



St Andrew

LUTHERAN CHURCH

A COMMUNITY OF FAITH IN ACTION

St. Andrew Wedding Guidelines

Dear Friends,

We are pleased to be involved in your wedding! Attached are some things that may help you in your planning. After looking this over and completing the online wedding information, please contact the church office to confirm the pastor's availability to make plans to meet. God's blessings on your wedding!

Pastor Lisa Stoen Hazelwood

Commonly Asked Questions in Wedding Planning:

What wedding times and days are O.K.?

You must book your wedding date and time well in advance.

Is there a fee for the wedding?

It is appropriate that you give honoraria for those who are assisting with the planning and implementation of the wedding service. The following range may help you decide how much is right for you.

Church Musician \$250.00

Pastor \$500 with rehearsal, offsite venue \$600

Is pre-marital counseling required?

If the couple would like to participate in pre-marital counseling, they should speak to the Pastor. It is not required. Most couples meet with the Pastor for three (3) meetings.

I have a friend who can perform the ceremony, is this permitted?

It depends. Please speak with our Pastor. In some cases, our Pastor will co-lead the wedding ceremony with another ordained minister.

May we have wedding rice, balloon release, confetti, fireworks, doves?

We strongly discourage these practices as they impact the environment. Attractive bird seed is an appropriate option.

Who arranges for the wedding license?

Couples must secure a license in the state of Rhode Island, at the Town Hall in the town where the wedding is taking place. This will be signed by the Pastor, copied and mailed by the church after the wedding ceremony.

Who arranges for flowers?

The couple is encouraged to contact local florists and arrange for their own flowers. Some suggestions include: Kenyon Ave Florists in Wakefield (401-789-9381) and Broadview Florist and Garden Center in Westerly (401-322-0390). The florist should be informed that the church will be open 1 hour prior to the wedding.

May I have a photographer/video recorder film the ceremony?

Yes, this is allowed.

Will there be a wedding rehearsal?

Many weddings today do not require a rehearsal. This information can be covered during the third meeting with the Pastor. However, if a rehearsal is necessary please make arrangements for this to be scheduled with the Pastor and Director of Music.

Who provides the printed wedding programs?

We encourage couples to prepare their own wedding programs.

SUGGESTED WEDDING CEREMONY

This is provided as a guide. It may be adapted and altered in consultation with the Pastor.

Procession**Welcome****Wedding Prayer****Musical Selection (optional)****Reading or lessons**

(Suggested Bible readings include:)

Wedding Scriptures Options

I Corinthians 13:4-8; 13

⁴ Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. ⁵ It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. ⁶ Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. ⁷ It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

⁸ Love never fails.

¹³ And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.

Ephesians 3:14-19 New Living Translation

Paul's Prayer for Spiritual Growth

¹⁴ When I think of all this, I fall to my knees and pray to the Father, ¹⁵ the Creator of everything in heaven and on earth. ¹⁶ I pray that from his glorious, unlimited resources he will empower you with inner strength through his Spirit. ¹⁷ Then Christ will make his home in your hearts as you trust in him. Your roots will grow down into God's love and keep you strong. ¹⁸ And may you have the power to understand, as all God's people should, how wide, how long, how high, and how deep his love is. ¹⁹ May you experience the love of Christ, though it is too great to understand fully. Then you will be made complete with all the fullness of life and power that comes from God.

Matthew 5:1-11

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. ² Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

³ "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

⁴ "Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

⁵ "Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

⁶ "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

⁷ "Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

⁸ "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

⁹ "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

¹⁰ "Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

¹¹ "Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account.

I John 4:7-12

⁷ Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God.⁸ Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love.⁹ This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. ¹⁰ This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. ¹¹ Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. ¹² No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.

Ecclesiastes 4:9-12

Two are better than one,
because they have a good return for their labor:
¹⁰ If either of them falls down,
one can help the other up.
But pity anyone who falls
and has no one to help them up.
¹¹ Also, if two lie down together, they will keep warm.
But how can one keep warm alone?
¹² Though one may be overpowered,
two can defend themselves.
A cord of three strands is not quickly broken.

Additional Scriptures...

Genesis 1: 26-31

Genesis 2: 18-24

Psalms 33

Psalms 100

Psalms 150

1 Corinthians 12: 31- 13:13

John 2: 1-10

Reflection by the Pastor

Wedding Vows (you may write your own or use these words)

I take you _____ to be my wife/husband from this day forward to join with you and share all that is to come and I promise to be faithful to you until death parts us.

Exchange of Rings

Unity Candle or other “Unity Event”

Prayers & Blessing

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come,
thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power and the glory,
Forever and ever. Amen.

Introduction of the Couple

Recessional