

# PLANNING A WEDDING

(website edition)

## ST. PETER'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

310 Route 137, Harwich, MA 02645-1361

(508) 432-5172

We offer this guide for planning a wedding at St. Peter's Lutheran Church.

We rejoice with you as you plan your wedding and offer you our congratulations and prayers. Christian marriage is a solemn and public covenant made in the presence of God and in the company of the Christian community, the Church. You want your wedding to be a joyful occasion. So do we. The information that follows will help you plan your wedding at St. Peter's Lutheran Church.

Before you do anything else (if you have not already done so), you should contact one of our congregation's Pastors, Rev. Christian G. N. Holleck or Rev. Tiffany Nicely Holleck, 310 Route 137, Harwich, MA 02645. Office phone: 508-432-5172. They are responsible for scheduling and approving all weddings to be celebrated at the church.

### I. REGULATIONS

- A. At least one of you must be a baptized Christian.
- B. You must conform to the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts regarding marriage.
- C. You should be prepared to participate in premarital planning with the Pastor. The nature and extent of this planning will be determined by mutual consent.

**A NOTE ABOUT PREMARITAL COUNSELING:** We highly recommend that all couples preparing for marriage engage in premarital counseling. A nationally acclaimed and effective tool, **Prepare/Enrich** is a premarital counseling assessment that begins the important conversations couples should have. If you live close by or visit the Cape often, we are happy to offer this to you. If you live some distance from the church we are happy to help you find a local pastor in your area who is trained with **Prepare/Enrich**. We believe in this so strongly that we did it ourselves as we prepared for our own wedding.

--- Pastors Tiffany and Christian

### II. THE WEDDING SERVICE

- A. The wedding service from the Evangelical Lutheran Worship will be used. This service provides for a great deal of flexibility. The details of the marriage service will be determined by mutual consent of you and the pastor.
- B. Weddings will normally take place in the church.
- C. Most weddings take place either on Saturdays or on Sunday afternoons. However, just about any day is appropriate, subject, of course, to the availability of the church building and the pastor. Weddings are not celebrated during Holy Week.
- D. The Sacrament of Holy Communion may be celebrated at your wedding if you desire. However, the entire congregation must be invited to participate; the Sacrament cannot be offered only to the marital couple and wedding party.

### III. Music

The wedding ceremony is a Christian worship service of the church. Music attending such a service should be suitable and reverent, directing attention to God who sanctifies marriage. Some songs, although they may have great sentimental value, are not appropriate for the wedding ceremony and should be enjoyed at the reception instead. If desired, the congregation may be invited to join in the singing of hymns during the service.

Our Minister of Music is the organist/pianist for all weddings at St. Peter's. The fee of \$200 includes a music planning meeting and the wedding rehearsal. Any additional rehearsal time with soloists is charged at a rate of \$40/hour. A guest organist/pianist is permitted only after discussion and approval from the Minister of Music, and a bench fee of \$100 will be due to our Minister of Music.

We recommend an early (at least six months before wedding date) meeting with the Minister of Music to make arrangements for the wedding music. He will assist you in selecting music, help you arrange for any vocal or instrumental soloists and must approve all music and musicians. If the Minister of Music is not available on your wedding date, he will arrange for the substitute organist/pianist..

### IV. FLOWERS AND DECORATIONS

The florist supplying the flowers for your wedding should be contacted by you directly. The congregation does not make arrangements for flowers.

Flowers and other decorations (other than candles) may not be placed on the altar.

If the use of a runner is desired, you must make your own arrangements for this. Most florists will be able to help.

Bows or simple arrangements may be placed on the ends of the pews.

### V. ALCOHOL

Alcohol is prohibited in church buildings and on the church grounds, except for champagne toasts at weddings.

### VI. PHOTOGRAPHY AND VIDEOTAPING

No flash pictures or extra lighting are to be used during the ceremony itself. This does not include the processional and recessional. During the ceremony itself, photographers are to remain in the rear of the church behind the last pew. A video camera may be placed in a fixed location on a tripod to the side of the front of the church. Pictures may be posed after the ceremony.

### VII. REHEARSAL

If you desire to have a rehearsal, you should schedule this with the Pastor. The rehearsal is most conveniently scheduled the evening prior to the wedding. The marital couple, wedding party, and families of the marital couple should attend the rehearsal. Of course, others are also welcome to attend.

VIII. OFFERINGS/CONTRIBUTIONS/EXPENSES

A. CHURCH BUILDING USE

Sanctuary: Members – No Expense  
Non-Members - \$225.00

Fellowship Areas for Reception:  
Members – No Expense  
Non-Members - \$200.00

B. CHURCH STAFF –

(Please note that weddings at St. Peter's are conducted only by the St. Peter's staff. Other clergy or musicians may be invited to join in the ceremony after consultation with the Pastor.)

Pastor: Members: \_\_\_\_\_ No Expense  
Non-members \_\_\_\_\_ \$250.00  
Minister of Music/Organist\_\_ \$200.00 (or Bench Fee of \$100.00)  
Wedding Coordinator\_\_\_\_\_ \$100.00  
Custodian: \_\_\_\_\_ \$75.00 Sanctuary  
Additional \$75.00 if there is a reception  
Administrator/Publications\_\_ \$40.00  
(Special orders for wedding bulletins would be additional.)

All offerings/contributions to be paid in full on or before the Rehearsal gathering.

Approved by Congregation Council June 14, 2016.