

Flowers & Decorations

Flowers may be placed near the altar but not on the altar. The couple is welcome to leave any flower for use in the Sunday worship service. Pew bows may be used if attached without adhesives. Use of wire or clips will protect the finish. All decorations must be removed after the ceremony.

No rice, wheat, seeds or confetti can be used to throw at the couple. Bubbles can be used outdoors only.

Other Business

Rehearsal– Every one in the wedding is encouraged to be present and on time for the rehearsal.

Building Use – Only rooms designated for weddings can be used. All areas must be cleaned and trash must be taken to the dumpster.

Alcoholic Beverages & Smoking– No alcoholic beverages are allowed on church property. No smoking inside the church.

Marriage License– Marriage licenses must be applied for at the Sedgwick County Courthouse at least 3 business days before the wedding. The license must be delivered to the church office before the day of the rehearsal.

St. Paul's Lutheran Church

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The Gift of Marriage

A gift to you from
St. Paul's Lutheran Church



The pastor and people of St. Paul's Lutheran Church are pleased to share in the celebration of your marriage. At St. Paul's, weddings are worship services in which God promises his steadfast love as the bride and groom exchange vows. The marriage service reflects the praise of God and the love of Christ for his people.

May God bless you and your marriage with abiding love!

→ What is included?

- Use of church facilities including sanctuary and fellowship hall at no charge
- Church organist/pianist and a soloist at no charge
- Pastoral services for premarital counseling, rehearsal and marriage ceremony at no charge

→ Who can be married?

The services of the pastor, accompanist and church facilities for the marriage ceremony and celebration available to all members of the community at the discretion of the pastor. This program is a part of the mission of St. Paul's, *Making Disciples to Make Peace*.

→ How is a wedding scheduled?

The couple must contact the pastor directly. In most cases, a wedding will be put onto the calendar after the pastor has met with the couple and a covenant has been signed. There may be times when the church facilities or the pastor are not available. Early scheduling is important.

→ What is expected from you?

St. Paul's asks that all couples

- Attend three premarital counseling sessions to plan the wedding and prepare for their married relationship
- Along with your families, respect the deep religious significance to our congregation and our church facilities, policies, and services.

→ What will the ceremony be like?

The pastor will help the couple plan the service using the service in the Evangelical Lutheran Worship as a basic order of service. This may be modified as the couple and pastor work together in the planning.

→ Can other clergy participate?

With consent of the pastor of St. Paul's, the couple may invite another pastor to share in the wedding ceremony. The pastor of St. Paul's will have the final word concerning the extent of another pastor's participation.

→ What music may be used?

A wedding at St. Paul's is a worship service. All music must be suitable for a Christian worship service. Whether traditional or contemporary, formal or informal, the focus and content of the words and music should be the praise of God. Other music may be most appropriate for the wedding reception.

Music may include organ, piano, vocal solos, hymns sung by the congregation or instrumental music. Singers and instrumentalists must contact the organist early to schedule selections and rehearsal.

The couple is encouraged to plan music early in the wedding preparation, in consultation with the accompanist and the pastor. St. Paul's organist is Frances Sloan, (316) 312-5450. If she is not available, she may suggest others.

What costs are involved?

The Gift of Marriage program gives the wedding ceremony, organ and piano accompaniment, church facilities and pastoral counseling and services to couples free of charge. Contributions to the church are welcome.

Arranging for other musical accompaniment will be the couple's responsibility. The church has two soloists who may be available at no cost to the couple.

→ Can I have a reception?

The fellowship hall and kitchen are available without charge when scheduled well in advance. St. Paul's does not provide food, decorations, set-up or service for the receptions. The couple is responsible for making and providing all those arrangements and for scheduling building access with the church office. Refrigeration space may be available, but there is no guaranteed space. All areas must be cleaned completely after use and trash must be taken to the dumpster.

Note: The fellowship hall is used most Saturday mornings until 11:30 a.m.

→ Wedding Coordinator

St. Paul's wedding coordinator can give further guidance on arrangements and will be present at the rehearsal and the wedding.

→ What is available for use?

St. Paul's has several items that can be used during the wedding ceremony. A unity candle stand, candelabras, kneelers, a gift table, guest book stand and the sound system may all be used free of charge. Drip-free candles for the unity candle and the candelabras must be provided by the couple. Consult the wedding coordinator for use of these items.

→ Photographs

Couples are encouraged to schedule as many of the formal photos as possible before the ceremony, completing them no less than 30 minutes before the ceremony.

The marriage service is a service of worship. The wedding may be photographed during the processional and recessional with flash, but the remainder of the ceremony must be without flash.

Arrangements to videotape must be approved by the pastor. Photographers and videographers may not move around during the ceremony.