

Your decision to be married in our church shows you want God to bless your marriage and you want a Christian home. It is our prayer that God will richly bless you. We believe marriage in the church is an honorable occasion and should be respected by all people.

A church wedding is more than a beautiful and dignified setting for an important and memorable occasion. It is a worship service in which a marriage is solemnized. As with other services of worship, nothing should be done to destroy or distract from the spirit of reverence or keep the Lord Jesus Christ from being pre-eminent; the wedding coordinator is in charge of the wedding service. Any extra-ordinary details need to be approved by the coordinator.

To help you plan your church wedding, we have prepared this booklet. It will be a handy reference to answer questions about what is proper and permissible.

Before the Wedding

Premarital Classes with Pastor

One of the most important facets of marriage preparation is premarital counseling. If you would like to have one of the pastors at Gloria Dei officiate your wedding, you are required to receive premarital counseling. The basic idea behind premarital counseling is to equip you with relationship management techniques to help nurture and flourish a lasting marriage. Premarital counseling will address common issues and challenges that you are most likely to face in your marriage. The counseling consists of a series of six sessions and is offered three times during the year. Check with the church office regarding the dates of the next series. The benefits of premarital counseling are a healthier and happier marriage as you become familiar with each others' attributes, wants, outlook on life, etc. It also reduces the risk of divorce by thirty percent. If you have any other questions, please feel free to ask the office staff or one of our pastors.

Requesting a Pastor

Since a pastor is an important part of your ceremony, we encourage you to request one of our pastors to officiate your wedding. However, due to church planning and other events, a pastor may not be able to commit until six months prior to your wedding date. Requests will be kept on file until a pastor is assigned to you. Please note: we will do our best to fulfill your initial request.

A visiting pastor can officiate at your wedding but all pastors must be approved by the Senior Pastor.

Arrangements with the Wedding Coordinator

Approximately 6-9 months prior to the wedding, the wedding coordinator will contact you. The coordinator will help you schedule the date and time of the rehearsal and the wedding ceremony and answer any questions you have about the church while planning your wedding. The rehearsal is usually the evening before the wedding at 5:00, 5:30 or 6:00 p.m. The time of the wedding should be 4:00 p.m. or before. For special time and date requests, please contact the church office.

You will meet with the wedding coordinator to review the wedding, the music, the church's policy, and fill out some forms six months prior to your wedding date. It is assumed that a pastor and organist of Gloria Dei will officiate and participate. Deviation from this policy is allowed on occasion, and should be discussed with the pastor. It is not automatically assumed that the pastor can officiate at a church wedding in all cases. Also, it should not be assumed that the pastor can participate in a wedding service held in a church other than Gloria Dei, or that another pastor of a different denomination can officiate with a pastor or automatically participate in a wedding service at Gloria Dei. These situations should be discussed with the pastor honestly and frankly.

Arrangements with the Director of Worship Ministries

The names and phone numbers of musicians recommended by the church are in the back of this booklet. Each musician will provide their own fee schedule and can schedule rehearsals through the Director of Worship Ministries or the church office.

Discuss the selections of acceptable music for the ceremony. While many bridal couples prefer the traditional "Lohengrin" and "Mendelssohn" ("Here comes the Bride") as wedding marches, these

are not proper church music. There is a wide choice of fine organ music much more fitting. In many cases adaptations of hymn tunes have provided a dignified, reverent, and meaningful setting for this part of the service.

Gloria Dei reserves the right to approve or disapprove of vocal selections to be sung during the ceremony. Some songs are not religious or Christian in character, and not appropriate for a church wedding. Music chosen should serve to glorify God and edify the congregation. A wide selection of hymns and spiritual songs are available that are both proper and beautiful.

Please have your music selection approved by the Director of Worship Ministries, eight weeks prior to the printing of any wedding programs.

Arrangements with the Civil Authorities

The bridal couple should be sure to obtain their wedding license in due time from the County Clerk's office. The pastor, by law, must have possession of the marriage license in order to perform the ceremony. The marriage license remains on file at the church office. The bride and groom receive two copies of the marriage certificate which is filled out by the pastor. The pastor returns one certificate of marriage with the appropriate signatures to the County Clerk's office. The packet containing the marriage license and the marriage certificates should be brought with you to the rehearsal.

Arrangements with the Florist

Gloria Dei Lutheran Church does not own extra equipment often used at weddings. These may be obtained from the florist, who handles such items as candelabra, white aisle runners, and pew ribbons on a rental basis. The bridal couple and/or florist should consult the wedding coordinator if any unusual arrangement or placement of the flowers is planned.

If candelabras are used, it is preferred that you use the mechanical/spring-loaded candle. If that is not possible, the florist should use dripless candles and place sheets of plastic to protect the carpet. The candles are usually lit and extinguished by a member of the wedding party. The wedding coordinator will give instructions at the rehearsal or the day of the wedding.

If ribbons, bows, or flower arrangements are used on the pews, protective material must be used to protect the the pew ends. Many kinds of adhesive tape are not allowed, nor are bare wires, this is to keep from damaging the pew ends. If the florist needs to be in the church at a certain time on the day of the wedding, arrangements should be made with the wedding coordinator so that the doors can be unlocked.

If you wish, you may leave your flowers to beautify Sunday services, if no one else has asked for this privilege first. Please discuss this with the wedding coordinator when making wedding arrangements.

Arrangements with the Cleaning Service

The wedding fee covers the cost of cleaning. **Please collect all of your belongings and leave the rooms as you found them.** To reserve the use of the kitchen or rooms other than those scheduled for weddings (Sanctuary, narthex, cry room or nursery) please contact the church office. If you reserve other rooms or the kitchen for lunch or snacks, please make sure that they are cleaned up before the wedding begins. The kitchen is used every week to prepare for the Saturday night church service.

Arrangements with the Photographer/Videographer

There are to be **NO** flash pictures taken during the service. (You may want to make a note of this in your wedding program for your guests) This rule applies to professional photographers as well as guests with cameras. There are few things as disruptive to the solemnity and dignity of a wedding as the taking of pictures. The photographer may photograph the bridal procession from the rear of the church, and the bride and groom as they reach the rear of the Sanctuary after the ceremony. Time exposures from the back may be taken during the service.

Video taping and audio recordings may also be taken during the wedding service, but only from those areas of the Sanctuary approved by the pastor, as long as the taping is done with a minimum

of movement. Your wedding coordinator will show you the locations where cameras can be set up on a tripod.

Other pictures, including reenactment of certain significant parts of the ceremony, may be taken after the service when the guests have left. Pictures may be taken before the ceremony, as well as after. Those taking photographs are, of course, expected to conduct themselves with respect due the house of God, and to remove all debris from the building.

Members of the Gloria Dei audio/video team are available for hire to professionally videotape your wedding. The suggested honorarium range is \$200-250. You get four DVDs and one VHS tape, completed before you leave church that day. There are six cameras in the Sanctuary which are all mixed together in our professional video control room. Please contact the Director of Media Ministry through the church office, 276-1700, to set up this service.

The Rehearsal

All the principals of the wedding should appear promptly for the rehearsal: bride, groom, maid or matron of honor, best man, attendants, ushers, flower girl, ring bearer, and the parents of the bride and groom.

The wedding coordinator will work closely with the pastor and is in charge of the rehearsal. Depending on the size of your wedding party, the rehearsal should take no longer than 30-45 minutes. Though no service is in progress, the church is still God's house, and the conduct of all present ought to be reverent and worshipful.

All payments to the pastor, musicians, soloist, etc., should be brought the night of the rehearsal. Please bring a final printed program to the rehearsal.

The Wedding Day

The bride and her attendants may complete their dressing in the nursery and the men may use the cry room. Both have restrooms. The wedding coordinator will show you the rooms during the initial consultation.

The flowers should be delivered to the church in ample time for the ceremony.

The best man will have the wedding rings in his possession before the ceremony begins and prior to the ring exchange. If a ring bearer is in the wedding party, the rings on the pillow will not be the actual rings, but instead, symbolic ones. (Removing the actual rings from the pillow during the ceremony is most difficult).

The ushers should be at the church and ready to serve at least 30 minutes before the time of the service.

Your wedding coordinator will instruct ushers or answer any questions the night of the rehearsal.

Ordinarily, the groom's family, relatives, and friends are seated on the right side as they face the altar, and the bride's family, relatives, and friends on the left. However, it is proper to seat people, other than the parents, on either side.

The grandparents and parents are ushered into the church right before the wedding is to begin. The groom's parents are seated in the first pew on the right. The bride's mother is the last person to be ushered in and is seated in the first pew on the left.

If an aisle runner is used, two appointed people will pull the runner behind them at the point of the processional where it is agreed upon with the wedding coordinator, unless the aisle runner will be put in place prior to the wedding. Please discuss this timing with the coordinator before the rehearsal night.

After the Wedding

Frequently, the wedding party forms a reception line in the church narthex. This can also be done at the reception. The receiving line can include the bride and groom, parents and attendants, or a combination of the above people. Your wedding coordinator can assist you if this is needed.

When the bride and groom have reached the narthex, the ushers may return down the center aisle to usher the parents of the bride and groom from the church, and return again to dismiss the guests. This will make possible an orderly procession of the guests past the reception line, if there is

one. The bride and groom may choose to usher their guests out after the service instead of having a receiving line. This method is generally slower than a receiving line.

The car, as well as any limo or other transportation for the bride and groom may be parked outside the main south entrance to the Sanctuary for use after the receiving line is completed and pictures are finished.

Miscellaneous

The Paraments and Vestments used (altar, pulpit, and lectern and robes worn by the pastor) shall be the ones in place at the time of the wedding. There are no "wedding paraments." It is not proper to change paraments to coordinate with colors of the wedding.

There is to be no smoking at all in any part of Gloria Dei (including restrooms).

There is to be no consumption of alcoholic beverages of any kind in any part of Gloria Dei or on its property.

There is to be no parking of cars on the south entrance driveway except for those of the wedding party.

There is to be no throwing of rice or birdseed.

No real flower petals can be used inside or outside the church, due to possible staining.

Church Specifics

- Sanctuary seats 400 people.
- Aisles are 60 feet long.
- Glass shelf behind the altar is 19 feet long and 13 inches deep.
- 14 pews on each side of the center aisles.
- Doorway to Sanctuary for arch is 7 feet 66 inches wide.
- Pew clips are available for use. Speak with the wedding coordinator if you are interested in using them.
- A table is available for your guest book. You will need to provide your own table covering.
- Plastic must be put down under all candles, candelabras and unity candle. The church has some available.
- Tobacco and alcohol are prohibited in the church building and anywhere on church grounds.
- No tacks, pins, nails, glue or tape may be used to fasten any decorations to the furniture or the building. The furniture and carpet must be fully protected at all times from moisture and candle wax.
- No furniture in the Sanctuary may be moved without prior permission from the Director of Worship Ministries. He will make the arrangements for the changes.
- **No** rice, birdseed or real flower petals are to be thrown on the church property. Silk flower petals are allowed but must be picked up with the aisle runner.

The Church Does Not Provide

- Bulletins/printing of bulletins – music must be approved prior to printing.
- Plume pen or guest book.
- Linens for guestbook table.
- Aisle runner.
- Unity candle, candles, candelabras or base for unity candle.
- Childcare – can be requested and a fee is charged. Contact the church office for details.

Gloria Dei Lutheran Church Wedding Fees

Wedding Fee \$300 –Members of Gloria Dei Lutheran Church

This includes the wedding coordinator, audio operator (manages volume of microphones), facility manager's fees and use of the Sanctuary, narthex, cry room and nursery only. If additional space is needed please contact the church office.

This payment should be made when booking the wedding date. Checks should be made payable to Gloria Dei Lutheran Church.

Wedding Fee \$450 – Members other LCMS congregations not desiring to join Gloria Dei

This includes the wedding coordinator, audio operator (manages volume of microphones), facility manager's fees and use of the Sanctuary, narthex, cry room and nursery only. If additional space is needed please contact the church office.

You must provide your own pastor approved by the Senior Pastor of Gloria Dei. Premarital classes should be taken with your own pastor.

This payment should be made when booking the wedding date. Checks should be made payable to Gloria Dei Lutheran Church.

Private Wedding Fee \$100 – only available for member of Gloria Dei Lutheran Church

This is for a very small wedding. Immediate family only, no wedding Coordinator, no attendants, no cleaning necessary – under 25 people total.

Pastor (suggested honorarium range) \$150-250

Checks should be made payable to the pastor and presented at the time of rehearsal.

Professional Videotaping (suggested honorarium range) \$200-250

Checks should be made payable to professional videographer and presented at the time of rehearsal.

Musicians

Please contact the musicians directly for fees. Checks should be made payable to each musician or soloist separately and presented at the rehearsal.

Please Note : Due to Saturday evening services in the Family Life Center, Gloria Dei is no longer available for wedding receptions.

Wedding Music Repertoire

This is the list of preapproved music. The music may be instrumental or vocal. CD's may be used for songs during the wedding ceremony, but not processional music.

Traditional Music (1900-1970)

I Love You Truly
Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring
Ode to Joy Whither Thou Goest
Oh Perfect Love
Panis Angelicus (Oh Lord Most Holy)
Pie Jesu
Savior Like a Shepherd Lead Us
The Gift of Love
The Prayer
The Lord's Prayer
Wedding Prayer
Wedding Song (There is Love)
We've Only Just Begun
You Light Up My Life
You Needed Me

Hymns

Abide With Us, Our Savior
Come My Way, My Truth
For The Beauty of The Earth
Great Is Thy Faithfulness
In This Very Room
Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee
Love Divine, All Love Excelling
Now Thank We All Our God
O Father, All Creating
O God, Our Help In Ages Past
O Perfect Love
Savior, Like a Shepherd lead us
The King of Love My Shepherd Is

Relevant Music (Contemporary)

And On This Day
Bless the Broken Road
Cherish the Treasure

Create in Me a Clean Heart
Don't Know Much
Doubly Good to You
Family Prayer Song (As for Me and My House)
Friends
God, A Woman and a Man
God Causes All Things to Grow
He Has Chosen You for Me
Here We Are
Household of Faith
How Beautiful
How Beautiful (Ben Utecht)
I Love You with the Love of the Lord
I Will Be Here
If You Could See What I See
Imagine Me Without You
In This Very Room
Listen to Our Hearts
Love Will Be Our Home
Make Us One
Make Us One, Father
Me and My House
More Than Words
Only God Could Love You More
Parent's Prayer
Seekers of Your Heart
Shine On Us
The Battle Hymn of Love
The Prayer
This Day
This Is the Day
This Is the Day (A Wedding Song)
Time for Joy
We Have This Moment, Today
When God Made You

Look on the Web at [Best Buy.com](http://BestBuy.com) to hear these songs and many more.

MUSIC MINISTRY MUSICIANS

Listed below are volunteers in the Music Ministry of Gloria Dei Lutheran Church. Please contact them directly for fees regarding their services.

ORGANISTS

Lynn Hays	278-1502
Kathy Stange	222-6963

VOCALISTS (Female)

Gayle Culbertson	279-5039
Julie Pals	987-3249
Paula Todd	283-8324
Gale Webb	490-2491

VOCALISTS (Male)

Scott Strachan (sings in male quartet)	965-0708
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INSTRUMENTALISTS

Flute:	Mary Snyder	967-4190
Oboe:	Julie Den Herder	251-4632
Sax:	Jessica Cronk	253-0914
Trumpet:	Cameron Haaland	457-3698
Trombone:	John Brown	254-0086
French Horn:	Gale Webb	270-4924
	Floyd Sturgeon	224-4529
Drums:	Kurt Kromminga	278-9465
	Tim Kightlinger	276-1700
Piano:	Jessica Cronk	253-0914
	Lynn Hays	278-1502
	Betsy Sturgeon	224-4529
Violin:	Mary Dahlby	252-1464
	Laura Valle	251-6784
Cello:	Shirley Roberts	457-7649
Bass:	Travis Smith	979-9794

Wedding Scripture Readings

Genesis 2:18-24 (NIV)

The LORD God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him." Now the LORD God had formed out of the ground all the beasts of the field and all the birds of the air. He brought them to the man to see what he would name them; and whatever the man called each living creature, that was its name. So the man gave names to all the livestock, the birds of the air and all the beasts of the field. But for Adam no suitable helper was found. So the LORD God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep; and while he was sleeping, he took one of the man's ribs and closed up the place with flesh. Then the LORD God made a woman from the rib he had taken out of the man, and he brought her to the man. The man said, "This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called 'woman,' for she was taken out of man." For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh.

I Corinthians 13:1-8;13 (NIV)

"If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. If I give all I possess to the poor and surrender my body to the flames, but have not love, I gain nothing. Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails. But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away. And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love."

Colossians 3:12-17 (NIV)

Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity. Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Ephesians 5:21-33

Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ. Wives, submit to your husbands as to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Savior. Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything.

Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless. In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. After all, no one ever hated his own body, but he feeds and cares for it, just as Christ does the church—for we are members of his body. "For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh." This is a profound mystery—but I am talking about Christ and the church. However, each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband.

Matthew 19:4-6 (NIV)

"Haven't you read," he replied, "that at the beginning the Creator made them male and female and said, 'For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh'? So they are no longer two, but one. Therefore what God has joined together, let man not separate."

Ecclesiastes 4:9-12 (NIV)

Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their work: if one falls down, his friend can help him up. But pity the man who falls and has no one to help him up! Also, if two lie down together, they will keep warm. But how can one keep warm alone? Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves. A cord of three strands is not quickly broken.

Song of Solomon 8:6-7 (NIV)

"Place me like a seal over your heart, like a seal on your arm; for love is as strong as death, its jealousy unyielding as the grave. It burns like blazing fire, like a mighty flame. Many waters cannot quench love; rivers cannot wash it away. If one were to give all the wealth of his house for love, it would be utterly scorned."

Jeremiah 29:10-14 (NIV)

This is what the LORD says: "When seventy years are completed for Babylon, I will come to you and fulfill my gracious promise to bring you back to this place. For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Then you will call

upon me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart. I will be found by you," declares the LORD, "and will bring you back from captivity. I will gather you from all the nations and places where I have banished you," declares the LORD, "and will bring you back to the place from which I carried you into exile."

Contact Information

The pastors or the Director of Worship Ministries may be contacted through the church office at 276-1700.

Wedding Checklist

Six -nine months before your wedding:

- Pay church fee. A check made payable to Gloria Dei Lutheran Church is due in order to reserve your wedding date. This can be turned or mailed to the church office. Please write your wedding date on the memo line of the check. You will be contacted by a wedding coordinator once we have received your wedding fee.
- Register for pre-marriage class at www.gloriadeionline.com.
- Turn wedding information sheet into church. A copy will be made for the wedding coordinator.
- Call your wedding coordinator with any questions or concerns.
- Book your organist, musicians, soloist. A list is provided with suggestions, requirements and restrictions on music.
- All wedding music needs to be approved by the Director of Worship, eight weeks prior to the printing of any wedding programs.

One Month Before Your Wedding

- Turn in the one month wedding information sheet to the church office along with your program. A copy will be made for the wedding coordinator.
- Schedule an appointment with the pastor performing the ceremony.

Rehearsal Night

- Bring marriage license for the ceremony to the pastor.
- Bring a copy of the wedding program.

