Lakeview Lutheran Church

Marriage Planning and Policy

Updated January 12, 2022

Overview

Sharing a life together is an important step. The foundation of that life is commitment. You are choosing to begin that life together with a wedding in a church. Therefore, you can expect that the Pastor presiding at your wedding will discuss the role of God in your life. The Pastor will discuss your personal faith in this God during the meetings that lead up to your wedding ceremony. You can expect that the presiding Pastor at your wedding will discuss your involvement in the worshipping community now and after you are married. For those who are not members of a congregation, you can expect that the presiding Pastor will give you guidance in selecting a worshipping community even if it is not Lakeview Lutheran Church.

Lakeview Lutheran Church is a Reconciling in Christ Congregation. We welcome those of the same gender who wish to be legally married in this state. If you do not wish to enter into a legal marriage, but wish to affirm your commitment to each other, please see the Lakeview Affirmation of Household Covenants Policy.

As Christians, we are called to come together as the Body of Christ, the Community of Believers, the Church. We are called to hear God's word and to eat and drink the holy meal regularly. We are called to imitate Jesus in seeking justice and peace on the earth. With that in mind, it is important for every couple coming to Lakeview Lutheran Church for a wedding to understand that **the wedding ceremony is a worship service.** All planning for your wedding will be approached from that perspective. All that happens at your wedding service will center around the love of God, the power of the Holy Spirit and the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ. If this is not your intention, the presiding Pastor can give you direction about how to find alternative ways to handle your ceremony in the community, outside of Lakeview Lutheran Church.

Guidelines

The couple planning a wedding should set the date with the Pastor well in advance to avoid conflicts. The Pastor has the right to refuse the ceremony in the church.

- People preparing for a wedding at Lakeview are expected to worship regularly during the time of planning.
- Marriages will not be performed without premarital counseling with the couple. This must be arranged with the Pastor of Lakeview four months prior to your wedding date. It is your responsibility to contact the Pastor to arrange these times.
- The selection of **ALL** music and **ALL** readings must be approved by the Pastor.
- The order of service, readings, scripture, and all other arrangements for the service are to be determined in consultation with the Pastor. The Marriage Service found in the Evangelical Lutheran Worship book will be the outline for the ceremony.
- In consideration of those who clean the church, no rice, birdseed, confetti, bubbles or substitutes are allowed inside the church or on the church property. Dried wheat or other decorations that can produce a mess are not acceptable inside the sanctuary. It is expected that the wedding party will clean up after the ceremony, i.e. remove flower boxes, pick up

discarded bulletins, etc. It is your responsibility to assure your guests comply with these conditions.

- It is asked that people refrain from taking flash pictures during the ceremony and it is the responsibility of the marital couple to inform their guests of this.
- No alcoholic beverages are allowed on the church premises (buildings, grounds, parking lots). You are responsible for your guests. The Pastor has the right to refuse the ceremony, even at the time of the wedding, if the wedding party is intoxicated or if alcohol is present.
- The Pastor of Lakeview Lutheran Church will preside at all weddings in this place. Other pastors may be invited to assist him/her with the service.
- The Director of Music will be the music leader at all weddings in this place. At his/her discretion, other individuals may lead music. Any outside organist, pianist or musician must be approved by the Director of Music and the Pastor. An outside organist will be expected to show appropriate organ skills.

Fees

	Active Members	Inactive and Non-Members
Custodial fee	$ 60.00*	$180.00*
Building use fee	No fee	$300.00
Director of Music	$180.00 $60.00 acc/soloist	$180.00 $60.00 acc/soloist
Soloist	$90.00	$90.00
Pastor	No fee	$240.00
Office Administrator	No fee	$60.00
Choir/Praise group	Donation	Not available

* = Non-refundable fee

Inactive members are those who remain on the church membership roster but who have not participated in communion or provided a financial contribution as of record in the past 2 years at the time of their wedding request. The church roster is maintained by the Office Administrator in the Revelations Church Record Keeping Program. The status of member, inactive member or non-member is based on the individuals being married, NOT other members of the family.

A wedding is permanently placed on the church calendar when the non-refundable custodial fee has been received along with the completed Wedding Worksheet and when the Pastor and Director of Music have been able to commit to the date.

The remaining fees, after the non-refundable custodial fee, MUST be paid four (4) weeks prior to the ceremony or the date will be canceled and the building will be made available for other use.

Off-site Marriages

Because of time and responsibilities, the Pastor at Lakeview can only consider local off-site marriage locations. The above fees do not apply. When an off-site marriage is agreed upon the fees for active members, inactive members and non-members are $500. This covers the pastor and administrative costs.

We cannot guarantee that the Director of Music can be available for an off-site marriage. If available, the Director of Music fee is $240.

All transportation costs for Lakeview staff to attend an off-site marriage location are paid by the marital couple. IRS mileage rates will apply.

Pre-marital Counseling

Pre-marital counseling will be done with the Pastor presiding at your wedding. This is done on an individual couple basis and includes about 5 hours of time that is mutually agreed upon between the couple and the pastor. The couple is expected to be flexible in their schedule to be able to meet with the Pastor for these sessions. Any fees for pre-marital counseling materials will be paid by the couple.

Pre-marital counseling will be thought provoking. The purpose behind these sessions is to get you thinking deeper about issues that can and will arise during your marriage. It is our desire that your marriage be a strong, happy, long and Christ-centered one. These meetings are excellent times for you to discuss your concerns about marriage and your faith.

Pre-marital counseling gives the Pastor an opportunity to get to know you. The time allows you to get to know the Pastor who will be playing an important role in your special day. Much of what happens in the church is based on personal relationships with other people. Enjoy this opportunity!

Planning the Service

Couples are encouraged to choose their own biblical readings for the worship service. Many biblical texts are appropriate. There may be a text that has been important in your life that you would like to include in the service. Only biblical texts will be read. Some texts to consider include;

Psalm 33, 117, 128, 136, 150
Genesis 1:26-31
Ecclesiastes 3:1-8
Song of Solomon 2:10-13
Song of Solomon 8:7
Isaiah 63:7-9
Romans 12:1-2
1 Corinthians 13
Ephesians 5:21-33
1 John 4:7-16
Matthew 18:21-22
Matthew 19:4-6
Matthew 22:35-40
John 2:1-10

John 13:31-35
John 15:9-12

All music should be keeping with worship. Sacred music will be used. Although music may be offered in a variety of ways, congregational singing is encouraged. This will allow your guests to be participants in your wedding. The book of Evangelical Lutheran Worship includes a section of appropriate congregational hymns for marriage. Other hymns may be appropriate. The Pastor and Director of Music will assist you with selecting appropriate music. Processional and recessional music must be appropriate for the worship of God. If you are using bulletins for your ceremony, we will provide you with an electronic copy of the Order of Service to be reproduced, exactly as sent, in your bulletin.

A variety of vow options will be available from the Pastor. Other options for vows may be discussed.

For safety reasons, aisle runners are not used in Lakeview buildings.

Reception

Although many people choose to have a wedding reception at another location, some may wish to use the East Hall of Lakeview Lutheran Church. Anyone using the building for this purpose must complete a separate Building Use Form, which can be obtained from the Office Administrator. A fee for building use will be assessed based on number of people, rooms used, length of time, type of reception. The fee must be paid four (4) weeks prior to the event or the building will be made available to other groups. No alcohol will be permitted. Lakeview does not provide food, beverage or service. Set up, take down and clean up are the responsibilities of those using the facilities. Decorations may not be fastened to windows, walls or ceilings.