

Marriage Ceremony Policy

Purpose: Preparing for marriage is a delightful and yet awesome ministry. The following guidelines are provided in order to assist the couple in planning well. Marriage is a ministry of the congregation. It is the desire of the congregation to provide couples with more than a space, but skilled and compassionate pastoral care.

Responsibility: Good Shepherd Lutheran Church Council in consultation with the Pastor is responsible for the administration of these guidelines.

Policy:

1. All marriages conducted from our Church are to be approved by the Pastor.
2. In keeping with the Constitution of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada, our Church does not enter into corporate worship with any person/organization who practices forms of religion without confessing faith in the Triune God and in Jesus Christ, the eternal and incarnated Son of God, as our only Saviour. Therefore, any person/organization who wishes to conduct a ritual in connection with the marriage ceremony, may do so outside of the marriage liturgy and outside the Church building.
3. When a couple comes to our Church for marriage, it is presumed they desire God's blessings upon their marriage and that they wish to establish a Christian home. For those who desire, Christian Baptism or Adult Confirmation instruction will be provided.
4. All couples wishing to get married must attend marriage preparation sessions. Couples living at great distance may make other arrangements in consultation with the Pastor. Sufficient time should be allowed for adequate preparation. Marriage preparation will involve the use of certain materials which will guide the reflection and discussion process. The fee for marriage preparation will be as set out in the Marriage Ceremony Fee Schedule shown below.
5. In accordance with the laws of the Province of Manitoba, a marriage license must be given to the officiating Pastor before the marriage ceremony can take place. The license should be provided to the Pastor no later than the rehearsal.
6. Photography during the marriage ceremony is to be limited to the designated official photographer. Guests will be invited to take pictures during the processional, recessional and signing. The designated photographer should discuss accepted procedures before the ceremony begins. Videotaping may be acceptable in consultation with the Pastor.
7. Confetti, rice, or live flower petals are not to be used inside the Church building, but may be used outside. Bird seed may not be used inside or outside the building.
8. Couples desiring bulletins must provide their own. See Marriage Ceremony Fee Schedule.
9. Music chosen for the marriage ceremony should be conducive to a worship setting. The Pastor and Church organist may be valuable resources in selecting appropriate music.

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10. Couples desiring to provide their own musical accompanist are asked to discuss this with the Church organist. Provision needs to be made for properly orienting visitors to the Church's instruments and sound system. In such cases, a Sound Technician will be required (see Marriage Ceremony Fee Schedule).
11. Marriage Ceremony fees shall be as set out below. A deposit is required at the time of booking the Church. The remainder of the fees are to be paid at the rehearsal. Cheques should be made to "Good Shepherd Lutheran Church." Plans for a reception at the Church will require additional arrangements.

Marriage Ceremony Fee Schedule

Clergy	This fee is set by the Pastor.
Marriage Preparation	The Pastor may charge an additional fee for marriage preparation.
Organist*	\$150 (if family has any special requirements additional cost will need to be negotiated with the organist)
Sound Technician*	\$100
Audio & Visual Technician*	\$175
Rental	\$350, no fee if offsite service. A deposit of \$100 is payable at time of booking.
Bulletin	GSLC will prepare the electronic file with input from the couple. The couple must take care of the cost of producing the bulletin.
Administration	We reserve the right to charge an administration fee of \$100.

All fees are subject to change.

* This fee provides for attendance at both the rehearsal and ceremony.

Revision History:

Original: Guidelines for Marriage Ceremony, May 1997.

Revision 1: Revised language and fees. Approved May 13, 2002.

Revision 2: Revised fees. Approved January 7, 2008.

Revision 3: Revised fees. Approved June 22, 2009.

Revision 4: Revised fees. Approved January 31, 2010.

Revision 5: Revised fees. Approved June 20, 2011.

Revision 6: Standardized format with revised language and fees. Approved October 11, 2016.

Revision 7: Revised fees. Approved February 12, 2019.

Revision 8: Revised language and fees. Approved June 11, 2019.

Revision 9: Revised fees. Approved March 9, 2021.

Revision 10: Revised fees. Approved October 11, 2023.