wedding party.
3. Because marriage is a worship service, any special music or readings should be sacred in nature. "Love songs" by your favorite recording artists would be more appropriately planned for a reception. Readings and poems (other than from the Bible) need to be reviewed and approved by the Pastor.
4. The colors of the church year for worship furnishings do not change for weddings.
5. The altar and pulpit remain on the chancel, in their position based on the season of the church year. The baptismal font is permanently fixed in the center aisle. These are central furnishings of the community of faith and not to be rendered insignificant by other wedding furnishings.
6. Flowers and candles may be placed on in the chancel area with appropriate care for wax drippings and water damage to furnishings and floor surfaces.
7. Flash cameras are prohibited during the wedding service. No photography equipment shall be placed on or behind the chancel area during the worship service.
8. Should you choose to have your wedding videotaped, the videographer will need to speak to the pastor in order to find a position to the side of the sanctuary.
9. The scheduling of weddings will be done in coordination with the church calendar. Members shall have priority of scheduling up to 18 months in advance of the wedding. Non-members may reserve the sanctuary 12 months prior to their wedding with their deposit. Because of the penitential nature of the season, weddings are usually not held during Lent and never during Holy Week (Saturday of Palm Sunday through Easter).
10. The sanctuary seats approximately 225 people, but can be expanded to 275.
11. The church building is usually open 1 ½ hours prior to the start of the wedding. If a florist or the bridal party needs admission prior to this time, arrangements will need to be made in advance with the Pastor.

Pre-Marital Counseling

12. The understanding of marriage implies that some form of pre-marital counseling will benefit couples in planning for married life together. The pastor will meet with all couples for 2-3 counseling sessions. These sessions will provide you with the opportunity to meet with the pastor and plan the marriage service. In addition, you will be selecting the scripture lessons to be read, agreeing on the wording of your vows, music decisions, etc. Secondly, the premarital counseling sessions will give you an opportunity to explore your unique relationship. What are its strengths? How well do you communicate? How do you plan to mix the traditions that each of you brings from his or her family? How effectively do you affirm and show appreciate for one another?

Facilities

13. Please inform the bridal party that confetti, rose petals, rice, and/or birdseed are not to be thrown outside the church.
14. Please secure all belongings at the church. Bethel Lutheran Church is not responsible for stolen or lost belongings.

Rehearsal

15. There is typically a rehearsal prior to the wedding. Everyone in the wedding party and parents of the bride and groom should plan to be present and prompt.
16. Please bring the marriage license to the rehearsal. According to the laws of the State of Ohio, the wedding cannot take place unless the Pastor has possession of the license. All wedding fees are also given at this time.

Fees

A fee schedule is provided below. Since the upkeep of our facility is funded by the congregation's offerings, fees are different for members and non-members.

Non-Members:

Reservation Deposit *	\$200
Building Usage without Reception	\$500
Building Usage with Reception	\$600 (an additional \$200.00 damage deposit is required, which will be returned after the event should no damage occur.)

**Deposit will be deducted from total building usage fee.*

Members:

Building Usage	No Fee
Honorarium for the Pastor at the discretion of the family	

Organist:

Our organist, Mark Pinnick, has the "first right of refusal" to play for weddings held at Bethel Lutheran Church. Please contact Mark for a fee schedule, if you would like him to play for your wedding. Should you choose to have another organist or instrumentalists or musicians, a \$100 fee will be payable to Mark, as per American Guild of Organist guidelines. Please contact Mark directly for music arrangements. He can be reached at Mark@bethel-lutheran.org or at 614.875.0510.

Hardship consideration:

Bethel never desires to exclude the services of the church based on the ability to pay. If you cannot pay the expected fees, please consult the Pastor.

Wedding Application

This completed form along with your deposit, serves as your application. Once the church calendar has been checked for availability, the Pastor will inform you of your reservation.

Rehearsal Date and Time: _____

Wedding Date and Time: _____

Estimated Attendance: _____

Bride's Full Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Birthplace and Date: _____

Church Membership: _____

Previous Marriage? _____ Children? _____

Date Divorce Finalized (if applicable) _____

Groom's Full Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Birthplace and Date: _____

Church Membership: _____

Previous Marriage? _____ Children? _____

Date Divorce Finalized (if applicable) _____

OFFICE USE ONLY

Date Rec'd _____

Bethel Member? Bride Groom

Officiant: _____

Wedding Date Confirmed on Church Calendar? Rehearsal?

Deposit Amt _____ Date Paid _____

Balance _____ Date Paid _____

Special Instructions _____

Reception Hall Needed?

Flower Delivery: _____

Bride's Arrival Time: _____