



# ST. MARK'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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## For Those Considering Marriage

The St Mark's Lutheran congregation rejoices with you as you seek to enter into the covenant of marriage. Our understanding of marriage is summarized in the worship resource, Evangelical Lutheran Worship (page 286) as follows.

*We believe marriage is a gift from God, intended for the joy and mutual strength of those who enter in it and for the well-being of the whole human family. God created us male and female and blessed humankind with the gifts of companionship, the capacity to love, and the care and nurture of children. Jesus affirmed the covenant of marriage and revealed God's own self-giving love on the cross. The Holy Spirit helps those who are united in marriage to be living signs of God's grace, love and faithfulness.*

*Marriage is also a human estate, with vows publically witnessed. The church in worship surrounds these promises with the gathering of God's people, the witness of God's word, and prayers of blessing and intercession.*

Your intentions should be made known to the pastor serving St Mark's Lutheran well in advance. The pastor will be the primary contact throughout the preparation period. During the first meeting with the pastor, you will be given an outline of important matters in the preparation for your wedding day. The topics to be discussed during that initial meeting include identifying a date for the marriage, discussing the shape of the pre-marriage conversations, and discussing other pertinent details including the following guidelines:

1. If you are not a member of the St Mark's Lutheran Congregation, council (the church board) approval will be required.
2. If you wish for the presiding pastor to be someone other than the pastor serving St Mark's Lutheran, council approval will be required.
3. The organist serving St Mark's has the right of first refusal to provide the music for the wedding.
4. The rituals of the wedding ceremony shall reflect a Christian understanding of worship and marriage and are to be reviewed by the pastor serving St Mark's Lutheran.
5. A marriage ceremony impacts the duties of many who serve here at St Mark's Lutheran. The following minimum fees endeavor to compensate for those extra efforts.

	Member	Non-Member
Use of the Worship Area	None	\$ 300.00
Pastor	\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00
Pre-Marriage Counseling	\$ 35.00	\$ 35.00 paid direct to on-line survey
Organist/Pianist	\$ 150.00	\$ 200.00
	(Add \$ 25.00 to accompany a soloist)	
	(Add \$50.00 for additional rehearsals)	
Wedding Coordinator	\$ 50.00	\$ 100.00
Cleaning Services	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00
Bulletin Preparation (plus cost of Bulletin Covers)	\$ 25.00	\$ 50.00
<b>Total Base Fee</b>	<b>\$ 560.00</b>	<b>\$ 985.00</b>

6. Use of the Myers Hall is arranged through the church office and requires Council approval.

## RESTRICTIONS

1. **Alcoholic beverages and other recreational drugs are not permitted on the church property at any time.**
2. **The throwing of anything items (rice, birdseed, etc.) are not permitted on the church grounds. Blowing bubbles outside the church building is permitted.**
3. **Smoking is permitted in designated areas only.**