

## Contact Information:

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<b>Donna Brown</b>		

## Notes:

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# Faith Lutheran's Wedding Preparation Booklet



## Congratulations on your upcoming wedding and marriage!

We, at Faith Lutheran, are happy to share this day with you. We will work with you to plan a wedding ceremony that is meaningful, personal and worshipful. This handbook is designed to help you get started in the planning process.

### Weddings at FLC

Our Wedding Ministry at Faith is guided by these principles:

- **Marriage is intended to be a life-long commitment**, and so we will invest time and resources in helping you get ready for marriage.
- **Your wedding service is a worship service.** The community gathers to surround the couple with their prayers and witness their vows, but God is the center of attention. Therefore, music, prayers and rituals are all carefully planned with the Pastor, Wedding Coordinator and Music Director to reflect your desires while being mindful of the Holy Presence of God.
- **Life together in marriage is a spiritual journey.** Therefore, we will explore with you such topics as finding a church home, prayer in your family life and being of service in God's world.

As you read the rest of this guide, please know that we are always available to answer any questions you might have.

For more information or questions, please contact Pastor Yolanda at: [pastor.yolanda@faithlutheran-becker.org](mailto:pastor.yolanda@faithlutheran-becker.org) or call the church office at: 763.261.5751

Thank you for considering Faith Lutheran Church to officiate and host your wedding. We look forward to working with you soon!



#### **Q: What other information should we know about the building and grounds?**

A: The entire building is air conditioned and is alcohol and smoke free. Any members of the wedding party that arrive impaired may be asked to leave at the discretion of the pastor. Guests are also required to follow this policy.

#### **Q: Can we use the Nursery on the day of our wedding?**

A: The Nursery is available, but ONLY if you provide adult supervision and care.

#### **Q: Can we throw rice or bird seed?**

A: No, rice is hazardous to birds and birdseed is difficult to clean up.

#### **Q: Can we include our pet during the service?**

A With the exception of service animals, pets are **not** allowed to participate in the service.

#### **Q: When do we need to pay the church fees and honorariums?**

A: *The initial reservation fee, damage deposit and building fee (if applicable) is due at the time of reserving the date for your wedding. **All other fees/honorariums are due at the church at least 5-7 days prior to the wedding service along with the wedding license.***

#### **Q: Is the certificate we received at the Pre-marital Workshop the form I need to get the discount on our marriage license?**

A: No, you do not fulfill the requirements of the discount until you've completed the Workshop AND your first counseling session with the pastor. You will receive the official notarized Statement of Premarital Education at that time.

#### **Q: When is the best time to apply for our marriage license?**

A: Marriage licenses are only valid for six months and need to be applied for at least 5 business days in advance. Remember, you'll need your Statement of Premarital Education to receive the discount. In both Sherburne and Stearns Counties that reduces the cost from \$115....to \$40.

## Wedding Fees/Honorariums

Item	Member	Non-member
Reservation fee	\$50*	\$50*
Damage deposit (refundable)	\$150*	\$200*
Building use fee	\$0	\$200*
FLC Pastor	\$150*-\$200*	\$150-\$200
Wedding Coordinator	\$150*	\$150*
Keyboardist	\$150	\$150
Soloist (optional)	\$100-\$125	\$100-125
Sound Technician	\$50*	\$50*
Custodian	\$50*	\$50*
<i>*Required costs only</i>	\$600	\$700
(After refund)	\$450	\$500
<i>Total Cost (including musicians)</i>	\$850-\$925	\$1100-\$1175
(After refund)	\$700-\$775	\$900-\$975

## FAQs

**Q: How many people can be seated in the sanctuary?**

A: Faith's sanctuary seats approximately 250 and has 10 rows of pews down the center aisle. Additional seating can be set up in the narthex if needed.

**Q: One of us is not Lutheran, is that ok?**

A: Faith joins couples in marriage from a variety of Christian backgrounds and denominations

**Q: Can Holy Communion be incorporated as part of the wedding service?**

A: Please consider that guests will come from varying traditions of sharing Holy Communion. If you decide, with the pastor that most of the guest will be inclined to participate and you proceed with Holy Communion, Faith will provide wine/juice/wafers but people to set up and clean up, are the responsibility of the couple.

## Steps in Planning Your Wedding

**1. Set the Date and Reserve the Church**

As you begin making wedding plans, be sure to call the church office to check on the availability of the church and the pastor. ***In order to reserve the church, you will need to complete and return the Wedding Information Sheet along with:***

- **\$200 deposit for members** (inclusive of – \$50 reservation fee and \$150 *refundable* damage deposit)
- **\$450 deposit for non-members** (inclusive of – \$50 reservation fee, \$200 building fee and \$200 *refundable* damage deposit)

If it is still early in the planning process, you may not be able to complete the entire information sheet. If so, simply fill out the parts you are able to complete. You will have the opportunity to amend it as your planning progresses.

**2. Choose a Premarital Counseling Option**

Two options are available at Faith Lutheran to help in this counseling and preparation of marriage.

- a. **Pre-Marriage Day** is a premarital workshop in the St. Cloud area. The couple is asked to attend along with other couples, a Saturday workshop (8:00 a.m. – 4:30p.m.) facilitated by a pair of pastors. At the session the couple will learn about building a loving relationship. **The cost is \$50/couple and entitles the couple to receive a \$50 reduction in the cost of their wedding license from the state of Minnesota Registration.**

Fees and registration are handled by Bethlehem Lutheran Church, at 320. 251.6775. Call ASAP to reserve the dates.

You will meet 2 additional times with Faith's pastor to process your learnings and plan your wedding ceremony. **By choosing this option, the pastor's honorarium is reduced to \$150.**

- b. **Pastor Counseling/Preparing for Marriage** is conducted with Faith's pastor and includes a number of topics including: self-awareness issues, family of origin, conflict resolution, communications, faith and worship, hopes for the future and matters of finance.

**Because you will meet with the pastor for only 4-6 hours of counseling and marriage preparation, you will *not* be eligible for a reduction in the cost of your wedding license. This option is part of the pastor's honorarium of \$200.**

### 3. Meet with the Wedding Coordinator

Once you reserve the church, your wedding information will be given to our Wedding Coordinator. The Wedding Coordinator will be a great help in planning your wedding day, answering questions and ensuring that your wedding runs smoothly. You will be contacted by the Wedding Coordinator to discuss decorating, time schedules and other details.

### 4. Meet with the Music Coordinator

The selection of music is an important part of the wedding service and is done in consultation with the Music Director.

***Live music will be used in the worship service during the prelude and postlude.***

Additional music used during the ceremony such as solos and congregational singing can also be included to make the ceremony more personal and special.

***It is important to remember that because this is a worship service, music chosen needs to convey a religious theme.*** Strictly popular or secular music is not considered appropriate for a worship service. There is an abundance of contemporary sacred music that can be used and is acceptable for weddings. Other popular music may be used prior to the service or used at the reception.

***Quality music requires quality musicians. It is highly recommended to use the keyboardists of Faith.*** It is possible to use a musician other than the church musician, but other guest musicians must be approved by the Music Director.

If you will be using soloists, additional musicians or plan to project your service, **a sound technician from Faith is required to operate the sound board and projection system for the rehearsal and ceremony.**

***Again, please confer with the Music Director before you make any decisions about music or commitments to a musician.***

### 5. Meet with the Pastor to plan the wedding ceremony.

You will meet with the Pastor to plan the details of the wedding ceremony such as readings, vows, unity candle or sand ceremony, etc. Guest clergy are welcome to assist the officiating pastor at a wedding. Please discuss this option with the pastor at Faith.

## Additional Information

### Flowers/Decorations/Paraments (in the sanctuary)

- Altar and banner hangings are used according to the seasons of the church year. Such items as the baptismal font, altar candles and seasonal decorations need to remain in place.
- Aisle runners are not used due to the aisle being tiled. (For safety reasons.)
- Pews may be decorated, but nothing fastened to the walls. (We recommend using Command Strips.)
- There are several flower stands/small tables that can be used for flower arrangements and unity candle/sand ceremony. ***No flowers or decorations can be placed on the piano or organ.***

### Wedding Bulletins/Projection

While service bulletins are not necessary, many feel they are a nice addition. Blank bulletins are available from a Christian bookstore or you may design your own. If you choose this option, plan on one bulletin for every two people attending the service.

You can also choose to have the outline of your wedding service projected. In this case, information about your ceremony needs to be given to the church office so that it can be shown during the service.

### Photography

Professional photographs may be taken either before or after the service. Video recording is permitted. The Wedding Coordinator will indicate prior to the ceremony what locations are available. We ask that no **flash** photographs be taken during the service.

### Rehearsal

Wedding rehearsals, conducted by the Pastor and Wedding Coordinator, are recommended as they ensure that the wedding day goes smoothly. Rehearsals are generally scheduled the evening before the ceremony, somewhere between 5:00 – 6:30pm. Those attending should include the wedding party, parents of the couple, ushers, readers, musicians, soloists and others with a significant role in the ceremony. The rehearsal usually lasts about 45- 60 minutes.

The soloist(s) will **not** rehearse during the wedding rehearsal; a separate time before or after the rehearsal will be scheduled instead.