



Planning Your
Marriage Service
at
Bethel

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Congratulations!

We celebrate with you as you plan your wedding with us at Bethel and begin a new chapter in your life together!

You are, by your promises planning to bind yourselves together in the presence of God and the congregation as husband and wife. This is a wonderful experience that you are planning for your family and friends, but most importantly, God. He is pleased when you make it a service of worship dedicated to His glory.

God instituted marriage because He saw marriage as a way of bringing two people together to share their journey to fulfillment. You are, and will remain, individuals. However, with your unique gifts, you can soon learn to respect each other as creations of a loving, gift-giving God. Such respect assists you to complement each other, while, at the same time, growing to be what God planned for you as individuals.

Christian marriage, as a way of glorifying God by developing your uniqueness, requires the presence of Christ. How wonderful marriage is when “two or three are gathered in His name”, experience Christ’s loving presence day after day.

You are to be commended for planning to have your wedding in a church. What a wonderful witness! It is like a confession of faith. It is in the church that Christians live out much of their lives. Confession, forgiveness, prayer, hearing of the Word, offering of our gifts, serving all take place among the people of God. You have chosen to begin your married life in that setting. Thank you!

Bethel's Wedding Guidelines

- Either the bride, groom, or both, must be a member of Bethel by the wedding date. If you are a prospective member of Bethel, you will need to attend New Member classes and join Bethel before your wedding. Contact Sheri Kallembach, 507-288-6430, for more information on membership.
- Weddings at Bethel are scheduled at one of the following times: 1 pm, and 4 pm. These times are set to allow enough time between multiple weddings on a Saturday. Friday evening weddings are subject to availability of sanctuary and pastor. If 90 days before your wedding there are no other weddings scheduled, you may depart from the schedule policy and choose a time of your liking, but no later than 4 pm.
- Contact Connie Post, 507-288-6430 or post@bethellutheran.com, to schedule your wedding or fill out our Online marriage request form by visiting our website bethellutheran.com/weddings



Pre-Marital Counseling

Pre-Marital Counseling is required of all couples planning a wedding at Bethel. The pastor officiating your wedding will contact you to set up individual meeting times. We will use an online assessment from the Prepare/Enrich program (www.prepare-enrich.com) as part of the counseling sessions. Your officiant will send you login information to complete the assessment. The assessment cost is under the fees section.

The pastor officiating your wedding will want to sit down with both of you to talk about planning, as well as other matters early in your planning agenda. You will need to speak with the pastor officiating to schedule this appointment.

Be sure to share with the pastor if any other clergy will be involved in your ceremony. Non-Lutheran clergy may participate, but a Bethel pastor will host all weddings.



Fees

- **Scheduling Fee:** A \$100.00 check (made out to Bethel Lutheran Church), cash or Venmo is required within 2 weeks of setting your wedding date. This fee is nonrefundable since it represents reserving a place on the calendar for your wedding, thereby excluding others from the same time.
- **Pre-Marital Fee:** There will be a \$35 fee for the Online assessment payable online.
- **Damage Deposit Fee:** A \$200.00 check (made out to Bethel Lutheran Church and dated the day of your wedding), cash or Venmo is required within 2 weeks of setting your wedding date.

The damage deposit fee is for violation of Bethel policies and/or damage to the facility (alcoholic beverages in or on the property, smoking in the church, throwing rice, birdseed or any other items that cannot be cleaned by the wedding party). The damage deposit fee will be returned unless Bethel's policies are violated or there is damage to the facility.

The Wedding Coordinator will contact you by phone or email one week after the wedding to let you know if any violations occurred. If there were no violations, your fee will be returned. Wedding couples: Be sure and communicate the above information to your wedding party and families.

Bethel's Venmo account:
@Bethel-Lutheran-Rochester
or scan the QR code.





- Honorarium for Pastor:
\$200.00 (cash or check written to Pastor).

- Fee for Soloist**:
\$125.00 (cash or check written to Soloist).

- Fee for Organist/Pianist**:
\$150.00 (cash or check written to Organist/Pianist).

**Please confirm fee with organist/pianist and soloist as fees vary depending the person. A list of soloist, organists/pianists and sound technicians are available by calling Bethel's Minister of Music, Brock Besse (507-288-6430).

- Sound Technician: \$50.00 (cash or check written to the sound technician). Call Jim Weaver, 507-259-7316.

- Video Technician: \$300.00 (cash or check written to video technician). Call Jim Weaver, 507-259-7316.

- Wedding Coordinator: \$150.00 (cash or check written to Cindy Bahler 2 months prior to your wedding, with 50% refundable until first meeting with coordinator, non-refundable after that).

PLEASE NOTE: Organist/pianist, soloist and the pastor's honorarium should be given to them the evening of the rehearsal.

The Rehearsal

The rehearsal is important and everyone in the wedding party should attend. Rehearsals are held the night before your wedding and must begin and end on time.

A rehearsal time is arranged in advance to make sure the Sanctuary is reserved and the pastor is available. The time can be adjusted if approved by the church office and the officiating pastor.

The Service

God instituted marriage. Out of His love, He called you together to express your love for each other. That love, centered in Jesus Christ, will be the central focus of your marriage service.

Because your marriage service is centered in Christ and is intended to praise God, it is a worship service. Your plans will want to reflect careful planning of a worship service that will assist you and your guests to bring glory to God. Your pastor is fully prepared to help you in this joyous effort.



Scripture

The scriptures you choose to have read at your marriage service are a way of telling others about your own faith, love and understanding of marriage. Choose your scripture readings with prayer as you decide to which you want to bear witness.

See the suggestions below. To read the full scriptures, feel free to visit our web page: bethellutheran.com/weddings. If you wish, the pastor will choose the scripture readings for you.

- Suggested Scripture Readings -

- *Old Testament* -

- Genesis 1:26-31
- Genesis 2:18-24
- Ruth 1:16-17
- Psalm 33
- Psalm 100
- Psalm 127
- Psalm 128
- Psalm 136
- Psalm 150
- Song of Solomon 2:10-13
- Song of Solomon 8:7
- Isaiah 63:7-9
- Ecclesiastes 4:9-12

- *New Testament* -

- Matthew 19:4-6
- Mark 10:6-9
- John 2:1-10
- John 15:9-16
- John 17:20-23
- Romans 12:1-2
- 1 Cor. 12:31-13:13
- Ephesians 5:21-23
- Colossians 3:12-15
- 1 John 4:7-12

Vows

The vows you choose to make to each other are shared publicly with your guests. They reflect your commitment to each other, but also make a statement about what your relationship will be like in the future.

- Possible Vows -

I take you, _____, to be my wife/husband. To have and to hold from this day forward, for better and for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health; to love and to cherish till death do us part.

I, _____ take you _____ to be my wife/husband from this day forward and these things I promise you: I will be faithful to you and honest with you; I will respect, trust, help, and care for you, I will share my life with you, through the best and worst of what is to come. I will love and cherish you until parted by death.

I, _____ take you, _____, to be my wife/husband, and these things I promise you: I will be faithful to you and honest with you; I will respect, trust, help and care for you; I will share my life with you; I will forgive you as we have been forgiven; and I will try with you to better understand ourselves, the world, and God; through the best and worst of what is to come, as long as we live.

I, _____ take you, _____, as my husband/wife in Christian marriage. I take you for what you are, what you will be and what we will become together. I will love you and trust you above all others as long as I live, and I will seek to become one with you as we live together sharing God's love.

I take you, _____/_____ to be my wife/husband from this day forward, to join with you and share all that is to come, and I promise to be faithful to you until death parts us.

Music

“Music selected (for weddings) should embody high standards of quality and ... reflect the praise of God, God’s steadfast love in Christ as the foundation of and model for marriage and the asking of God’s presence and blessing.”

- Guidelines -

Bethel Lutheran Church encourages you to utilize live music during worship, and that the holiness and integrity of the sanctuary be respected. Prerecorded music is strongly discouraged.

All music needs to be discussed with the pastor, the Minister of Music or the organist.

Secular music (that which does not lift up God’s presence and blessing) is strongly discouraged during the wedding ceremony.

Arrangements for the musicians and music are the responsibility of the couple to be married. Couples are invited to meet with Brock Besse, Minister of Music (507-288-6430), who will assist with the selection of music and musicians for the ceremony.

We encourage the guests of a wedding to participate in the service since they are a congregation and not an audience. The simple singing of a hymn can accomplish this. You are welcome to stop by the church office and borrow a hymnal if you need to.

- Organist / Pianist -

Jim Bahler: 507-202-2627

Please Note: A concert grand piano and a 73-rank pipe organ are available for use at your wedding.

Wedding Coordinator

A member of Bethel will serve as the coordinator of your wedding. This person will be of great service to you!

The coordinator will familiarize you with our wedding policy and the church building, answer your questions about use of the building and logistics of the wedding service, and assist you with details prior to and on the days of your rehearsal and wedding.

The coordinator will be in contact with you prior to your rehearsal to schedule a pre-wedding conference. The wedding coordinator may also lead your rehearsal, subject to pastor availability.

The Lead Wedding Coordinator is Cindy Bahler who can be contacted at either ckbahler@gmail.com or bahler@bethellutheran.com, or call 507-254-9263.



Candles

Bethel provides the Christ candle and the six altar candles. All other candles (including the unity candle) and candelabra are rented or purchased by the couple to be married.

All candelabras attached to the pews must have glass chimneys. Pew bows can be used but only with padded pew clips or loops of ribbon, pipe cleaner or other non-scratching material.

A unity candle stand is available at the church. Unity candle tapers should be 12 inches long, and the pillar candle should be 3 inches in diameter. The church does NOT provide the unity candle or the tapers.

Flowers

Flowers are not to be placed on the altar. Stands are available for all other flowers.

If flowers are going to be donated to the church for Sunday worship, contact Connie Post in the church office (507-288-6430), no later than two weeks before the service in order to receive appropriate recognition in the Sunday bulletin.

Pew Decorations

Tape of any kind is not allowed on the pews. Coated wire or pipe cleaners can be used to attach decorations to the pew.

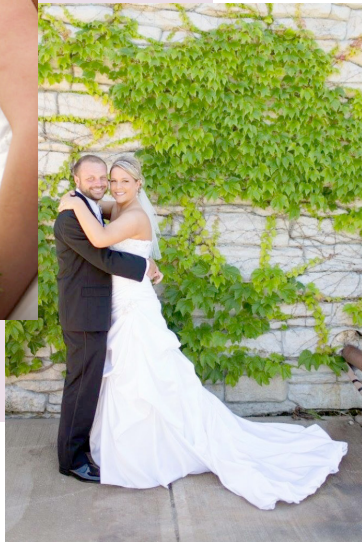
Pictures

Pictures must be taken before the ceremony.

Any departure from this must be approved by the pastor.

It is imperative that all picture taking is stopped 30 minutes before the wedding to allow for ushering people and other preparations.

No flash pictures are allowed during the ceremony by congregation members and your photographer. If you or your photographer move anything for your pictures, it is your responsibility to see that those items moved are put back in their proper place. Please inform your photographer of the above guidelines.



Video

If you wish to have a video made, the camera person should speak to the pastor prior to the service for directions.

A camera person is not provided by the church but the Communications Team at Bethel does have people who will videotape your wedding for a \$300.00 fee. Use of the church's audio/visual equipment is usable only by a Bethel videographer. Contact Jim Weaver, 507-259-7316 if you wish to use a Bethel videographer.

Sound

To provide the highest quality experience at your wedding, we recommend that you employ a Bethel sound technician for the cost of \$50.00. The technician would be at both, the rehearsal and the wedding providing consistent sound levels to ensure that pastors, readers, soloists and others can be heard. Anything beyond one soloist or any use of additional electronic equipment requires the employ of a technician. To secure a technician, contact Jim Weaver, 507-259-7316 or herod0180@gmail.com

Bulletins

Bethel does not print or mock up the marriage service bulletin. Blank bulletins may be purchased at a Christian bookstore or Augsburg Fortress (www.augsburgfortress.org). The pastor will assist you in planning the bulletin content.

Marriage License

Applications for Olmsted County Marriage Licenses are obtained at the Olmsted County Government Center (151 Fourth Street SE, Rochester) or via their website (www.olmstedcounty.com/propertyrecords/vitalrecords/marriagelicense).

Please note the following information regarding your license:

- Apply within the six months before your wedding and at least 5 days before your wedding day.
- A Minnesota Marriage License is required to be married in Minnesota (regardless of what state you live in).
- You can obtain a marriage license in any Minnesota County.
- You must have two witnesses to the wedding ceremony (over the age of 16). This typically means that your best man and maid/matron of honor will sign your marriage license as the witnesses.
- An Olmsted County Marriage License fee is \$115.00, without 12 hours of premarital counseling. The marriage license fee is \$40.00 with 12 hours of premarital counseling and a signed letter & notarized from the church to verify.
- Bring your marriage license to the church office no later one week before your wedding and attach a note that includes the names of your witnesses. Their names will be added to the license.

General Policies

- The bride and her attendants will use Room 113 or 115 (on the main floor) for dressing. The groom and his attendants will use Room 100 or 101 (on the main floor) for dressing.
- Please do not throw any items (rice, birdseed, rose petals, confetti, glitter, etc.) on the church property if it cannot be cleaned up by the wedding party before they leave the church.
- The use of alcoholic beverages on the church property or in the church is expressly forbidden.
- Bethel is a non-smoking facility. Therefore, there is no smoking on the church property or in the church.
- Pictures should be taken before the wedding (flash pictures cannot be taken during the ceremony). The use of video screens during a wedding is not an option even though Bethel has them.
- It is the responsibility of the wedding party to see that all rented items (i.e. candelabras, decorations, etc.) be returned to the place of rental.
- Bethel Lutheran is not responsible for lost or stolen items.
- The wedding party, guests, and decorations must be removed from the sanctuary by 5:15 pm on Saturdays as we need to prepare for Saturday evening worship at 6 pm.
- You have the use of the Sanctuary for a 3 hour period for photographs and decorating, etc. Make sure your photographer is aware of this. However, you can come in 1 hour before that and be in your assigned bride or groom dressing room. Please contact the wedding coordinator for any exceptions as she will need to clear this with the office and custodial staffs.

Thank You!

Thank you for choosing Bethel as the location for your wedding. Every church building is the House of God and at Bethel we treat our building and property with respect and care and have certain expectations of those who use our facilities.



- *Pastor Anjanette Bandel* -



- *Pastor Lisa Hawe* -



- *Pastor Michael Mandsager* -



BETHEL
LUTHERAN CHURCH

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