

Marriage Information Booklet



Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church
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Dear Couples Who Are Planning to Marry:

Congratulations! Marriage is a great adventure and a gift that God has given to us. People enter marriage with joyful and hopeful expectations of the future. As you enter into this new relationship, it is our desire that you not only grow closer to your loved one, but that you also grow closer to God and the Christian Community.

*A marriage service is a **worship service**, where a congregation gathers together in God's name. It is a time when we give God thanks for His many gifts, including the uniting of a couple. Your wedding will mean more to you because of its sacredness.*

This booklet has been written for you so that your wedding will be beautiful, will fulfill its highest spiritual purpose, and will have the ingredients of a worship service. It also contains some practical items and our church policies. We hope that the two of you take the time to read it to help answer any questions that you may have concerning your marriage service.

We pray that the Lord will bless you in your life together as husband and wife.

In Christ,

*Stephen M. Bauerle, Pastor
Daniel A. Bredberg, Pastor*

PLANNING

We recommend planning well in advance for your church wedding. An adequate counseling arrangement should be scheduled with the pastors.

SCHEDULING

Scheduling the use of the church facilities should be done at least three months in advance of the wedding date to avoid unnecessary conflicts. No weddings are scheduled at Zion on Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, or Easter weekend. Weddings are not usually scheduled at Zion during the Lenten season which generally occurs from mid February to mid April.

OFFICIATING

The pastors of Zion, or another pastor otherwise designated, is in charge and will officiate at all weddings in our church. Should a family desire another clergy to participate in the service or preside at the service, the request should be made to one of the pastors of Zion.

WEDDING CONSULTANTS

Wedding consultants who are hired by the bride should be made to understand that the **pastor is in charge of the wedding service**. They are not to assume direction of any portion of the rehearsal or the wedding service. It is the responsibility of the bride to make this known to her wedding consultant.

BULLETINS

Bulletins can be obtained from your local Christian bookstores (i.e. Family Christian Book Store) or at Kinko's. Printing of bulletins is the responsibility of the bridal party. (Suggestions: Kinko's or Office Max) Zion can provide an example to aid in your planning.

DECORATIONS

The church suggests simplicity and a minimum of decorations. Rubber bands or pipe cleaners may be used. All decorations are to be approved by Zion's wedding coordinator. Your florist should deliver decorations and flowers in ample time before the wedding service, and remove the same immediately following the wedding service or they may be left for Sunday worship.

Altar Candelabras are available for use as decoration as well as Aisle Candles. There are Wedding Banners that can be hung in the sanctuary. If you are interested in any of these items, please indicate on your information sheet and make arrangements with the Wedding Coordinator. There is no charge for candelabras, aisle candles, and wedding banners.

If a Unity Candle is desired, the Unity Candle, the two tapers and the candleholders need to be provided by the bridal party.

PHOTOGRAPHERS

The bride and groom are to instruct their photographer and their guests that flash **pictures are not permitted in the church during the wedding service**. Time exposure pictures or video taping of the service may be done by the photographer or videographer from the back of the church or from the Cry Room overlooking the sanctuary, as long as there is no disruption to the guests, participants, or the service. All other pictures may be taken either before or after the service. A notice regarding no flash pictures will need to be printed in the wedding bulletins if you are having them printed. Please pass on to your photographer, the blue "Wedding Photo Guidelines".



WEDDING MUSIC

Music has an important and vital place in your wedding service. For this reason, great care should be taken in its selection. Zion's organist will be able to assist you in planning this part of your wedding service. Should you plan to have a soloist or additional musicians, arrangements should be made with the organist in advance to allow for adequate rehearsal time.

All music, whether within, prior to, or after the service, should be chosen in keeping with the fact that this is a worship service. Once the music is selected it should be approved by the pastor and organist.

The following information is quoted from the Manual on the Liturgy, Lutheran Book of Worship, pages 347-348, and copyright 1979, Augsburg Publishing House.

"The marriage Service is a service of worship, and the music therefore must be carefully and discriminately chosen." A number of musical options are possible before the entrance procession: solo, ensemble or choral pieces; organ or other instrumental music using a combination of these media. Voice(s) and instruments could be joined in solo or choral cantatas."

"Whenever music is employed in the service and by whatever instruments or voices, it should be of high quality and not cloud the mood of the service with triteness or sentimentality. It should moreover be within the ability of the performers at hand to play or sing with assurance."



SCRIPTURE READINGS

The following are some scripture readings suggested for your wedding service. Please take time to read over and choose one, two, or three of these (or others that you and the pastor would feel are appropriate):

OLD TESTAMENT

Genesis 2:18-24
Numbers 6:22-27
Ruth 1:16-17
Psalm 121
Psalm 146
Psalm 148
Ecclesiastes 4:9-12

NEW TESTAMENT

Romans 15:5-6
1 Corinthians 13:1-13
Ephesians 5:22-25
Colossians 3:12-17

GOSPEL

Matthew 7:24-27
Matthew 19:5-6
John 2:1-11



DRESSING AT THE CHURCH

The Conference Room is often used as a dressing area for the bride and bridesmaids. It is the responsibility of the bridal party to pick up all their items when they leave. (It is suggested that the bridal party arrive ready to dress into their gowns and each one use a tote bag for their miscellaneous items.) The church doors are locked after the wedding party and guests exit the church. Any remaining items will be stored in the church office for pick up with in two (2) weeks after the wedding.



RECEPTIONS AND / OR REHEARSAL DINNERS

The Fellowship Hall, on the lower level of the church or the Family Life Center may be used for either a rehearsal dinner and/or a reception. There is a separate fee for the use of these rooms and also there will be extra custodial fees. Reservations for this room should be made at the time the wedding date is set to avoid unnecessary conflicts.

RESPONSIBILITY

All persons involved should be prompt and on time for the rehearsal and the wedding.

The use of rice, birdseed or confetti of any kind is not allowed for safety reasons and it is very difficult to clean up after the wedding. Helium balloon releases are not allowed for environmental protection reasons.

There is no smoking allowed inside the church facilities. There is no alcohol allowed inside the church buildings or outside on the church property. Intoxicated members of the wedding party and/or guests are cause for the pastor to cancel the rehearsal and/or the wedding service.

WEDDING FEES

Upon receipt of your deposit, your wedding date will be reserved on Zion's Church calendar. All remaining fees are to be **PAID IN FULL TWO (2) WEEKS** prior to your wedding date. If you keep your wedding date, your deposit will be applied to any other church related fees.

MARRIAGE LICENSE

According to Ohio laws, you must be 18 years of age to marry without parental consent.

Your marriage license must be obtained from the county in which you reside. For information from the Lucas County Marriage License Bureau, call 419-213-4750. You will probably need to provide your birth certificates, and as it applies divorce decree or spouse's death certificate.

