

WEDDING POLICIES AT ST. PETER'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

PLANNING A WEDDING AT ST. PETER'S:

- It is highly desirable for an engaged couple to call the church office at the earliest possible opportunity to okay their wedding date with the pastor and the church calendar.
- Inactive or non-members of the congregation may be married at St. Peter's solely at the discretion of the pastor. The pastor's decision will be accepted as final.
- Once the date has been agreed upon, the couple will meet for a series of pre-marital conferences with the pastor. If the pastor feels that further in-depth counseling is either desirable or necessary, the pastor will recommend same.
- During pre-marital interviews, the pastor and couple will finalize plans for the marriage service.
- A wedding rehearsal will be held prior to the wedding unless pastor and couple agree otherwise. The organist will participate in the rehearsal. It is expected that all members of the wedding party will participate and will arrive promptly.

FEES (see detailed fee schedule)

- Active members of this congregation are granted use of the church sanctuary for their wedding (and Fellowship Hall for reception, if desired) without charge. The couple may wish to make a donation to the church as an expression of thanks.
- The pastor presides at marriage ceremonies of active members as a regular part of the pastor's ministry with this congregation. There is no fee charged for this service. The couple may choose to make a gift to the pastor as an expression of thanks.
- Since the amount of preparation time for a wedding is considerable, in the case of a non-member wedding, all fees related to non-member weddings will apply, and couples will be expected to abide by the customs and policies of this congregation.
- The marriage license and all fees pertaining to the wedding must be given to the pastor at the wedding rehearsal. If checks are written for honoraria, they should be made out to the individual for whom the gift is intended rather than the church.

PHOTOGRAPHY:

- The use of flash photography is prohibited during the wedding ceremony. During the service itself, changing of photographic films or unnecessary movement by the photographer are inappropriate and distracting, and should be avoided. Photographers may take pictures during the processional and recessional, but they are to remain outside the chancel area at all times.
- Video cameras may be set up in a stationary position in the back of the church, and the camera should be set to record using available light only.
- Given the layout and wood and tile construction of the sanctuary aisle, the use of a cloth or plastic aisle runner is strongly discouraged.

GUEST CLERGY:

- Other clergy may be invited to participate in the wedding at the invitation of this congregation's pastor. It is understood that guest clergy will assist in the wedding while St. Peter's pastor presides.

MUSIC:

- St. Peter's Church organist has the right of first refusal for playing at weddings that take place at the church.
- Music for the service must be chosen in consultation with the organist.
- Vocal soloists or instrumentalists are required to consult with the organist prior to the day of the wedding and work under the organist's directions.

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES, ETC:

- The use of alcoholic beverages and controlled substances is strictly prohibited in the buildings and on the grounds of this church.
- Smoking is prohibited anywhere in the church buildings. Anyone who smokes outside is requested to use the appropriate receptacles for disposal of cigarette ends and matches.
- If any member of the wedding party arrives at either the rehearsal or wedding in an impaired state due to consumption of alcohol or controlled substances, the pastor has the right to refuse to perform the rehearsal or ceremony.

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS:

- Bird seed, rice, confetti and flower petals are not permitted to be thrown in or outside the church. For ecological and humane reasons, releasing helium balloons, doves and other birds or butterflies is also prohibited.