



Calvary Lutheran Church, ELCA

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Appendix I to Calvary Lutheran Church Facilities Use Policy

Weddings

The celebration of Christian marriage is an occasion of great joy and excitement. At the same time it is an event of great significance and reverence. The marriage ceremony is a service of worship, centering on the deep and joyful love of a man and a woman, the support love of the community and the all-encompassing love of God. Calvary Lutheran Church is honored to be a part of this experience and is eager to work with couples to make the wedding memorable and beautiful. A wedding by its very nature has special requirements and these follow as an addendum to those in the preceding Facilities Use Policy.

Wedding party members are encouraged to attend a worship service at Calvary Lutheran Church prior to the wedding. This is an excellent opportunity to experience worship at the church and to see how the altar and chancel area are utilized in worship and where the pastor, organist and acolyte are positioned during the service.

1. Dates to be reserved (indicate day and time):
 - a. Bride and Groom's pre-marital counseling with pastor _____

 - b. Interview with organist (at least 6 weeks prior to wedding date) _____
 - c. Wedding Rehearsal (include organist's rehearsal time) _____
 - d. Wedding _____
 - e. Wedding Reception _____
2. Minister – The pastor of Calvary Lutheran Church is the final authority on the marriage ceremony. If another minister assists with or performs the ceremony, Pastor must approve the individual(s) and ensure adherence to Calvary's wedding policy and procedure. Pre-marital conferences are required and are to be scheduled with the pastor by both the bride and the groom well in advance of the wedding date. Contact the pastor at Calvary Lutheran Church (828-437-0780) to make an appointment for both bride and groom to meet for instructions and consultations.
3. The Lutheran Book of Worship – The liturgy for marriage in *The Lutheran Book of Worship* provides the structure for the ceremony with flexibility sufficient for a unique expression of praise.
4. Holy Communion – Holy Communion may be celebrated at the wedding. If included, the sacrament is offered to the entire congregation, the whole body of Christ.
5. Wedding Candle – If the couple lights a candle together from two separate candles during the ceremony, the two candles are not extinguished, signifying that the beginning of their joined lives does not extinguish their individual lives but that each is enriched through marriage.

6. Rehearsals – Rehearsals are scheduled when the wedding date is reserved. The rehearsal begins promptly at the time scheduled, proceeds in a quiet, dignified and reverent manner, and may not last more than three hours. The rehearsal takes place in a place of worship as does the wedding. No rehearsal will be conducted when any member of the wedding is under the influence of alcohol or drugs. The minister in charge has complete authority to cancel a wedding or rehearsal for any deviation of the policy.
7. Wedding Director – The wedding director must be approved by the pastor and the Worship and Music Ministry Board of Calvary Lutheran Church. A list of qualified wedding directors who are members of Calvary Lutheran will be provided upon request.
8. Wedding Music – Music used in the wedding is sacred music. Music will be selected during the scheduled wedding interview with the organist. Contemporary Christian music may be used if approved by the organist. The organist for Calvary Lutheran Church plays for all weddings at the church. If an organist other than the church organist is requested, the church organist must approve the request.
9. Wedding Interview – The wedding interview must be conducted at least six (6) weeks prior to the wedding date, scheduled well in advance with the organist, and include the wedding director, the soloist, and the instrumentalist as well as the bride and others she may designate. At the wedding interview
 - a. The wedding music will be selected;
 - b. The wedding bulletin will be outlined; and
 - c. A deposit of \$50 for the organist's services will be paid, the remainder to be paid one week before the wedding.
10. Wedding Bulletin – Calvary Lutheran Church will order the wedding bulletins of choice upon request and will prepare them as instructed by the wedding party. Non-members will be responsible for the cost of the bulletins and the fee must be paid before the bulletins are prepared.
11. Decorations – Decoration of the sanctuary should be done on the day of the rehearsal. A member of the Calvary Lutheran Church Altar Guild will be present to advise and assist with regard to requirements of the Lutheran Church.

The sanctuary is a place of beauty, dignity, and reverence. Decorations for the wedding will not change or diminish in any way the settings (i.e., paraments, color of the season, etc.). Candelabra may not be placed in front of or behind the altar. The cross and candles may not be removed from the retable (shelf) or other decorations placed thereon. Decorations may not be placed on the organ, piano or credence (communion table).

Window sills may be decorated with flowers and/or greenery and battery-powered candles only. Two pedestals and a stepped stand are available for flowers. A pre-dieu (kneeling bench) is also available and may be placed in front of the altar. A wedding banner is available and, if requested, will be placed in the chancel area by a member of the altar guild.

The following is suggested to preserve the beauty of the room and for the safety of those attending:

- a. Take care to protect the flooring, furniture and furnishings from candle drippings. Only dripless candles may be used. Flowers and greenery are to be placed on stands only.
- b. No nails or tacks, staples, screws, tape, etc. may be used on church furnishings.
- c. Decorate pews with ribbon or flower markers only. These may be attached by tying or with light, easily removable tape.
- d. Do not remove or disturb church decorations for Advent, Christmas, and Easter seasons.
- e. Remove all wedding decorations from the church the same day as the wedding. See the Facilities Use Policy and Facilities Clean-up Checklist for specific instructions.

12. Photographs and Recordings – Video recordings of the wedding may be made from the back of the church using only a stationary camera and may not distract from the service of worship. Candid and posed pictures may be taken before and after the service. Flash pictures of the conspicuous taking of photographs during the procession or the ceremony are not permitted. A re-enactment may be staged before or after the service.

The church sound system may only be used if a Calvary Lutheran Church technician is available to monitor the system.

The Christian marriage ceremony is a celebration of worship,
centering on joy and love and reverence.