

Wedding Guidelines of Perry Highway Evangelical Lutheran Church

Marriage is a covenant of fidelity between two persons that lasts a lifetime. Although the relationship in faithfulness is what is crucial in every marriage, our culture has also provided for a legal licensing process as a way of providing for good order in society. This legal system also provides safeguards so that individuals might have some protection in the event that the relationship disintegrates or becomes untenable. This public profession of desire for marital union and the resulting legal protection is controlled by the State and enforced by its laws.

Because marriage was instituted by God and continues to have his blessing, many persons desire to make their marriage promises before God as well as their family and friends, asking God's blessing on their new marriage relationship. Recognizing the benefits and efficacy of such actions, the State has empowered ordained ministers to act as its agents in witnessing to the marriage for legal purposes. This privilege does not imply that the minister is simply an agent of the State who must therefore perform marriages for anyone who desires them. Rather it is a privilege granted in order to coordinate and simplify the work of the State in this area.

Marriage within the Church then has two purposes, the legalizing of a relationship between two persons, and the praise and thanks to God who blesses the relationship. Because the ceremony is worship, the Church shall have final authority over the nature and content of the Service, even while working with the couple for a mutually satisfying and meaningful expression of worship. Within the Church, wedding ceremonies are worship and not spectacles.

The following guidelines are intended to help couples planning to be married. They contain information about policies of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and of Perry Highway Lutheran Church which will facilitate making arrangements for the wedding service.

1. Persons planning to be married are expected to consult with the pastor as early as possible (preferably 3 - 6 months before) to arrange the date and time for the wedding and make other necessary arrangements. We suggest a location for the reception not be made before the date for the wedding has been set with the Church.
2. Under normal circumstances the pastor will marry only couples one of whom is a member of Perry Highway Lutheran Church.
3. The couple is normally expected to attend at least four sessions with pastor prior to the marriage ceremony. Those sessions may require 1-1½ hours each and will deal primarily with the nature of the marriage relationship as well as the form of the marriage service.
4. The fact that either or both people have been divorced does not automatically exclude them from the possibility of being married at Perry Highway Lutheran Church. This matter will be discussed with the pastor during the counseling sessions. A reasonable time should have elapsed since the finalization of the divorce before seeking to be married.
5. The Lutheran Order for Marriage has several options. The Pastor and Wedding Coordinator will make these options known to the couple and assist them in choosing among them.

6. The pastor always reserves the right not to perform a wedding if in his judgement the union would not be an advisable one.
7. The pastor of Perry Highway Lutheran Church ordinarily performs all weddings to be held at Perry Highway Lutheran. However, requests by the couple for other qualified, ordained ministers to either assist with the Service or to perform the ceremony instead of the pastor will be considered by the pastor in consultation with the Church Council.
8. All couples getting married at Perry Highway Lutheran must utilize the assistance of the Wedding Coordinator
9. The marriage service is a worship service of the Church. Music should be selected for its suitability to a service of praise and thanksgiving to almighty God. These guidelines cover such selection:
 - A. The music should be "sacred music" i.e. music which has been expressly written for inclusion in the worship context. It should be carefully and discriminatingly chosen. The pastor and church organist can help by showing suitable music. All music must have the final approval of the Pastor and the congregation's Director of Music.
 - B. Texts of vocal or choral selections should be in harmony with the Gospel of Jesus Christ and with the themes and mood of the marriage service itself. (e.g. the praise of God; God's steadfast love in Christ; God's love for his church as the foundation and model for love and fidelity in marriage; or the asking of God's presence and blessing).
 - C. Instrumental music should reflect the joy and celebration of the day.
 - D. Wherever employed in the Service, and by whatever instruments or voices, the music chosen should be of high quality with regards to the art of composition; should not cloud communication of the content and mood of the Service with musical triteness or associations boarding on sentimentality; and be within the ability of the performers at hand to play or sing with assurance.*
 - E. A meeting of the couple with the organist will occur if the couple wishes to help make selection of their music in sufficient time to allow proper rehearsal by the musicians.
10. It is expected that the church organist will play at all weddings taking place within the Church. If another person is desired as organist, his/her musical background will be reviewed by the pastor and the church organist and they will decide whether he/she is qualified. The musical selections of any guest organist will also be subject to the above guidelines. The organist's fee is listed at the end of these guidelines.

11. If a soloist is to be provided by the Church, a fee, as listed in this brochure, will be required. The couple may provide their own soloist with the understanding that music to be sung or played must be approved within the stated guidelines. If organ accompaniment is necessary, the soloist must contact the organist to arrange a mutually agreeable time for rehearsal.
12. An acolyte, if the couple desires, can be provided by the Church.
13. It is assumed (unless otherwise agreed upon) that all weddings at the church will include Holy Communion, the Sacrament will be offered to all present for the Service and not just to the bride and groom or wedding party.
14. No photographs shall be taken during the marriage service. It is contrary to the spirit of worship and is very distracting. Pictures may be taken after the ceremony. Professional photographers are to talk to the wedding coordinator prior to the ceremony to be advised of our guidelines regarding their activities.
15. A rehearsal shall be required before the marriage service. The wedding party and parents of the bride and groom and other participants should be present. The rehearsal normally requires 1-1½ hours depending on the complexity of the ceremony. A suitable time will be arranged with the wedding coordinator or during one of the pastoral conferences.
16. Couples may select any florist they desire, but arrangements for the delivery of the flowers and the opening of the church for decorating should be cleared with the church office. Flowers should be placed in the vase liners of the Church. If it is desired that they be left for the worship on Sunday, arrangements will be made ahead of time. The vase liners can be picked up anytime following the Sunday prior to the ceremony.
17. Because of environmental concerns and world hunger, rice should not be thrown. The use of confetti is forbidden inside or outside. Acceptable modern alternatives are: bird seed and grass seed.
18. Candlelight weddings - arrangements should be made with the florist for suitable candelabra's and candle stands. The holders must meet the approval of the pastor.
19. Receptions on the Church premises are permitted when the fellowship hall is available as listed below.
20. Janitorial services will be the responsibility of the Church. The normal fee is listed in these guidelines. Extensive cleaning, if required, will necessitate an additional charge.
21. Wine and champagne, used in moderation, shall be the only alcoholic beverages permitted at a reception in the Church. Music and dancing within good taste shall be permitted.
22. After a wedding and reception, especially on Friday or Saturday, the Church building must be prepared for the Sunday Service. Such preparations are the responsibility of the Church, therefore, receptions which are on Saturday night should end at a reasonable time to allow sufficient time for this clean-up.

*Reference: Ministers Desk Edition of Lutheran Book of Worship

PSALMS AND LESSONS FOR WEDDINGS

Psalm 33
Psalm 100
Psalm 117
Psalm 127

Psalm 128
Psalm 136
Psalm 150

First Lesson Readings:

Genesis 1:26-31
Genesis 2:18-24
Genesis 24:48-67

Song of Solomon 2:10-13
Song of Solomon 8:7
Isaiah 63:7-9

Second Lesson Readings:

Romans 8:31b-39
Romans 12:1-2, 9-18
I Corinthians 6:13-20

I Corinthians 12:31-13:13
Ephesians 5:21-33

Gospel Readings:

Matthew 5:1-12
Matthew 5:13-16
Matthew 7:21,24-29
Matthew 19:3-6
Matthew 22:35-40

Mark 10:6-9
John 2:1-10
John 15:9-12
John 17:20-26

SCHEDULE OF FEES

<u>FEES</u>	<u>NON-MEMBERS</u>	<u>MEMBERS</u>
Use of Church	\$100.00	No Fee
Pastor	\$200.00	\$150.00
Wedding Coordinator	\$125.00	\$100.00
Organist (Wedding Day)	\$200.00	\$200.00
(Rehearsal additional)	\$ 50.00	\$ 50.00
Soloist	\$100.00	\$100.00
Acolyte (if a candlelight service)	\$ 25.00	\$ 25.00
Sexton's services (wedding only)	\$ 75.00	\$ 50.00
Sexton's services		
(wedding and reception)	\$100.00	\$ 75.00
Reception (use of fellowship hall)	\$150.00	No Fee

PHONE NUMBERS

Church Office	724-935-1226
Pastor Ferguson	724-443-4884
Organist	724-935-1226 (Mr. Evan Marshall Snyder)
Coordinator	724-935-1226 or 724-449-8838 (Mrs. Cyndi Chiodo)