



WEDDINGS

AT

CHISAGO LAKE

LUTHERAN CHURCH

P.O. Box 175
1 Summit Avenue
Center City, Mn. 55012
651-257-6300

A Marriage Ceremony at Chisago Lake Lutheran Church

We are delighted that you desire to be married at Chisago Lake Lutheran Church. This booklet is written as an aid for you as you make many decisions and arrangements leading up to your wedding day. Every congregation has its own written or unwritten definition of philosophy, theology, procedures, costs etc, regarding how they engage in marriage and wedding planning. We find it helpful for all involved that we write ours in this booklet so that couples may know what they may expect from us and what we may expect from them. This helps to remove unhappy surprises for all people involved and lays the foundation for a highly rewarding marriage and wedding celebration.

We understand that most who seek to celebrate their wedding here are members of this church and personally embrace the faith, marriage ceremony and liturgy of this Christian congregation. We also understand that some who desire to celebrate their wedding here are not members and may or may not embrace the same faith or liturgy. Member or not, Lutheran or not, Christian or not, we want all to know that it is our sincere desire to serve you in giving helpful and meaningful support to the celebration of your wedding and to a successful marriage.

Here are some general statements that Chisago Lake Lutheran Church believes about a Christian wedding service:

A wedding at Chisago Lake Lutheran Church is **worship**.

This is to say that we believe God wishes to be at the center of the covenant you make on your wedding day. People, music, text and vows, and the shape of worship itself finds its focus in Jesus. The dignity of marriage comes from the fact that you gather among friends to seek God's blessing on your new life as husband and wife.

A wedding at Chisago Lake Lutheran Church is corporate. Guests are invited to be participants. We invite all to listen, speak, sing and pray. Your wedding is not a performance, it is the family gathered to praise God for God's blessing, and hear you speak promises of fidelity to one another. In truth, God is the audience, and we the worshipers are the actors.

A wedding at Chisago Lake Lutheran Church is a time of proclamation. Our message is the Gospel news that God showers forgiveness, love and grace upon our lives through the Cross and Resurrection of Jesus Christ. Whenever the community gathers, it hears that Word, and it belongs to you as husband and wife.

A wedding at Chisago Lake Lutheran Church is a time of celebration. We gather to celebrate for you, with you, because of you, that Jesus Christ has blessed marriage with possibilities for lived-out grace and forgiveness. We rejoice in worship at God's goodness to you and us and at the joy you find in each other.

Please know that our ceremony does invite much creative planning involving the ideas and desires of the couple involved. But it is possible, especially if a couple does not understand or embrace our Christian faith tradition, that there could be some conflict. We want you to know that there are some elements that are fixed because of our faith and our particular Christian tradition, and we reserve the right that the Pastor has the final word if a disagreement needs to be settled. In the rare instance that a couple is anxious over what they think is a very unusual Christian ceremony idea that they dearly want in the service, and if they wonder if it is acceptable, it would be well to call the Pastor immediately.

Again, please be assured that we feel delighted and privileged to help couples celebrate this important event in their lives.

Pre-Wedding Service Planning and Pre-Marriage Planning

Planning for your wedding service and planning for a strong marriage are very different processes, and yet they are both part of planning well for your wedding day at Chisago Lake Lutheran. The following are some of the basic process steps we follow carefully in this congregation:

- 1) Call or stop by the church office as soon as you have decided your anticipated for wedding date and discuss with our Church Office Coordinator the possible availability of the church and pastor for that time. **You must meet with a Pastor within 30 days of receiving this booklet.** When you indicated the date you have in mind as a first choice, the Office Coordinator will tell you whether that is available. The date is not finalized until the following decisions are made:
 - a) The date is cleared by the staff.
 - b) The couple had read this booklet.
 - c) The couple meets with the wedding coordinator to discuss wedding expectations and signs the “Wedding Covenant” on the back page of this booklet. This signing indicates that the couple understands and accepts what we as a congregation are promising to provide for them as well as indicates that the couple understands and agrees to satisfy our expectations of them regarding the philosophy, theology, fees and pre-marriage relationship planning procedures and pre-wedding planning process outlined in this booklet.
 - d) A \$100 deposit fee is made for a firm holding of the wedding date is made.
- 2) Arrange for Pre-Marriage Relationship Planning: Each couple will be expected to attend a one-day, 7-hour pre-marriage seminar, called **Intimate Beginnings**. It is presented by a highly experienced licensed therapist in this field who works through Lutheran Social Service. The Seminar will provide excellent resources, insights and assistance in five areas: **I) Marriage as a covenant: Biblical foundations of Marriage; II) Appreciating ourselves, each other and our families of origin; III) The tasks of marriage; IV) Communication and conflict resolution; V) Sexuality and spirituality.**

For the convenience of most of you, we have scheduled Social Services to lead this seminar at **Chisago Lake Lutheran Church on Saturday, _____, from 8:30 a.m. 3:30 p.m.**

There is room for all couples scheduled to be married here this year. The cost is \$80.00 per couple. **Please call the office immediately so we can plan for you.** Make checks payable to: Chisago Lake Lutheran Church, and mail it or drop it by the church as soon as you have decided to attend. If this date is impossible for you to attend, please call Pastor Craig or Pastor Barb at the church office (651-257-6300) and they will call you of one or two other dates when the seminar is available in Eau Claire, Hudson or Rice Lake, Wisconsin. Please call him soon, since these seminars often have limited registration.. This is being revised.

- 3) Pre-Marriage Wedding Service Planning
Couples will meet with Pastor Craig or Pastor Barb and the Wedding Coordinator four to six weeks before the scheduled wedding day to talk through and plan the wedding service. Please call Pastor Barb or Pastor Craig a full month before the date you would like to schedule this planning meeting.
- 4) Couples should also plan to meet with our Organist, Marilyn Zahlstrom, (if you plan to use her services) at five or six weeks before the wedding. Please call the church office for instructions about how to set up an appointment with her.
- 5) The Wedding rehearsal is usually held on Friday the afternoon or evening before the wedding day. If a different time is desired, the couple should clear this expectation with the pastor and their wedding coordinator to be sure it is feasible for them.

**CANCELLED
FURTHER
NOTICE**

Music at Your Wedding

The selection of music should be made with the following guidelines in mind.

The wedding ceremony is an act of Christian Worship.

The Christian tradition provides the setting of the service: the language, the architecture, the symbolism, and the music all combine to express the faith, not simply of the couple being married, but also of the Christian community which is the Church.

The music should reflect and enhance the overall themes of the service. Some music is clearly very suitable for this purpose; other music is just as clearly unsuitable. One convenient guide is to ask yourself if the music would seem appropriate for a service of worship.

Classical sacred music or contemporary Christian music would be appropriate for the wedding service. Music texts that make no direct reference to God can still be appropriate for use at the reception. CD's, taped music or accompaniments are not permitted for the service. The Organist has many samples of music selections to choose from if you need help. She is very willing to work with all couples, with lots of ideas to share.

All music must be approved at least four weeks prior to the wedding. The implementation of these guidelines is left to the discretion of the Organist.

The Organist

Our resident organist is to first play at all marriage worship services. Any consideration of an exception to this rule must be first discussed with our organist.

The Soloist

The organist will be at church one hour before the wedding service to practice with your soloist.

Photographs at Your Wedding

While it is nice to have an audio and pictorial remembrance of your wedding, the solemnity and sacred meaning can be overshadowed as you try to orchestrate the event for the camera.

Because of their obvious intrusion and possible distraction, no flash pictures may be taken during the service. A flash picture or two may be taken as the bride enters the church during the procession and as the couple exits during the recession. They should be taken from the entry and exit areas, not from the central/front worship area. The photographer should be done with all photos one-half hour before start of the ceremony.

Video Camera

Videotaping is to be done from the balcony, or set video in the doorway to right, inside of the altar railing or seated in a pew.

Florist's Supplies

Talk to the wedding coordinator if you wish to have flower stands for your wedding. White aisle runners, if desired, are purchased from your florist. Floral petals scattered on carpet must be artificial. Coated wires or pipe cleaners must be used on any bows attached to pews or aisle standards.

Use of the Church for Wedding Reception

The Wedding Coordinator will give you a tour of the kitchen and discuss with you any questions you may have. The Fellowship Hall seats 175 people comfortably.

Candles

Altar candles and the aisle standards (12) can be arranged through the coordinator. The Unity candle and two side candles are purchased and brought on rehearsal night by the couple. A “unity candle stand” is put up in sanctuary for your candles.

Licenses

The couple is to obtain the license up to six months before the wedding day from any courthouse in the State of Minnesota. Please leave in the church office your marriage license no later than Wednesday before the night of rehearsal.

Church Policies

- Chisago Lake Lutheran Church is a smoke-free building. No smoking is permitted in the church complex.
- Alcoholic Beverages may NOT be served in the church complex or on church grounds. There is to be NO consumption of alcoholic beverages either before the rehearsal or the wedding service.
- Please do not throw rice or birdseed or helium balloons.
- NO food or beverages are allowed in the sanctuary.
- Altar paraments or seasonal décor will not be changed for weddings.

Chisago Lake Lutheran Church is a public building with free access to outsiders during the events such as your wedding. For this reason, we cannot accept responsibility for any personal possessions such as purses and other valuables left unattended while you are in the church. We suggest you arrange for others in your party to look after them during the wedding

ORDER OF SERVICE

Your Worksheet

If you are planning to have a bulletin printed for your wedding, below is the order of service with proper wording to be used. In parenthesis are some additions that are optional:

The Prelude (Organ and/or vocal and/or instrumental):

The Processional:

The Invocation:

Prayer:

(Solo or Congregational Hymn):

The Lessons: 1 or 2

The Wedding Meditation/Address/Sermon: Gospel & sermon

(Solo or Congregational Hymn):

The Vows:

The Exchange of Rings:

The Declaration of Marriage:

(Solo or Congregational Hymn):

(Candle Ceremony):

The Wedding Blessing:

The Prayers:

The Lord's Prayer

The Benediction:

The Recessional:

If Holy Communion is shared, the whole congregation will be invited to join in communion. Our church also has a selection of wedding bulletin covers available that are ordered through our office from Augsburg Publishing or you may choose to make your own. A copy should be given to wedding coordinator at least 2 weeks before the wedding service.

SCRIPTURE LESSONS/BIBLE READINGS

While the coming together of a man and a woman in marriage is older than the Bible, biblical materials influence our concept of marriage and the wedding service. Many couples choose to include an appropriate passage or passages of scripture in an effort to express their spiritual heritage and to turn the service to words which address us as the human family.

You are encouraged to read the selections and choose the readings which will be most appropriate for your wedding. Of course, many other selections are possible from the Bible.

Genesis 1:26-31

Genesis 2:18-25

Psalms 67

Psalms 127

Psalms 134

Jeremiah 31:31-34

Romans 12:1-3,9-13

I Corinthians 13

Ephesians 3:14-21

Colossians 3:12-17

I John 3:18-24

I John 4:7-12

Matthew 5:2-4

Matthew 7:21, 24-29

Matthew 19:4-6

Matthew 22:35-40

John 2:1-11

John 15:11-17

**Chisago Lake Lutheran Church
Wedding Fees - member (rev. 5-4-06)**

Refundable Damage Deposit-\$100.00

USAGE FEES

Church Sanctuary
\$0

Kitchen (for reception)
\$75.00

Fellowship Hall (for reception)
\$75.00

CUSTODIAL FEE

Sanctuary
\$75.00

Kitchen, Fellowship Hall, Green room (if used for reception/rehearsal)
\$50.00

WEDDING FEES

Wedding Coordinator
\$150.00 (plus \$50.00 if reception is held in church)

Presiding Pastor
\$150.00

Organist
She has her own fees

Sound system tech.
\$75.00

Altar guild
Altar candles.....\$20.00
Aisle Standards with candles.....\$30.00

***Fees are subject to change without prior notice.**

**Chisago Lake Lutheran Church
Non member Wedding Fees (rev. 5-4-06)**

Refundable Damage Deposit-\$100.00

USAGE FEES

Church Sanctuary
\$500.00

Kitchen (for reception)
\$75.00

Fellowship Hall 9for reception)
\$75.00

CUSTODIAL FEE

Sanctuary
\$75.00

Kitchen, Fellowship Hall, Green room (if used for reception/rehearsal)
\$50.00

WEDDING FEES

Wedding Coordinator
\$200.00 (plus \$50.00 if reception is held in church)

Presiding Pastor
\$200.00

Organist
\$200.00

Sound system tech
\$75.00

Altar guild
Altar candles.....\$20.00
Aisle Standards with candles.....\$30.00

***Fees are subject to change without prior notice.**