

St. Luke's Lutheran Church of Logan Square Wedding Policies

We Welcome You

In the St. Luke's community, we enjoy a variety of relationships from which we benefit in many ways, from our Sunday morning worship services together to the many kinds of families that celebrate life's events with us.

We believe that relationships are a blessing for couples and were created for the benefit of the community. Therefore, we welcome all couples, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity, who are in publicly accountable, life-long, monogamous relationships to consider St. Luke's for their wedding celebrations. While we are a distinctively Christian church in the Lutheran tradition, we welcome interfaith weddings. We require that at least one member of the couple be a baptized Christian, though they need not be a member of St. Luke's.

Marriage Preparation and Officiants

The Pastor of St. Luke's Lutheran Church of Logan Square is pleased to officiate your wedding ceremony. St. Luke's recognizes that some couples will have a clergy person special to the couple. Please discuss using such officiants with the Pastor.

St. Luke's believes that all couples benefit from professional pre-marital counseling. If the Pastor is your officiant, the Pastor is available to conduct your pre-marital counseling, too. See pricing below. The Pastor also retains a list of recommended counselors, if you choose to seek counseling elsewhere. The Pastor will request confirmation that the couple has completed counseling.

Building Usage

Scheduling

St. Luke's wants your wedding day to be a time of celebration. To ensure the church is available, please schedule your wedding ceremony at St. Luke's at least 90 days in advance of when you hope to have the ceremony. Even with 90 days' notice, St. Luke's cannot guarantee the ability to accommodate all requests. Because of the church celebrations surrounding Holy Week (the week before and including Easter) and the week before Christmas through New Year's, St. Luke's cannot accommodate weddings at those times.

Rehearsal

The rehearsal will be held at St. Luke's on a day the week before the wedding. Couples usually choose Friday for a Saturday wedding. The rehearsal will include walking through the ceremony and answering any questions the couple or the couple's family may have.

Wedding Day

On the day of your wedding, a representative from St. Luke's will be present at the church from an hour before the wedding until all your guests and wedding party have left the church. The representative will

let you and any vendors into the church and will be present to ensure the event runs smoothly. Please notify St. Luke's of any vendors that may drop things off during the hour before the wedding.

Many couples like to add their own personal touch to the sanctuary. Because the church is a worship space, we ask that all decorations be tasteful and that you not use any nails to affix decorations. Flowers are welcomed. Please remove all flowers and other decorations within an hour after the ceremony. Any tape, marks, damage, or other materials left in the church will result in St. Luke's retaining your deposit. While candles may be used, we ask that no candles be set on the floor. You may use the candelabras that attach to the pews for \$75, which includes the candles that fit the candelabras.

Out of respect for the church, we ask that you not bring any alcohol into the building nor consume any alcohol, other than communion, while on the premises.

The Ceremony

The ceremony is a time for the couple to publicly commit themselves to one another. St. Luke's uses the liturgy from the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, and couples are welcome to use this inclusive liturgy as well. Modifications are welcome with consultation from the Pastor.

At St. Luke's, we celebrate an open Communion. This means that communion is available for anyone who wants to experience the real and living presence of God in the sacrament of Holy Communion. If desired, Communion is available for any couple who wishes to be married at St. Luke's.

Photography can often capture the moments that couples wish to remember for a lifetime. While St. Luke's allows flash photography, we ask photographers to respect the church space. Please ask your photographer to respectfully stay behind the short wall that separates the altar from the congregation. The wedding photographer should introduce herself/himself to the Pastor prior to the ceremony.

Music enhances human celebrations. St. Luke's welcomes live musical performances during wedding ceremonies. St. Luke's Music Coordinator reserves the right of first refusal to serve as the organist/pianist. St. Luke's also reserves the right to decline musical groups for any reason. Please notify St. Luke's at least 30 days in advance of your ceremony with the name of the musical group(s) you will be using.

Pricing

We ask that the couple make a deposit of \$100 in check form made out to "St. Luke's Lutheran Church of Logan Square" when reserving the date and submitting the Marriage Information Form. St. Luke's reserves the right to keep the deposit for violation of any of the above policies and any other like cause for which St. Luke's deems money damages are reasonable. We will only cash the check should a violation occur. Otherwise, St. Luke's will destroy the check. Members should discuss payment with the Pastor.

We ask that all additional payments to St. Luke's be made at least two weeks prior to the ceremony. Please contact St. Luke's for the names to include on the checks. Costs are below.:

- Janitorial: \$100

- St. Luke's Pastor: \$300 for the wedding/rehearsal; \$300 if the Pastor conducts pre-marital counseling
- St. Luke's Musician: \$250
- Sanctuary, Preparation Rooms, Rehearsal, and Communion: \$700