

# WEDDING POLICIES



## Planning Your Wedding

Your wedding is your vows witnessed by a minimum of two persons. Beyond that, your wedding can be whatever expression of faith you want it to be within the bounds of Christian values and good taste.

The purpose of this guide is to help you make your wedding a memorable occasion and an important beginning of your life together.

You may choose to use the "Evangelical Lutheran Worship" service right out of the book or personalize it.

You may employ the services of one of our church pianists or other musicians, include special instrumental or vocal music, have your guests sing a hymn, and/or have family members and/or friends take part as readers in the service.

You may choose to have a printed program or not, use a unity candle or not, kneel during a part of the ceremony or not, have Holy Communion celebrated or not.

You may discuss these and other concerns in one of the three pre-marriage preparation sessions with Pastor Berkedal, which should be scheduled as soon as possible. The sessions include taking an inventory of your personal values related to married life, discussing them and planning the wedding.

It is customary to have a rehearsal the night before the wedding service.

It is possible, in some circumstances, to schedule a wedding during a regular Sunday morning or Wednesday evening worship service. Speak with the pastor about when this may be appropriate.

It would be appreciated if you let the pastor know if your license was taken out in Los Angeles or San Bernardino County so that he can fill out your certificate properly.

We can seat about 200 people fairly comfortably.

The church does not permit the use of its facilities for weddings in which its pastor does not participate.

## Who's Going to do What?

You should decide who you want to participate in your wedding and have them arrange their schedules as soon as possible.

The Maid/Matron of Honor, Best Man, Groomsmen/Ushers, Bridesmaids, parents, readers, ring-bearers and flower carriers all have significant roles, whichever of them you chose to have as part of your wedding. You may want to have a guest book and someone assigned to stand with it as a host/hostess. A guest book table is available.

Will the father of the bride "give her away"? It is no longer the preferred practice, but can be added. Will the ushers seat persons on a "bride's side" and a "groom's side"? How many rows at the front should be reserved, and for whom?

### **Before the Ceremony**

Flower delivery and set-up should be arranged in advance for a time when the church will be open and completed well before the service begins.

The church does not provide a runner, additional candelabra or a unity candle. These items may be rented from your florist or purchased from a wedding supply store if you would like to use them. The distance from the entrance of the worship space to the first step at the chancel is approximately 52'2", and an additional 12' to the kneeler before the altar.

There are 12 pews on the south side of the worship area and 11 on the north side. No decorations may be affixed to the ends of the church pews or to other furnishings in any way that mars them.

Please notify the pastor well in advance if you plan to invite the pastor with or without his family to a rehearsal dinner or wedding reception so that he can make the necessary plans. However, no invitation is expected and other duties occasionally make it impossible for the pastor to attend.

The church will print copies of the worship service for the guests, and make some extra copies for you to send to people who could not be at the wedding. Please let the pastor know the spellings of the names of every person in the wedding who should appear in the bulletin, and how many guests you expect as early as possible.

### **During the Ceremony**

Photographers and videographers may not use flash, lights, or move around once the service has begun. They may, however, choose one location and take available light pictures from there during the ceremony. Please let your photographer and/or videographer know about this policy.

Bible passages may be chosen by the bride and groom from among their favorites, or

a list of readings appropriate for weddings can be supplied.

You may wish to include special music such as vocalists or instrumentalists to provide specifically Christian music. We can also recommend musicians who play in various styles.

The kiss and the introduction of the bride and groom may be added at the end of the ceremony. The pastor should be informed as to whether the bride will be changing her name.

Multi-media may be employed during the ceremony. Please speak with the pastor about the possibilities, and provide a digital photograph if you would like it to be used on a main slide during the ceremony.

### **After the Ceremony**

Pictures may be staged in the church after the ceremony. You should decide if you will have a receiving line at the church or at the reception and let the photographer know what photos you want taken before, during and after the ceremony.

We do not allow the throwing of rice, bird seed, confetti or other material.

Facilities are available for receptions in our new Multi-purpose Ministry Center. Check with the pastor for availability. No alcoholic beverages are permitted and there is no smoking in any church facility.

### **Fees and Honorariums**

All fees and honoraria should be paid at the third counseling session or no later than the wedding rehearsal. Checks to the musician and pastor should be made out to them by name (check with pastor if you do not know the pianist's name). All other checks for fees should be made out to "Faith Lutheran Church".

#### **Wedding:**

There is no charge for the use of the church if one or both parties have (a) attended worship at Faith Lutheran Church at least 6 times in the three months before the wedding is scheduled, (b) is/are active members of the church, or (c) is/are a relative of a church member. Otherwise, the fee is \$350.

An appropriate honorarium for the services of a church piano or keyboard player is \$50 - \$75. There is a \$75 church clean-up fee.

There is no honorarium expected of Faith Lutheran Church members for the pastor's

services, which include three pre-marriage counseling and wedding planning sessions, rehearsal leadership, pre- and post-wedding activities, as well as the wedding itself. An appropriate honorarium for others is \$150 - \$250, though special circumstances may suggest otherwise.

***Use of Parish Hall for the Reception:***

The fee for using the Parish Hall, excluding the kitchen, for a reception is \$400.00. The fee is \$50 for church members and \$300 for persons meeting the criteria above in the first paragraph under "Wedding". Set up and tear-down is the responsibility of the wedding party.

If a caterer is to be used, they must be approved by the church. Most caterers provide everything needed for the reception; they are expected to provide clean-up of the kitchen and kitchen equipment, and replacement of kitchen supplies, if any. If no caterer is to be used, or if the caterer prefers, the church's custodian will do the major cleaning of the kitchen; the charge for this service is \$50.00. Set-up and restoration of tables, chairs, partitions, and place settings are your, or your caterer's, responsibility, though church staff may be able to do this for you at a cost varying with the size of the wedding.

The church will provide a reception hostess who will help you find things and make sure church policies are understood and followed.

If church dishes and utensils, or anything other than appliances, are to be used there will be an additional fee which will vary according to the number of persons to be served, i.e. \$1.00 per place setting and \$.50 per tablecloth and \$.10 per napkin plus professional cleaning and ironing costs (cleaning and ironing done professionally runs about \$8.00 per tablecloth and \$1.50 per napkin). No furniture may be moved out of the room, or materials off of the tables, without permission of the wedding coordinator or pastor.

No colored crepe paper may be used to decorate the Multi-purpose ministry center building; only non-running white may be used. No red-dye punch may be used.

The kitchen and anything used in the kitchen must be cleaned and replaced the day of the wedding. A breakage and major-cleaning deposit of \$500.00 is required and will be assessed at the sole discretion of the church's wedding hostess.

**Additional Information**

If you have any questions about your wedding please do not hesitate to call Pastor David Berkedal at the church office at 909-599-3978, or on his cell phone at 909 519-0274 or contact him by e-mail at [dberkedal@faithsd.net](mailto:dberkedal@faithsd.net).

