



Alive and Growing Through God's Grace

Weddings at Christ the King Lutheran Church 10/28/2021

Congratulations on your upcoming wedding! This guide has been created to help you prepare for your wedding. We celebrate with you as you enter into marriage, seeking the blessings of God and the support of the gathered community as they make their promises.

Marriage is one of the Ministries of this Church

We want to serve you by helping you enter into your marriage. A wedding with the CTK community is worship services filled with joy and hope. As we gather for a wedding, we call on God in prayer, praise and thanksgiving.

Our ministry to you begins before the ceremony. We walk with you as you prepare for your special day by providing pastoral time to you. If you choose to be married at the church our Pastor will meet with you to plan your day, to strengthen your relationship, to pray with you, and get to know you.

Who May Be Married at Christ the King?

If you want a Christian wedding, you may be married at CTK. Membership is not a requirement. We are in the community to serve. This ministry is offered by our community of faith for those who wish to be supported by the Christian ministry, CTK offers. In addition, our Pastor is able to serve you in other locations, as well.

How Do You Begin Planning a Wedding at Christ the King?

We invite couples to explore weddings at CTK by reading this information and then talking with our Pastor to arrange a date for their ceremony. Our Pastor will work with you to arrange a date for your ceremony. While most weekends are available and appropriate for weddings to happen, there are times in the year when our ministry is not able to accommodate every request. You secure your date by paying the wedding deposit. Usually, we are able to accommodate most requested dates.

Who will Preside at Your Wedding?

CTK's Pastor presides at all weddings held at our church. If you wish to have an additional Christian Pastor participate in your wedding service, please talk with CTK's Pastor about this. We will call the other Pastor to make that invitation for you. Our Pastor will still preside at weddings, as the one called to our community of faith to do these ministries.

Preparing for Your Wedding

Prior to your wedding, our Pastor meets with couples being married at CTK. It is our way of getting to know you, providing you with a structured time of Christian reflection on your relationship, hopes and dreams and equipping you with relationship tools. We encourage and can provide pre-marital counseling, using *Prepare-Enrich* or will work with you to find retreat options. We'll also discuss the order and logistics of the ceremony at the meeting.

Please schedule your meeting with the Pastor 3-4 months prior to your wedding. Other meetings, to meet our Pastor and work on the planning process, can should begin earlier.

Musicians and Music for the Ceremony Normally, CTK's Director of music provides music for weddings. You will need to contact him/her as soon as you have your wedding scheduled to check on his/her availability. Please refer to the current fee schedule and meet at least three months prior to your wedding to discuss music with him/her.

The Director of Music will consult with you on appropriate music, guest musicians, soloists and appropriate music for a Christian wedding service. Music selections should be discussed with the Pastor and chosen for appropriateness within a Christian worship service.

If you are wondering whether a vocal selection is appropriate for your wedding, here is a tip: If you can answer "yes" to any of the following questions, the music is probably appropriate:

- Does the music/text reflect praise and /or thanksgiving to God?
- Is the song based on, or does it reflect a scriptural theme such as love?
- Is this in the form of a prayer?

Since the wedding service is a worship service, it is appropriate for those gathered to sing together. A hymn also adds to the sense of participation in the service by those attending. Hymns may be sung in place of other vocal music or instrumental processional and recessional.

The License

Prior to your wedding, you to present your marriage license from the state of Wisconsin. You should deliver it to the church office no later than seven days prior to your wedding. Please check with the local courthouse early enough to meet any waiting period requirements.

Planning the Ceremony

As a Christian ceremony within a Lutheran congregation, there are basic elements of the service that will be consistently followed. These allow us to keep the proclamation of God's love through Jesus Christ central to our gathering. At the same time, our wedding service opens doors to possibilities and does not exclude creativity. Our Pastor will discuss options with you as you meet to plan your wedding.

Decorations for the Ceremony

CTK's worship center is a beautiful place to be married. We invite you to place floral arrangements and other decorations you may wish in our worship center. Please discuss your decorating hopes with our Pastor.

Rehearsals

Couples regularly have a rehearsal prior to the ceremony, unless it is a very small wedding. These rehearsals usually happen the night before. They can also be done the morning of the ceremony, or an hour and half prior to a service. Rehearsals typically take about an hour, once they are underway. Our Pastor will schedule an hour and a half for this on his/her calendar.

Offsite Weddings (see separate document)

Using a Unity Candle

We honor requests to use unity candles and other symbols of unity during your ceremony. If you make use of a unity candle, you will need to provide it along with two tapers (side candles) and any needed stands for the candles. Please feel free to include floral or greenery arrangements around your candles, if you choose. We do ask, however, that all candles used be dripleless.

Ushers

Ushers are the first line of hospitality at a wedding service. A minimum of two ushers, four is always preferable, is necessary in order to seat and dismiss worshipers. Ushers should be mature people, as the nature of their task requires confidence and decisiveness. Ushers should be present at the rehearsal to be oriented to their tasks.

Bulletins

Printed bulletins help inform guests of the order of worship and the names of participants in the worship service. Couples can provide their own or may request that the church prepare them on their behalf. Note: the CTK church office prepares simple bulletins. All costs of bulletin preparation and printing are the responsibility of the couple. **

Photography and Videotaping

Weddings are big days to be remembered and photography is an important part of the day. We invite you to take pictures before or after the ceremony. If doing pictures prior to the service, you should plan to be done 30 minutes before the wedding service is scheduled to begin. When doing photos after the service, please be done within an hour following the service. Videotaping the ceremony is best done from the balcony on a stationary tripod. Please instruct your photographer, family and friends not to use flash photography during the wedding service. CTK does not produce videos for weddings, as the services of a videographer are readily available. CTK can provide a livestream of the service for out-of-state relatives. See AV/technology fee.*

Changing Rooms

We provide wedding parties with two rooms in which to change clothes and gather prior to the wedding. These rooms can be locked and keys will be provided to you to secure your belongings. To make it easier for you, you can bring gowns and other supplies to the church at the time of the rehearsal. At the end of the wedding, the keys must be returned.

Throwing Rice or Bird Seed

Originally the throwing of rice was believed to increase fertility, connecting female reproduction to the life-bearing grain. When it was discovered that rice is fatal to the birds who later eat it from the sidewalks, people started throwing birdseed. While this may be more ecologically sound, it has lost its original symbolism. It is Christ the King's policy that rice, birdseed, confetti or other similar material may not be thrown anywhere on church property. Bubbles may be used outside.

Inviting the Pastor to Your Reception and/or Rehearsal Dinners.

Our Pastor wants to celebrate with those known in the congregation. However, it is not always possible for him/her to attend your rehearsal dinner and/or your wedding reception. This can be due to prior commitments, emergencies or for other reasons. If you would like the Pastor and/or the musicians and their spouses to attend such events, please invite him/her well in advance (at the same time you send your other invitations is customary). This will give him/her time to respond to your invitation. If an invitation is not received early, our Pastor will not know if he/she is invited.

Fees: Covering a Portion of CTK's Costs

Christ the King provides a valuable ministry to couples being married in our community. We charge minimal fees to cover a portion of what it costs to have a wedding. The fee chart reflects current fees for weddings at Christ the King. These fees are subject to change. Couples are asked to pay fees charged no later than seven days prior to their wedding, according to the fee schedule in place at the time of the ceremony.

When you schedule your wedding at CTK, you will be asked to pay a non-refundable facility use fee, according to the fee schedule, to reserve the sanctuary for the date of your wedding. This fee is non-refundable. Your date will not be fully scheduled until payment of this fee has been received by the church office.

You are responsible for making checks payable to necessary individuals or groups involved in your wedding. All checks must be brought to the church office no later than seven days before your wedding. All monies paid are non-refundable if the wedding is canceled seven days or less prior to the scheduled date of your wedding.



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Christ the King Wedding Fees 10/28/2021

Non-Members:

Facility Use	\$250.00
Honorarium for Pastor (Minimum suggested)	\$250.00
Organist	\$250.00
(includes music consultation, playing at rehearsal and wedding)	
If a separate rehearsal with soloist, additional \$50.00.)	
Soloist	negotiated with soloist
Custodial Fee	\$150.00
Copying fee (simple, optional service order)	\$35.00
Prepare Enrich Inventory	\$35.00
AV/Tech Fee	\$75.00

Note: All Fees are to be paid one week prior to the rehearsal.

Members:

Facility Use	\$200.00
Honorarium for Pastor (Minimum suggested)	\$250.00
Organist	\$250.00
(includes music consultation, playing at rehearsal and wedding)	
If a separate rehearsal with soloist, additional \$50.00	
Soloist	negotiated with soloist
Custodial Fee	\$150.00
Copying fee (simple, optional service order)	\$35.00
Prepare Enrich Inventory	\$35.00
AV/Tech Fee	\$75.00

Note: All Fees are to be paid one week prior to the rehearsal.