

---

THE LUTHERAN CHURCH AND SCHOOL  
OF SAINT LUKE

---

*Wedding Handbook*



# GREETINGS IN THE NAME OF OUR RISEN SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST:

Our Lutheran Church believes and teaches that marriage belongs to God. God alone created it when in the Garden of Eden He blessed the union of Adam and Eve as one flesh. He alone sent His Son to pay the debt for the sins that destroy the joys of marriage. He alone empowers us with His Spirit to love and forgive.

The marriage policy of The Lutheran Church of Saint Luke, a member congregation of The Lutheran Church -Missouri Synod, is and always has been consistent with the Synod's beliefs on marriage. We believe that marriage is a sacred union of one man and one woman (*Gen. 2:24-25*), and that God gave marriage as a picture of the relationship between Christ and His bride the Church (*Eph. 5:32*). The official position of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, as set forth in 1998 Res. 3-21 ("To Affirm the Sanctity of Marriage and to Reject Same-Sex Unions"), is that homosexual unions come under categorical prohibition in the Old and New Testaments (*Lev. 18:22, 24; 20:13; 1 Cor. 6:9-10; 1 Tim. 1:9-10*) as contrary to the Creator's design (*Rom. 1:26-27*). These positions and beliefs can be found on the LCMS website, along with other statements, papers and reports on the subject of homosexuality and same-sex civil unions and "marriage." Our pastors will not officiate over any marriages inconsistent with these beliefs, and our church property may not be used for any marriage ceremony, reception or other activity that would be inconsistent with our beliefs and this policy.

Your wedding day is one of the most important days of your life. We believe that all the riches of the world cannot equal a home filled with love. We believe that at this point and time in your lives you have many hopes and dreams for your Christian marriage.

Pre-marital counseling is the starting point preparing for this special day. Every couple is expected to meet with the pastor for a number of counseling sessions. Each of the sessions will last approximately one hour and fifteen minutes. Also, there will be activities to help you as a couple, evaluate your beliefs, values, and goals. Please speak to a pastor to set up a date for the initial session.

Complete and return the wedding service information sheet and bring it to the first meeting. In addition, read the following verses from Galatians 5: 13-24, Ephesians 5: 21-6: 4, Philippians 2: 1-11, and Colossians 3: 1-25. Be ready to discuss how they apply to your future marriage.

We, as a congregation, pray that as you enter into marriage you will prayerfully implore the Triune God – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit – to be present in your lives and in your marriage. We pray Almighty God's continued blessings for each of you and your upcoming lives together.

## PRE-MARITAL COUNSELING

All marriages at St. Luke take place within the context of pre-marital counseling. The number of sessions will be arranged between the officiating pastor and the couple. The function of the pre-marital counseling is not to determine whether or not the pastor will marry the couple, but to acquaint the couple with a process in which open communication can lead to a more mature relationship. Using a personality inventory instrument, the counselor involves the couple in a discussion of the significance of the similarities and differences in their respective personalities and relates the discussion to emotional, sexual, and spiritual maturity.

## CHRISTIAN WORSHIP SETTING

A wedding at Saint Luke is a worship service in the Lutheran tradition. While the pastor is open to the idea of helping the couple develop a personalized or creative worship setting, as well as to considering contemporary music forms, the texts of the songs and words of the liturgies will lend themselves to a setting in which Christians gather before God to invite His blessing on their union.

## PHOTOGRAPHS

- Flash pictures, by the professional photographer only, are permitted as the wedding party enters and leaves the nave—**never during the ceremony.**
- Time exposures from the balcony during the ceremony are permitted.
- Pictures after the ceremony are permitted. The pastor is to be informed of any pictures which involve him and these are to be taken first
- Excessive informality is to be avoided, and the photographer is to see that the individual members of the wedding party remain outside the chancel except when they are involved in a picture.
- Arrangements may be made for pictures to be taken by others than the professional photographer. These must follow the policy stated above with no flash photography and no main floor pictures during the worship service.
- Separate sheets with info for the wedding photographer and videographer are included at the back of this packet.

## DECORATIONS

- All chancel furnishings are dedicated items, and are not to be removed or concealed in church decorations. Any decorations should be **in place at least one hour before the wedding** so that there will be no disturbance. Decorations may not be fastened to the woodwork or furnishings of the chancel. Settings in the chancel should be limited to palms, altar vases, and one or two pair of standing baskets.
- A wedding banner is available and will be displayed for the service upon request.
- The church does not have a center aisle runner. We suggest you contact you florist or a rental place if you will be using one. The aisle measures approximately 75 feet in length.
- On your wedding day, be sure the aisle runner is well-secured to the carpet with pins or tacks so that it can be easily unrolled.
- Open candles are used only in the chancel area. All others such as pew candles are to be enclosed in glass. A floor-standing brass unity candle holder is available upon request. Saint Luke also has 6 wooden aisle candle stands that are also available upon request.
- Birdseed and rice outside are prohibited

## FEE SCHEDULE

Zoe Score Survey	\$ 45.00
Use of Sanctuary	No Charge ***
Organist	\$150.00 ** (includes consultation & service)
Soloist	\$ 60.00
Custodian	\$100.00
Clergy	\$200.00

(Includes 12 hours of pastors time; pre-marital counseling sessions, rehearsal, wedding)

\*\* Attendance at rehearsal (if requested) add \$25.00; accompanying soloist/instrumentalist (one rehearsal) add \$25.00

\*\*\* Where member contributions are non-existent or negligible, the congregation may exercise the right to stipulate additional fees.

# WEDDING SERVICE INFORMATION

*(Please fill out as much as possible and bring to first session)*

Wedding Date \_\_\_\_\_ Time \_\_\_\_\_

Place \_\_\_\_\_

Rehearsal Date \_\_\_\_\_ Time \_\_\_\_\_

Place \_\_\_\_\_

Officiating \_\_\_\_\_ Number of guests expected \_\_\_\_\_

## GROOM

Full Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Groom's church affiliation or Membership  
\_\_\_\_\_

Address and Phone Number after Ceremony \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## BRIDE

Full Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Bride's church affiliation or Membership  
\_\_\_\_\_

## CEREMONY DETAILS

Type of Ceremony \_\_\_\_\_

Roses \_\_\_Y \_\_\_N

Scripture Readings \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Special Requests \_\_\_\_\_

Unity Candle Holder needed

\_\_\_Yes \_\_\_No

Aisle Runner

\_\_\_Yes \_\_\_No

*aisle is 75' Long*

Aisle Candles

\_\_\_Yes \_\_\_No

*Saint Luke has 6 aisle stands*

# ATTENDANTS

Parents of the Bride \_\_\_\_\_

Parents of the Groom \_\_\_\_\_

Maid/Matron of Honor \_\_\_\_\_

Best Man \_\_\_\_\_

Bridesmaid \_\_\_\_\_

Groomsman \_\_\_\_\_

Bridesmaid \_\_\_\_\_

Groomsman \_\_\_\_\_

Bridesmaid \_\_\_\_\_

Groomsman \_\_\_\_\_

Bridesmaid \_\_\_\_\_

Groomsman \_\_\_\_\_

Bridesmaid \_\_\_\_\_

Groomsman \_\_\_\_\_

Bridesmaid \_\_\_\_\_

Groomsman \_\_\_\_\_

Bridesmaid \_\_\_\_\_

Groomsman \_\_\_\_\_

Bridesmaid \_\_\_\_\_

Groomsman \_\_\_\_\_

Jr. Bridesmaid \_\_\_\_\_

Jr. Groomsman \_\_\_\_\_

Flower Girl \_\_\_\_\_

Ring Bearer \_\_\_\_\_

Usher \_\_\_\_\_

Usher \_\_\_\_\_

Usher \_\_\_\_\_

Usher \_\_\_\_\_

Escorting Bride \_\_\_\_\_

Will both Bride & Groom parents be present? \_\_\_\_\_

Organist \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Arrangements made \_\_\_\_\_

Soloist \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Arrangements made \_\_\_\_\_

Other Musician (s) \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Arrangements made \_\_\_\_\_

# WEDDING REHEARSAL

Although some smaller weddings may not require a rehearsal, a rehearsal is used to work out all the details of the wedding service. It fits into a 45-minute block of time in the pastor's schedule. The rehearsal begins with the pastor positioning the members of the wedding party in the chancel area. The couple should provide the pastor with a list of those who will be paired in the processional and recessional (bridesmaids and groomsmen).

The organist will participate in the rehearsal at the invitation of the bridal couple. Soloists need not participate unless it is desired.

If there is to be a ring bearer and/or flower girl who is very young, an adult will be given responsibility for each during the service.

Decisions regarding seating patterns, processional options, positioning in the chancel, etc., will be made in the pre-marital counseling sessions, not at the time of the rehearsal.

**The wedding license should be brought on the evening of the rehearsal.**

## MUSIC AND ITS RELATION TO THE CHRISTIAN WEDDING

The marriage ceremony is a service of worship. Therefore, the music used throughout should be consistent with that worship. (This includes all music played and/or sung prior to the beginning of the service.)

All music, whether traditional or contemporary, should lend itself to supporting the character of the service. Secular songs are more appropriately used at the reception. The music director is available to help you select acceptable music for your wedding. Music will need to be selected at least ONE MONTH prior to the service, so that the musicians will have ample time to prepare. Please note that, because of copyright laws, musicians are not allowed to play from photocopied music without permission of the publisher.

It is advisable to contact the Music Director as soon as a date is set with the church in order to confirm his/her availability on your wedding date.

# SCRIPTURE READINGS

The following texts may be used in your marriage service under the heading of *Scripture Readings*. If you wish, you may choose:

- an Old Testaments Reading,
- an Epistle Reading,
- and/or a Gospel Reading,
- and a Psalm or two

Those scripture readings will be read by the congregation or sung as a solo. *Other texts can be used as approved by the pastor.*

## OLD TESTAMENT READINGS

Genesis 1:26-31  
Genesis 2:18-25  
Proverbs 31:10-31  
Song of Solomon 2:10-13  
Song of Solomon 8:7  
Isaiah 63:7-9

## GOSPEL READING

Mathew 19:3-9  
Matthew 22:35-40  
Mark 10:6-9  
Luke 6:38  
John 2:1-11  
John 15:9-12 (12-16)

## PSALMS

Psalm 23  
Psalm 33  
Psalm 67  
Psalm 100  
Psalm 117  
Psalm 119:97-105  
Psalm 127  
Psalm 128  
Psalm 136  
Psalm 150

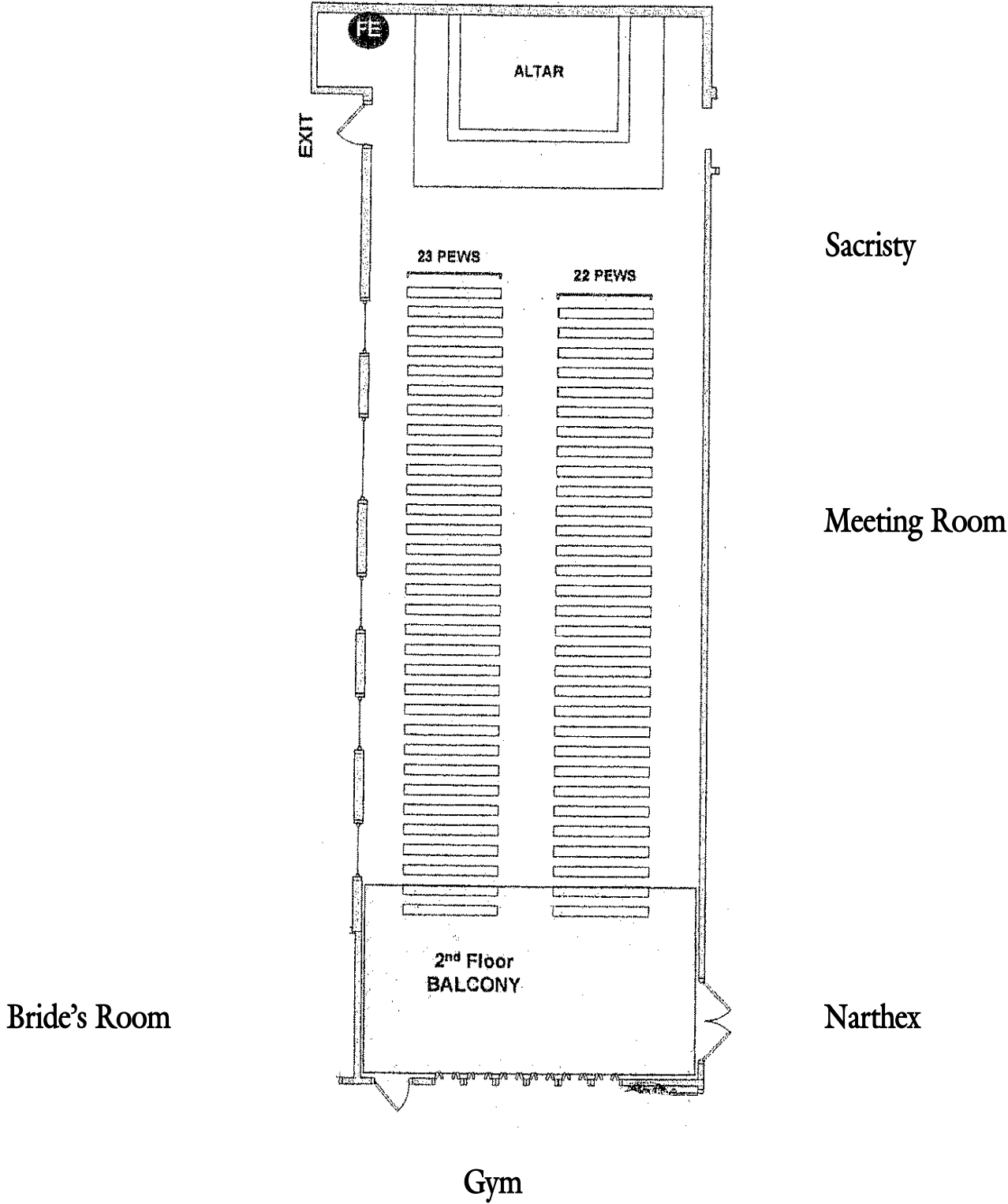
## EPISTLE READINGS

Romans 12:1-2  
1 Corinthians 12:31-13:13  
Galatians 5:22-6:2  
Ephesians 5:21-33  
Colossians 3:12-19  
II Timothy 3:15-17  
1 Peter 3:15  
1 Peter 4:7-10

Please read this together and choose from them to make your wedding service a personal witness to God and others.



# SAINT LUKE'S SANCTUARY MAP





## Pastors

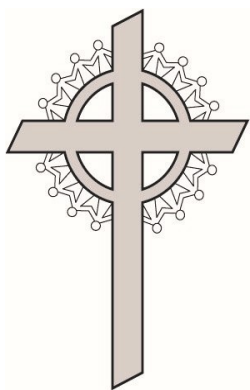
TERRY MCREYNOLDS - Senior Pastor

ERIK HART - Assistant Pastor

---

## Organist

DAVID KELLEN



## The Lutheran Church and School of Saint Luke

Connecting People to Christ

410 South Rush St.

Itasca, IL 60143

630.773.0396

[www.saintlukeitasca.org](http://www.saintlukeitasca.org)